

THE CHARLESTON FORTS.

The following description of the position and strength of the Forts in Charleston Harbor, by a correspondent of an Eastern journal, may be interesting to those not acquainted with the location and nature of those defenses:

They are three in number, namely, Fort Moultrie, Fort Sumpter, and Castle Pinckney. The first is on Sullivan's Island, which is principally within the corporate limits of the city of Charleston. This island is separated from the main land by a narrow channel, which sometimes at low tide may be forded, though it would be a very unimilitary thing for an attacking expedition to rely on this method of approach. It is precisely here that the bridge spoken of, as is now clearly foreseen, will be wanted, and it is said that the means of supplying the want is in a considerable state of forwardness, though the results thus far have not been altogether satisfactory. Fort Moultrie is on the seaward side of the island, nearly a mile distant from this channel, so that its passage would be measurably "in the face of an enemy," and directly so should the commanding officer erect batteries at the point of landing, which, however, is not certain to be done. Sullivan's Island is quite thickly built up, generally with wooden tenements, and a horse railroad traverses the whole distance. The fort itself is an extensive work, well provided with everything but men. Its guns are, many of them, of the largest and best description, and nearly all the recent improvements in explosives have been introduced, in the use of which the men are well drilled. Indeed, I may state with confidence, that the officers and men at Moultrie very much excel in this particular. Recently, a trench has been dug around the entire fort, and, without going into minute detail, it will be enough to say that everything is being done necessary to place the work in the best possible condition of defence. It has recently received six months' provisions. What is wanting in men will in a measure be made up by discipline and completeness of death-dealing appointments. The distance between Fort Moultrie and the city is about three miles.

Castle Pinckney stands in the harbor, wholly surrounded by water, which cannot be bridged readily, between Moultrie and the city, and can be operated upon only by heavy guns. It mounts a large number of heavy guns, and has recently been very much strengthened. In 1832, Gen. Scott did much to strengthen this position, and most of the works then added still remain. An engineering force of a limited number of men has for the last two weeks been engaged in rendering the fortification one of a really formidable character. Like Fort Moultrie, it only wants men.

Fort Sumpter rises out of the water further down the harbor, about three and a half miles from the city, nearly abreast of and not over one mile from Moultrie. It not only commands both the other forts, but it is believed, the city could be effectually shelled from it. It is thoroughly appointed with all the larger description of guns. Outwardly it resembles the round, yellow fort on Governor's Island, though larger. It is thoroughly bomb proof, and believed to be impregnable to anything likely to be brought to bear against it. Though out at sea, it has a fine well of fresh water. For some time past upward of one hundred men, mostly mechanics, have been actively engaged placing the guns in order. The effect of Captain Fosters' efforts are plainly visible, even to the unprofessional eye. There have heretofore been no more soldiers than were necessary to act as keepers. Moderately well garrisoned, Sumpter would prove an ugly customer to Charleston and its surroundings, should it ever come to that. One would suppose that it would not be difficult for men when driven out of Moultrie, if supplied with boats, to pull over to Sumpter, and in a very brief space of time make it hot work for the captors in Moultrie.

The United States Arsenal is at the west side of the city of Charleston. In it are stored upwards of 70,000 stand of arms and a corresponding amount of ammunition and other appointments of war, exempting large guns. It is now guarded, nominally, by a military corps of Charleston, whose services the Government accepted to protect it from the mob.

Since this letter is devoted so purely to military matters, I will append the following list of United States officers here: Major Robert Anderson, Capt. Abner Doubleday, Capt. T. Seymour, Lieut. T. Talbot, Lieut. J. C. Davis, Lieut. N. J. Hall, all of the First Regiment of Artillery, Assistant Surgeon S. W. Crawford, Capt. J. G. Foster, Lieut. W. Sayder, Engineer Corps.

WHAT CAUSES HAIR TO TURN GRAY.—An English writer has recently asserted that an undue proportion of lime in the system is the cause of premature gray hair, and advises to avoid hard water, either for drinking pure or when converted into tea, coffee, or soup, because hard water is always strongly impregnated with lime. Hard water may be softened by boiling it; let it become cold, and then use it as a beverage. It is also stated that a liquid that will color the human hair black, and not stain the skin, may be made by taking one part of bay rum, three parts of olive oil, and one part of good brandy, by measure. The hair must be washed with the mixture every morning, and in a short time the use of it will make the hair a beautiful black, without injuring it in the least. The articles must be of the best quality, mixed in a bottle, and always shaken before being applied.

