

3 August 1863, 1

*The News from the Islands.*—There has been but little change to note since our last. The firing has been maintained principally by the land batteries and Fort Sumter. One or two wooden gunboats engaged Battery Wagner at intervals yesterday, but quickly got out of range on receiving our fire. The only casualties we have learned were two men, members of the 51st North Carolina, slightly wounded. The *Ironsides* and *Monitors* remain perfectly quiet, and it is believed they have sustained some serious damage. Two or three transports with troops are reported to have arrived Sunday.

The enemy fired a few random shots at the steamer *Chesterfield*, Saturday night, but did no damage.

General BRAUNSGARD paid another visit to the batteries on James' Island on Saturday. We learn that he expressed himself well satisfied with the condition of things and appeared to be well pleased.

Since writing the above we learn that the casualties yesterday at Battery Wagner were two killed and several wounded, caused by the explosion of a shell in an old shed near the battery. The wounded were brought to the city last evening.

*A Brilliant Dash—Capture of Thirty-three Negroes*—On Thursday night last a small party of volunteers from Capt. KIRK's Company, Beaufort Artillery and the Eleventh South Carolina Regiment, all under the command of Captain KIRK, and guided by a daring and well known scout, started on a reconnoitering expedition. They made a dash on Barnwell or, as it is commonly called, Big Island, divided from Port Royal by only a small creek.

Proceeding to the residence of the Hon. WM. H. TRESCOT, the party surrounded the house, surprising and capturing thirty-three negroes, five of whom were members of MONTGOMERY's brigade. While taking them to the boat two of the negroes attempted to escape by jumping from the bank into the creek. One was shot, and it is thought instantly killed. The other's screams were heard by our pickets at a distance of nearly three miles, and was no doubt dangerously wounded. The others were all brought off safely. They are all prime negroes, and were recognized as belonging to J. D. CHAPLIN, Esq., Mrs. CUNNINGHAM, and Messrs. FRIPPS and TRESCOT—the majority of them to the first named. On the return of the party rapid and heavy volleys of musketry were heard, supposed to be a force of the Yankees crossing the creek in pursuit. The Yankee gunboats since this expedition are keeping up a night patrol on the river. The expedition was well conceived and gallantly carried out.