





A USFUL SACK.—Last fall some patriotic wags in California started...

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for January furnishes the following interesting table of contents:

Our first great painter and his works, by Sarah Clarke; Doctor Johns, by Donald G. Mitchell; Roger Brooke Tanev; The Mantle of St. John de Matha, by John G. Whittier; Needle and Garden—II; Notes of a Planter, by L. M. Gottschalk; Garnut Hall, by T. B. Aldrich; The Pleiades of Connecticut, by F. Sheldon; Ice and Esquimaux—III, by D. A. Wasson; The Old House, by Alice G. Reynolds; Memoirs of Antiquaries—Coleridge, by S. C. Hall; The Chimney Corner—II, by Harriet Beecher Stowe; Fort Patric, by E. S. Sargent; A Fortnight with the Sanitary by G. Reynolds; Art—Harriet Hosmer's Zenobia, by Fitz Hugh Ludlow; Reviews and Literary Notices.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW for January is an excellent number of that always excellent Quarterly. The following is its table of contents: Abraham Lincoln; The Early Church and Slavery; The Records of Venetian Diplomacy; Girard College and its Founder; The Foundation of the Roman Empire; The National Resources; Palmyra's History of New England; Natural Theology as a Positive Science; Heraldry in New England; Aristocratic Opinions of Democracy; Critical Notices; List of Recent Publications; Note to Art. III. No. CCIV; The Semi-Centenary of the North American Review.

"OUR YOUNG FOLKS."—The second number of Messrs. Ticknor & Field's illustrated magazine for boys and girls has appeared, and fully sustains the excellent promise of its initial number. It contains contributions from Whittier, Longfellow, Carleton, Mayne, Reid, Higginson, Mrs. Stowe, Harriet E. Prescott, Lucy Larcom, and others, and is pleasantly illustrated.

GOLD fell off in price last week some twenty per cent., selling at the close of the week for about 200. This result is attributable partly to the fall of Fort Fisher, partly to the talk about peace, and partly to the disquisitions which are troubling the Southern Confederacy. Of course the prices of all kinds of produce and merchandise will be seriously affected by the fluctuations in the price of gold, rendering market reports very unreliable.

AN OPENING FOR YOUNG WOMEN.—Governor Andrew says, in his annual message: "I know of no more useful objects to which the commonwealth can lend its aid, than that of a movement adapted in a practical way to open the door of emigration to young women who are wanted for teachers, and for every other appropriate as well as domestic employment in the remote West, but who are leading anxious and aimless lives in New England."

CONGRESS.—THE SENATE.—A resolution of thanks to General Terry and his army for their heroic conduct at Fort Fisher was adopted unanimously.

General Terry was confirmed by the Senate as Brigadier General of the regular army. The bill declaring that the brevet rank shall not entitle the holder to any increase of pay, was passed.

The Military Committee reported a resolution declaring it both justifiable and necessary for the President to resort to retaliatory measures, as regards the treatment of prisoners of war. It was ordered to be printed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—A resolution was adopted, for a select committee to investigate charges of corruption, bribery and malfeasance, made against Hon. Lucien Anderson, member of Congress from Kentucky, in connection with the case of General Payne.

A resolution was adopted to inquire into the cases of persons confined in the Old Capitol and Carroll prisons, whether charges have been brought against them, why delayed, &c.

The Ways and Means Committee were instructed to inquire into the expediency of levying a tax of one per cent. on the six hundred dollars of income now exempt.

The Post Office Appropriation bill, were passed. The Senate test oath bill for attorneys in the Supreme Court was passed.

Resolutions of thanks to Gen. Terry, General Thomas, and Admiral Porter, and the officers and men under their command, were adopted.

The bill authorizing the Secretary to give the required notice for the purchase of the Merchants' Exchange of New York, now occupied for custom house purposes, was passed.

A resolution was adopted instructing the Committee on Commerce to inquire whether the statement is true that G. M. Lane, of Baltimore, obtained a permit from Risley, agent of the Treasury Department, to exchange provisions for cotton with the rebels; and, if it proves true, that they report a remedy against similar frauds.

WAR NEWS OF THE WEEK. AROUND RICHMOND.

Shotted salutes of one hundred guns were fired, by order of General Grant, in each of the armies of the Potomac and the James, in honor of the capture of the Wilmington defences, and there has been great and general rejoicing among the soldiers.

Lt. Gen. Grant came up to Annapolis on Saturday, and proceeded to Washington. The intelligence of the capture of Fort Fisher, and the effectual closing of Wilmington, the only port through which the rebels received their foreign supplies, has caused great joy throughout the country.