South Carolina's Remedies.

The ninth in the series of letters on secession, by Hon. Amos Kendall, considers the remedies which South Carolina proposes for the wrongs of which she complains. It says:

They complain that northern men intend to exclude slaveholders from the Territories, which are the common property of all the States, and, as a remedy for this prospective grievance, South Carolina proposes to give up the Territories altogether!

They complain that some of the northern States have violated the Constitution by passing acts to impede the execution of the fugitive slave law, and as a remedy for this violation on their part, South Carolina proposes to abolish the Constitution altogether!

They complain that the Constitution and laws of the United States are not sufficient to prevent the abduction of slaves or secure the rendition of fugitives, and South Carolina's remedy is relieve northern negro stealers from those restraints, and give up all claim to the rendition of fugitives.

They complain of the "underground railroad," by which slaves are transported to Canada, and, as a remedy, South Carolina proposes to save the cost and trouble of transportation by virtually bringing Canada down to the Ohio river and the borders of the slaveholding States!

They complain that there is a party in the northern States which is seeking the overthrow of Southern institutions, and South Carolina's remedy is to drive all other northern men into that party!

They complain of the sympathy expressed by a few madmen in the north for John Brown, and South Carolina's remedy is to remove every barrier to the organization of powerful filibustering expeditions against slavery on the very borders of the slaveholding States!

In every one of these cases, the remedy she proposes would aggravate the injury beyond calculation, though in these particulars it would fall lightly upon her. Ensnared as she is, upon the sea coast, surrounded by a double and triple circumvallation of slaveholding States, she does not lose one slave by abolition thieves, where Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri lose hundreds. If her remedies were adopted, they would expose those States to a constant border war and the loss of ten slaves where they now lose one; while the statesmen of South Carolina might still sleep quietly in their beds, undisturbed by the increased perils and losses brought on other parties by their mad ambition.

It is inconceivable that the evils of which the South justly complains, inasmuch as they affect South Carolina very little if at all, constitute the real motive with her leading men for plunging into a revolution, the only effect of which, if peaceful and successful, would unquestionably be greatly to increase the losses and damages of other States, without the least benefit to their own State.

The Episcopal Litany.

The following correspondence between the Rev. Chas. H. Hall, of Washington City, and the Rev. C. P. Gadsden, of Charleston, in relation to leaving out of the litany the President and other Government officials we find in the Constitution. According to Mr. Gadsden's showing, a new order of prayer has been provided by the Bishop of South Carolina for the Episcopal Christians in that State, and new forms of prayer have unquestionably been set forth for those of that faith in Georgia, Florida, Alabama Mississippi and Louisiana before this time, otherwise their intercessions must have ceased, or been offered up without proper "understanding" during the last two or three weeks:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 14.

REV. AND DEAR SIR—A piece of news in our papers, which I supposed was so unworthy of credit as to pay no attention to it, I find is believed by many of my acquaintances, to the intent that all the clergy of Charleston have left out of our liturgy, of late, the prayer for our venerable and worthy President and all others in authority. Be good enough to inform me, if any, and how many, of our clergy in the Episcopal church have omitted this petition, and oblige

Yours truly,
CH. H. HALL.

To the Rev. C. P. Gadsden, Charleston, S. C.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 19.

REV. AND DEAR BROTHER—Your letter has just been received. There is no foundation for the report that any of the clergy of Charleston have omitted praying for the President of the United States. There has been no change whatever made, either in praying for our civil rulers or for Congress. The bishop has set forth a prayer to be used, in addition, for the legislature during their session, and one for the convention. I prayed myself this morning (Wednesday) in the public service, for both President and Congress, and shall do so until the State secedes. The bishop will then provide for the new order of things, when we shall be no longer one of the United States. However misrepresented in northern papers, our clergy are all men of law and order.

Very truly, your brother in Christ,

C. P. GADSDEN.

Rev. C. H. Hall,

Thomas Smith Grimpke on Disunion.

The following eloquent plea for the Union, delivered many years ago by one of South Carolina's most distinguished sons, is especially pertinent to the momentous issue now upon us. Would that the Palmetto State had to-day within her borders many men as patriotic, conscientious, and wise as Thomas Smith Grimpke.—[World.]

