

Correspondence of the Commercial Advertiser.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., Aug. 20.

LAST BURNING OF HAMPTON.

We have had another fire at Hampton. Poor, deserted village! It was sufficiently desolate before, but now almost the last remaining dwelling is ruthlessly destroyed by the demented secessionists. They think by these treacherous burnings of their own buildings to prevent the Union forces from occupying Hampton for strategic purposes. But they are entirely mistaken. We can possess the site of the town again whenever we please, and the ruins that remain are the very things that are wanted for putting up Winter barracks for our troops. By a small amount of well-directed labor we can in a few days put up substantial quarters for twenty thousand men in Hampton. Such is the delusion of treason!

As a small party of us watched the fire from the balcony of the U. S. General Hospital at Fortress Monroe, it presented a mournful appearance. The handsome trees standing by the dwellings were wrapped in the flames that consumed the houses some of them had shaded for perhaps a century. Ex-President Tyler's Summer mansion threw its dark shadow in the foreground, while here and there the smaller homesteads of the quiet villages melted and sank away in the fire. What vandalism!

One old gentleman and lady who are with us in the hospital, were only saved from a sudden and awful death by the kind and energetic efforts of Dr. Smith, an assistant surgeon of the United States army, stationed here. Another aged Virginian, who had been for some time quite sick in his house, was so terrified by the scene that he was paralyzed on all the right side of his body, and rendered utterly speechless. He is lying in a room near to my own, a mere wreck of a man, scarcely able to move, and still unable to utter anything but piteous moans. He can still hear pretty well; and when I call on him, and the fire is alluded to, he will lift his wrinkled left hand from the bed to a short distance, draw in his breath as if he were inhaling flame, throw back his old head on the pillow, roll his dim eyes upward, lift his upper jaw as far as his paralysis will permit, and lie there weeping like a child.

Two faithful negro servants attend him, for his wife is dead. They both exhibit an attachment to their afflicted master that is touching to witness. They explain to me his signs and motions. When he lifts his left hand a little way up, "that means," says one of the attendants, "that he has two small grandchildren away in Jackson, Florida." When he lifts the same hand a few inches higher, "he means," continues the nurse, "that the people who fired his house, and drove him out in the street, were the very persons he had brought up from childhood. That's what makes him feel so bad." The old master hears every word the faithful servant says, and the tears rain down anew over his furrowed face. The servant wipes the tears gently away and softly adds, "Don't cry, master—don't cry; it's all over now, and we can't help it." Then turning to me, he continues in an undertone, "I have served him, Sir, rising forty years, and I shan't leave him now, Sir."

What rational man can doubt, with such facts as these before him, that the secessionists of Virginia are the very worst enemies of the state? Who does not see, if he will pause and reflect a moment, that the colored men and women of the South who are treated as human beings should be, will remain as free laborers with their old employers, if they were gradually prepared for emancipation?

THE DISCONTENTED SOLDIERS.

It is cheering to every patriot heart to read the judicious and kind comments of the Union press with regard to the late difficulties among some of our troops. The real truth is there are many instances in which our volunteer soldiers are far "more sinned against than sinning."

There are three great points in this question which should be constantly borne in mind by all concerned:—

1. Complete subordination on the part of our troops.
2. Strict accountability on the part of our officers.
3. Promptness and faithfulness on the part of the government.

These three points well guarded, and our army will eventually be the first in the world. We have such material as no other nation on earth ever possessed. Let any intelligent and fair minded man carefully observe the countenances and bearing of the soldiers at Fortress Monroe, who have been placed on the Rip Raps, on account of their insubordination, arising from their misunderstanding the terms of their enlistment, and because their pay and clothing were unnecessarily delayed—and he will at once admit in his heart, if he does not utter with his lips, the conviction that all these volunteers want is good treatment, justice, lawful and honorable dealing. Give them these—let all honest supporters of the Union combine their energies to frown down and banish from all our army and navy arrangements, all lying, cheating, swindling; let our troops and seamen be fairly dealt by, in all respects, and we shall assuredly win a final victory, for we shall deserve it.