The troops arrived off Fort Fisher Thursday night, Jan. 12th. Friday they were all landed under cover of a heavy fire from the squadron, and reconnaissance was made by General Terry on Saturday. A strong defensive line against any of the enemy's forces coming from Wilmington was established on Saturday, and held by four thousand men, chiefly colored troops, and an assault was determined. The assault was made on Sunday afternoon, at half past three o'clock. The sea-front of the fort had been greatly damaged and broken by a continuous and terrible fire of the fleet for three days, and the fort was assaulted at the hour mentioned by a column of seamen and marines eighteen hundred strong, under the command of Captain Breese. They reached the parapet, but after a short conflict this column was checked, driven back in disorder, and was afterwards placed on the defensive line, taking the place of a brigade that was brought up to reinforce the assaulting column of troops. Although the assault on the sea front failed, it performed a very useful part in diverting the attention of the enemy and weakening their resistance to the attack by the troops on the other side. The assault on the other and most difficult side of the fort was made by a column of three thousand troops of the old Tenth Corps, led by Colonel Curtis, under the immediate supervision of General Terry. The enemy's force in the fort was over two thousand two hundred. The conflict lasted for seven hours. The works were so constructed that every traverse 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 skillfully directed fire thrown into the trenches. One after another they were occupied by the enemy. Admiral Porter contributed to the success of the assaulting column by signals between himself and General Terry at brief intervals. His fire was so well managed as to damage the enemy without injury to our own troops. 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 eight hundred killed and wounded.

Our loss was not accurately ascertained on Monday afternoon, but was estimated at between seven hundred and eight hundred in killed and wounded, besides the naval loss, which was slight, not exceeding one hundred killed and wounded. Not a ship nor a transport was lost. Col. Curtis was severely but not mortally wounded. Colonel Bell died of his wounds Monday morning. Colonel Lyman was killed. Colonel Penney-packer was badly wounded; also Lieutenant-Colonel Coan. General Whiting had three wounds in the thigh. Colonel Lamb also, who had gone into the fort with reinforcements to relieve Gen. Whiting on Sunday, was wounded.

On Monday morning, between six and seven o'clock, the magazine of Fort Fisher exploded, killing and wounding some two 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 General Terry believed it was occasioned by accident or neglect.

The bombardment of Fort Fisher by the fleet is considered to have been the most terrific affair of the kind that ever took place; and the fighting of General Terry's soldiers is regarded as amongst the most desperate of this war. The casualties in the assaulting column were heavy, and among the officers they were much beyond the usual proportion. Every commanding officer in General Terry's division was either killed or wounded.

A Savannah belle stepped off the sidewalk the other day, with a pouting expression, to avoid walking under the American flag, which hung in front of an officer's headquarters. Gen. Geary, military commander of the city, immediately gave orders to have her promenade back and forth under the hateful symbol for an hour, as a warning to similar offenders.

On Tuesday of last week, a party of guerrillas made a dash into Bardonia, Kentucky, and set fire to the railroad station, which was consumed. Mr. Sweeney was burned to death in the building. The national troops of the garrison soon rallied, and a severe fight took place, in which several were killed and wounded, the guerrillas being finally driven from the town and pursued for several miles.

Our Consul in Havana has communicated the intelligence that the rebels are engaged in improving the harbor of St. Marks, situated on St. Marks river, on the west coast of Florida, for the purpose of opening there an extensive blockade-running trade. St. Marks is connected by a railroad twenty-six miles in length, with the capital of the State of Florida, Tallahassee, of which it is the port.

Gen. Terry, whom Fort Fisher has made famous, has a sister who is a hospital nurse in the department of the South, and is highly esteemed by all who have known her in that capacity. His cousin, Miss Rose Terry, is well known to the reading public as the author of many magazine stories and verses.

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wounded. Our killed and wounded amounted to about one thousand, eight hundred of whom were soldiers, and two hundred sailors and marines. The rebels lost between four and five hundred in killed and wounded, and about twenty-five hundred in prisoners. Besides all the other great benefits of this victory, the possession of Fort Fisher and the adjacent works by the national forces dispenses with the blocking fleet at that point, and thus liberates a large number of vessels for service in other places.