Let us never forget, rather let us remember with a religious awe, that the union of these States is indispensable to our literature, as it is, likewise, to our national independence and civil liberties, to our prosperity, happiness and improvement. If, indeed, we desire to behold a literature like that which has sculptured with such energy of expression, which has painted so faithfully and vividly the crimes, the vices, the follies of ancient and modern Europe; if we desire that our land should furnish for the orator and the novelist, for the painter and the poet, age after age, the wild and romantic scenery of war: the glittering march of armies and the revelry of the camp; the shrieks and blasphemies, and all the horrors of the battle-field; the desolation of the harvest, and the burning cottage; the storm, the sack and the ruin of cities; if we desire to unchain the furious passions of jealousy and selfishness, of hatred, revenge and ambition, those lions that now sleep harmless in their den; if we desire that the lake, the river, the ocean, should blush with the blood of brothers; that the wind should waft from the land to the sea and from the sea to the land the roar and the smoke of battle; that the very mountain tops should become altars for the sacrifice of brothers; if we desire that these and such as these—the elements to an incredible extent of the literature of the old world—should be the elements of our literature, then, but then only, let us hurl from its proud pedestal the majestic statue of our Union, and scatter its fragments over all the land. But if we covet for our country the noblest, loveliest, purest literature as shall honor God and bless mankind, then let us cling to the union of these States with a patriotic love, a scholar's enthusiasm, and a Christian's hope.

South Carolinians in the Army and Navy.

A citizen of Charleston has furnished the following list of South Carolinians now in the army of the United States: Captain A. C. Myers, Quartermaster's Department; Major T. G. Rhett, Pay Department; Major Ben. Heger, Brevet Colonel, having been brevetted three times for distinguished services in the Mexican war; Captains L. B. Northrup and R. H. Anderson; Lieuts. J. B. V. Villepique, S. W. Ferguson and Benj. F. Sloan, of the Dragoons; Captains W. D. DeSaussure, M. G. Evans, and W. H. Gibbs, of Cavalry; Lieuts. L. D. Lee, G. S. James, and J. B. Hallonquest, of the Artillery; Captains Bernard E. Bee, C. S. Lovell, and John Dunovant; Lieuts. L. W. O'Bannon, J. L. Corley, E. D. Blake and P. J. Quattlebaum, of the Infantry. There are also ten surgeons from this State in the army, who rank as majors, captains and first lieutenants.

The following are in the navy: Captains Wm B. Shurbrick, C. K. Stribbliog, D. N. Ingraham; Commanders Henry K. Hoff, John S. Missboon, Percival Drayton, Henry J. Hartstene, Chas. Steedman, Edward Middleton; Lieutenants James H. North, Rd. Wainwright, Thomas B. Huger, John Butledge, Henry Rolando, C. Morris, Alex. F. Warley, John R. Hamilton, Thos. P. Pelop, Wm. G. Dozier, Henry C. Flagg, Maurice Simpos, H. L. Ingraham; Surgeons Arthur M. Lynch, Chas. E. Lining; Purser J. S. Cunningham; Masters John M. Stribling, Philip Porcher, Wm. E. Evans; Midshipmen John Gumbalt, J. H. Ingraham, Benj. F. Perry, R. H. Bacon; Engineer Geo. L. Lenny.

What they Contribute.

The following figures will show how much the noisiest of the disunion States contribute towards the support of the Government in one of its departments. They are the annual Post Office receipts and expenditures of these five States, from the latest reports:

South Carolina.—Receipts, \$107,537. Expenditures, \$319,068. Deficit, \$211,532.
Georgia.—Receipts, \$168,665. Expenditures, \$358,180. Deficit, \$189,515.
Florida.—Receipts, \$25,982. Expenditures, \$171,185. Deficit, \$145,203.
Alabama.—Receipts, \$129,103. Expenditures, \$363,620. Deficit, \$234,517.
Mississippi.—Receipts, \$101,549. Expenditures, \$370,001. Deficit, \$268,452.
Total Receipts in the five States, \$532,784. Expenditures, \$1,581,068. Deficiency, \$1,048,284.

There is not one of these States which pay as much revenue into the Treasury on importations, as it costs the Government to collect it. They have held two-thirds of all the offices in the civil, military, and naval departments of the Government, from its foundation, and yet have never contributed a dollar for its support.—[Toledo Blade.]

—A doctor was employed by a poor man to attend his wife, who was dangerously ill.—The doctor gave a hint that he had fears of not being paid. "I have five pounds," said the man to the doctor, "and if you kill or cure you shall have them." The woman died in the doctor's hand, and after a reasonable time, he called for his five pounds. The man asked the doctor if he killed his wife? "No." "Did you cure?" "No." "Then," said the poor man, "you have no legal demand."