UNITED STATES GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Dr. Cuyler, the medical director for this department of the army, has this week taken full possession of the general hospital at Fortress Monroe.—He is to be assisted by Surgeons Smith, McKay and White. Dr. Smith is acting very efficiently as house surgeon, devoting himself to his responsible duties with an energy, skill and tact worthy of his honorable profession. Dr. Cuyler is determined to carry all the medical institutions under his immediate control to the highest standard of excellence. He has served with distinction in the army for several years, having been with Gens. Taylor and Wool in Florida and Mexico. Dr. McKay is now absent for a short time, on a short furlough, for the improvement of his health.

The chaplain of the hospital, Rev. C. W. Denison, resides in the building. He has one of the best opportunities for extensive usefulness ever enjoyed by any faithful minister. A blessing is asked at each of the meals—the breakfast being at about seven in the morning, the dinner at one, the tea at six—and visits are paid regularly through all the wards. Funeral services, accompanied by troops and music, are held on the occasion of every death. Prayer meetings take place at stated periods. On the Sabbath there are services in the large and handsome chapel twice a day. The attendance is large, and the interest good. A library of miscellaneous books and magazines is being gathered, which will be circulated among all the invalids, and preserved for new comers. More volumes of an appropriate character—especially the memoirs of Havelock and Vickers—would be very welcome.

There are some three hundred patients connected with the fortress, general and camp hospitals. Let them be remembered at the firesides and altars of home.

GUN PRACTICE.

There is considerable firing in and around Fortress Monroe. It is the testing of certain guns. One of these is a steel gun, of a somewhat peculiar construction. It has been tested repeatedly on the beach to good advantage.

The Union gun will probably be tried this week. Perhaps it may be compared with Floyd's. The first shots will probably be sent on an excursion toward Norfolk. It will also be seen with what facility we can now reach Sewell's Point.

CANNON BALLS FOR WASHINGTON.

A liberal supply of large sized cannon shot leaves us for the national capital. We can spare several cargoes more, and still have plenty left.

A MEDICAL SHIP.

There appears to be a great want of a floating hospital attached to the naval vessels at this port. The medical gentlemen of the navy now have to send their sick and wounded men all the way to Washington. They cannot with propriety be placed in either of the army hospitals at the Fortress. A hospital ship, suitably fitted up and moved in the right place, would be of great service in this department.

It is earnestly to be hoped that this pressing necessity will not be overlooked another moment. There is much sickness yet to be encountered by our naval recruits on this coast, and patriotism as well as humanity should prompt immediate attention to this important matter. Our navy is destined to play a powerful part in this great Union movement, and its personnel should be efficiently cared for, in all respects.

WANTED—A WATCHMAKER.

Among all the needs of garrison and camp life, none is greater at Fortress Monroe and vicinity than a competent man to repair our clocks and watches. There are a few good time-pieces at the fort and on shipboard, so that the morning and evening drums, and the bells of the vessels tell the passage of certain hours. But all here cannot catch these sounds with regularity; hence great confusion ensues in certain circles. We have a public tailor to look after our rents—a public shoemaker, to attend to our understandings—both of whom are real public blessings. Now, if we had a watchmaker to post us up in time, we should be better ready for the exigencies of war.

MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS.

The Massachusetts Battalion, composed of such of the companies of the Third and Fourth regiments of the old Bay state as remained here enlisted for the war, has moved to the fort at Newport News Point. It is proposed to fill up the ranks to a full regiment. Col. Wardrop, formerly at the head of the Third Massachusetts, is now in Washington with reference to his command. The Virginia Coast Guard, formerly the New York Naval Brigade now numbers about 600 men. It is well uniformed, and much improved in drill. Col. Bartlett and his son are now here. It is reported that it has been intimated in Washington that in case Col. Bartlett is accepted by Gen. Wool, he will resume the command of the Brigade. It is capable of very effective service on this coast.

C. W. D.