Advices from Fort Fisher state that on the 18th Porter's fleet had gone into Cape Fear river. Fort Caswell had been evacuated and blown up by the rebels; and a number of large vessels had been destroyed off the river near Wilmington. Admiral Porter reports that the pirates Tallahassee and Chickamauga were burnt by the rebels. Another account says the vessels were supposed to be blockade-runners. Five vessels of the latter class came into the arms of our fleet and were captured on the night of the 18th.

SAVANNAH AND CHARLESTON.

Secretary Stanton has returned from his visit to General Sherman at Savannah, and speaks most encouragingly of the condition of things in that region. During his stay in Savannah Secretary Stanton promoted a number of officers who have distinguished themselves, including Gen. Kilpatrick, who was brevetted a major general.

Mr. Draper was at Savannah superintending the shipment of the captured cotton. Several vessels were already loaded with it, and 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 had been made.

At last accounts, General Sherman had his preparations for a new movement nearly completed. The Seventeenth corps of his army, under Gen. Blair, and General Hatch's division of Foster's army, were in secure possession of the important position of Pocatigalio bridge, on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad. The Fifteenth corps would soon join them. Pocatigalio is some forty-five miles from Savannah, on the railroad leading thence to Charleston, and derives its military importance, first, from its long railway bridge over one of those swampy streams which empty into the navigable waters of Fort Royal, and, secondly, from the fact that at this point our army gets possession of two country roads (in a region of dismal swamps, where roads are indispensable and very scarce,) by either of which or both a movement may be made upon Branchville and Charleston.

A Charleston dispatch of the 18th reports Sherman's forces near the Combahee river. The rebels suppose Charleston or Branchville to be the destination of our forces. A large quantity of cotton was burnt in the vicinity of Augusta, Ga., on Sunday and Monday last week. The Monitor Patapsco was sunk off Charleston by a rebel torpedo at two o'clock on Tuesday morning of last week, and seven officers and about sixty of her crew were drowned.

RUMORS OF PEACE.—The passing back and forth between Washington and Richmond of persons supposed to have influence in both places; serves to keep alive the rumors of peace. But there is nothing sufficiently definite to pay for reporting. Meanwhile, Jefferson Davis himself has written a letter on reconstruction, to which some importance is attached. He argues that a convention of the States is impracticable, and that peace movements on the part of individual States tend only to the creation of discord in the confederacy. He says that the only plan by which peace can be attained is provided for in the rebel constitution.

MICKLENTARIOUS ITEMS.—On Tuesday of last week, a party of guerrillas made a dash into Bardonia, Kentucky, and set fire to the railroad station, which was consumed. Mr. Sweeney was burned to death in the building. The national troops of the garrison soon rallied, and a severe fight took place, in which several were killed and wounded, the guerrillas being finally driven from the town and pursued for several miles.

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Since the breaking out of the war, the Adjutant-General's office has issued not less than 30,000 commissions to officers in the army—under Gov. Morgan, 14,000; under Gov. Seymour, 16,000; total, 30,000. The number of New York officers now in the field amounts to about 10,000.

A party of rebels made another raid on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Thursday night, Jan. 19th. They captured a freight train near Harper's Ferry.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Accounts from Colorado Territory represent that the Indian outrages on the overland mail route continue. Along portions of the road it appears to be unsafe for a white person to be seen. Mail stations and ranches have been burnt, large numbers of horses and cattle run off, many persons, including women and children, murdered, and the telegraph and other valuable property destroyed.

Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont, is now, by seniority, the presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this country. He said that he has been invited to make an Episcopal visitation to that part of Louisiana now in the federal lines. No bishop has been there since the defection from the church of the rebel General Bishop Polk.

The London Postoffice receives something else besides letters. For instance, in one month of 1864 there were posted seven thousand one hundred and fifty-one samples of tea, three thousand three hundred and forty-four of hops, a specimen of asphalt, a cribbage-board, two tin canisters, an umbrella handle, a bit of liquorice, and a pair of stays.

The New Orleans papers say that the levees in the Mississippi, from the month of the river to Baton Rouge, are undergoing repairs, either by the proprietors of the land or under the direction of the parish protest-masters. The civil authorities admitted their inability to carry out this work, or to protect the country from inundation.

A telegraphic News Association, based upon a moderate capital, is announced in England. The object of this undertaking is to furnish the press and the public of England, the Continent, and the Western World, with a fuller and more regular supply of telegraphic intelligence than the present system provides.

A train of seven cars on the Hudson River Railroad was thrown from the track near Yonkers, on Thursday morning, owing to the breaking down of the track. A number of persons were bruised, and some were drowned in the river in which the cars fell, but no lives were lost.