Water.

Go where we will upon our earth, it is everywhere present. The great ocean—a body of water occupying seven-tenths of the surface of the globe—covers all its deeper irregularities to depths varying from a mere film to thirty or forty thousand feet. The whole mass of the water, including the Atlantic and the Pacific, and the smaller oceans, is, perhaps, equivalent to a complete coating of the earth's surface, if it were perfectly smooth, having a thickness of nearly a mile. * * To a certain extent it may be described as an universal solvent, whose real contents no one can tell—for we know little of the minutiae of nature's chemistry—but it is easy to detect some of the solids it holds in solution or suspension, under ordinary circumstances, and on a large scale. In ten thousand parts of sea water, there are common salt, 270, of Epsom salts 56, of Glauber's salts, 47, of carbonate of lime 13, of silica or flint, 3, and of sundry matters 3 parts—in all 390 parts, besides gages, of which atmospheric air is the most abundant. All these can be detected. The iodine, iron, and other substances known to be present, cannot be thus calculated. These quantities are not to be despised, for we find that, estimating the average depth of the ocean at 5,000 feet, the total quantity of common salt would amount to more than 30,000 millions of millions of tons, while that of silica, small as the percentage seems, would be 500 millions of millions of tons. But this is not all. The fresh water also contains inorganic salts to the extent of from two to three parts in 10,000, besides carrying a special load to the ocean, or depositing it in its course, and in some cases that load is of real importance. The Ganges alone is thought to carry 7,000 millions of tons of mud every year to the ocean, and the Nile has long been accumulating mud at its mouth, which, in the course of ages, has formed that extensive delta to which Egypt owes its existence, the earliest seat of human civilization, and a tract of land whose fertility is nowhere surpassed. In other places, as at the mouth of the Elbe, the mud thus accumulated, consists not so much of the material brought down by the river, as of the remains of countless myriads of organic beings killed where the contact of salt and fresh water takes place. Thus the mud itself, part of which is known in some rivers to be drifted over several hundred miles on the surface of the ocean, and which is probably carried much further by the under-currents, is a record of shore life, and mixes with the almost similar heaps of the shells and cases of foraminifers which have recently been found to pave the vast depths of the wide Atlantic for the eighteen hundred miles that extend between the shores of America and those of Ireland.—[Stray Chapters on Earth and Ocean.]

Hard Times in New Mexico.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican, writing from Albuquerque, depicts a sorrowful condition of affairs in New Mexico. He says:

"The general opinion is that there is not on the most extravagant calculations more than a half crop. Wheat in this vicinity is already selling at five dollars per faniga—a very high price. The crop of grain—corn as well as wheat—it is thought by calculating men will not be sufficient for the demand, and that flour will have to be brought from the States. On the plain between this and the mountains, on the earth, for some ten or twelve miles, there is not as much green grass as would fill a pillow-case. In the mountains, I am told, there is some grass; but the danger of Indians has caused the cattle to be kept in the valley of the river until even there every edible green thing is shorn even with the ground. In all these statements, there is no exaggeration.—We have no doubt, however, that our friends in St. Louis and Missouri generally will sympathize with us, from whom they have a handsome annual income, and that they will do for us as Prof. Silliman promised to do for Mr. Buchanan, (with but little effect, it is true), that is, pray for us."

Loss of Life on the Lakes in 1860.

From an abstract of the disasters on the lakes during the past season, as compiled by the Detroit Advertiser, we learn that the aggregate is fearfully large, and larger, we believe, than that of any previous season, if not of any three seasons. Five hundred and sixty persons met their death between the 23d of March and the 25th of November, a period of eight months, by water, steam, and cold, and the casualties incident to working said vessels. The less by one catastrophe alone, viz: that of the steamer Lady Elgin, was, according to the estimates of the reporters in Chicago and Milwaukee, full four hundred, and all were drowned. Seventy-eight lives, chiefly, if not entirely those of sea-faring men, were sacrificed to the demon of the waters, and to the frost and snow in the terrific gale that swept the lakes on the 23d and 24th days of the month. Twenty seamen, on nearly as many different vessels, while in the performance of their duty, were swept overboard during the season, and drowned. Thirty-five persons met their death by being scalded; by violent concussions, or by being drowned, in consequence of explosions of boilers. Six entire crews lost, not one being left to tell the tale.

☞ The serfs of Russia—forty millions in number—were to have been set free on New Year's Day.