The Connecticut valley experienced an unusually "cold cycle" on Thursday, Jan. 19. At Hartford and Wethersfield, the thermometer stood at eighteen degrees below zero, and at Windsor the mercury sank to twenty degrees below. At Springfield it was twenty degrees below.

Lottery swindlers are about in force. They are sending circulars to credulous money-loving people, informing them that tickets which they have not bought have drawn prizes of \$100, and that a remittance of \$10 will secure them those amounts respectively.

Taking out the worthless and adding the new ones, the number of oil companies now in existence is 813, with a capital of \$215,460,000. Some twelve or fifteen companies, representing a capital of from twelve to sixteen millions of dollars, are bogus.

Three powder mills, belonging to the Hazen Powder Company, at Barnside, four miles from Hartford, Conn., exploded January 19th, killing two men and seriously wounding another.

The earnings of the Erie Railway for the month of December, 1864, were \$1,267,114 58. The earnings for the month of December, 1863, were \$955,320 89, showing an increase of \$322,094 60.

In the United States District Court at Cincinnati, Judge Leavitt has decided that no tax need be paid under the Internal Revenue act upon legacies which are paid out of money raised from the sale of real estate.

An iron put filed with gold coins, of the period of the Spanish rule in Flanders, has just been discovered by some workmen, buried in the ground near the Berchen Gate at Antwerp.

It is estimated that the internal revenue collections made in New York city since the end of 1862, amount to thirty millions of dollars.

A wealthy merchant of New York, named Melvin S. Whitney, cut his throat, one day last week, in consequence of temporary insanity, caused by pecuniary trouble.

A pestilential fever has succeeded the late storm in Bengal. The fish in all the tanks south of Calcutta died, and the water became tainted.

Forty barrels of tar and seven or eight barrels of turpentine are now manufactured weekly in Freedom, N. H., from old pine stumps.

SPECIAL NOTICES.—There will be an adjourned meeting of the Executive Board of the Seventh-day Baptist Missionary Society, held in the conference room of the Seventh-day Baptist meeting-house at Western, on Fourth-day, the eighth of the second month, 1865, commencing at 9 o'clock A. M. The question of a Mission to the Freedmen will be discussed. A full attendance is requested. A. H. Lewis, Rec. Sec. Western, 22d 1st mo, 1865.

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OVERWORK

Not a ream of paper was imported from abroad during the drought, although it was cheap and abundant in Europe.

THE REAL CAUSE EXPLAINED

The exorbitant price of "print" is the result of a combination of certain large mills to charge, not that they could afford to sell for, but what it would cost publishers to import foreign paper, and pay the twenty per cent. gold duty which the law exacts.

CONSEQUENCE OF NOT REPEALING THE DUTY

Since publishers commenced an agitation for the repeal of the duty, paper-makers have lowered their prices a little. In New York, the quotation to those papers who have ceased opposing the duty is four or five cents per pound.

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VITAL STATISTICS

The Twenty-first Registration Report, giving the births, deaths and marriages in Massachusetts for the year 1864, has just been issued from the State House.

Very Respectfully,

Joseph Medill, Chicago Tribune; Richard Smith, Cincinnati Gazette; W. McClan, Cincinnati Enquirer; George Knapp, St. Louis Republic; Samuel Riddle, Pittsburg Gazette; Horace Roblee, Madison (Wis.) Journal; John R. Campbell, Wheeling Intelligencer; J. D. Osborn, Louisville Journal; G. W. Fishback, St. Louis Democrat; A. W. Fairbanks, Cleveland Herald; J. R. Elder, Indianapolis Sentinel; W. F. Storey, Chicago Times; F. W. Palmer, Des Moines Register; W. M. Walker, Detroit Free Press; W. D. Briggs, Dayton Journal, Sec'y, January, 1865.

EDWARD EVERETT'S CAREER

Edward Everett was born at Dorchester, Massachusetts, on the 11th of April, 1794, and was the son of Oliver Everett, who had been both a clergyman and a judge.

STREETS OF NEW YORK

Very few persons have any conception of the magnitude of the work to be performed in cleaning the streets of a large city like New York.

THE MODERN COAT

As long as a man wears the modern coat, he has no right to despise any dress. What a thing it is, though so often taken for something "exquisite"!

FILLING THE PORK BARREL

The author of "Ten Acres Enough" in that delightful picture of amateur farming, details his experience in pork-raising in the course of which he gives many truthful and wholesome hints upon the best and cheapest way of filling the pork barrel.

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