

SECOND N. C. CAVALRY.

As many rumors are in circulation about a fight between a portion of the N. C. Cavalry and a party of the enemy, recently, in the Eastern part of this State, we copy the following account from the Raleigh Journal. It is no doubt a correct statement of the affair:

After two days and nights spent with the pickets of the 2d Cavalry, many of whom were eye-witnesses of the occurrence, we are enabled to present our readers with the following brief account of the fight at John Gillet's, in the lower part of Jones county, N. C., between a detachment of the 2d Cavalry, Lieut. Col. W. G. Robinson commanding, and a pillaging party of the enemy, which was furnished us by a participant in the fight and most of the facts of which we had corroborated by others:

On Sunday, the 13th instant, Col. Robinson set out in quest of the enemy, who, he learned, was perpetrating the most wanton and heartless excesses in Jones and Onslow counties. His command consisted of the following companies and parts of companies: Capt. Bryant, 50 men; Capt. Strange, 50 men; Capt. Turner, 50 men; a detachment of Capt. Cole's 15 men, Lieut. King commanding; a detachment of Capt. Andrew's, 13 men, Lt. Allison commanding; a detachment of Capt. Thomas', 52 men, Orderly Serg't Winsted commanding; and 4 men of Capt. Hays' company—the entire command consisting of about two hundred and six men. The expedition started from a point which need not be mentioned, and proceeded in the direction which promised the greatest certainty of meeting with the enemy. When or how they came upon his tracks, is a matter of indifference, but those tracks were marked with desolation, and terror, and theft, and robbery. All that was valuable was packed in stolen wagons, which were drawn by stolen horses and hauled away. Ladies' dresses, children's shoes, pins and needles were deemed of sufficient value to constitute a part of his booty. On the Cavalry hastened, having already learned pretty accurately that the number of the enemy did not exceed two hundred; while by some it was estimated at one hundred and twenty-five. Before starting, Col. Robinson had secured the services and co-operation of a prudent and reliable guide, who is as remarkable for his sound discretion and incorruptible patriotism as for his unassuming and gently gentlemanly deportment—we allude to Lieut. John Nethercutt, Sheriff of Jones county. It was now late, about midnight—the Cavalry drew near to John Gillet's and were met by a negro who informed them that the Yankees had his master in irons, and, with his family, had him confined in a room up stairs, and begged them to go to his relief. The enemy's force was known—no superior if equal to our own. The plan of the house and the grounds was clearly ascertained from their intelligent guide. The house was situated within a square field, which was enclosed by an ordinary rail fence, parallel with which, along the main road, ran a broad and deep ditch which was considered impassable as far as the avenue leading to the house. This ditch was continued beyond the avenue along the road, but was not regarded as offering any serious obstruction. Around the house and enclosing it from the field was a patent plank fence. The length of the avenue from the main road to the house our notes do not state, and whether it was fifty or one hundred and fifty yards, as told us by Lieut. Nethercutt, we cannot state with certainty. Col. Robinson now consulted his officers and communicated his plan of attack. It had been ascertained that a sentinel was posted at the mouth of the avenue, whom it was resolved to capture if possible without shooting him or creating any alarm, but at all events to silence him. Two men were sent forward for this purpose, and finding it impossible to secure him otherwise, he was shot down. At the report of the gun by which the sentinel was killed, Col. Robinson at the head of his men charged down the road in lines parallel to the house and then up the avenue, Captains Bryan and Cole's squad charging up to the fence in front, and Col. Robinson dashing to the left and calling on his men to follow him. Here Capt. Bryant's and Cole's men acted with the utmost coolness and bravery, firing into the windows, yard, and wherever a Yankee could be seen. Lieut. Blasingame imitating the bravery of his gallant Captain, Bryant, cheered on his men and acquitted himself valiantly.

At this stage of the action it was announced that the Yankees were running towards the swamp, and Col. Robinson ordered the men nearest him (Cole's squad) to charge down the road and intercept the fugitives, but instantly recalled them. The enemy were now pouring a pretty hot fire upon our men in the avenue and road, which produced temporary confusion, and they hesitated to charge. In an instant the Colonel was again among them, cheering and rallying his men, and, putting himself at their head, his well known noble voice rang throughout the line: "Come on my brave fellows; follow me." On dashed the Colonel, followed by men who were willing to die by his side, or with him share the glories of a victory. They charged up the avenue, and around the house to the left and rear. The Colonel still cheering on his men and urging them to the attack, at every breath assuring them that the victory was theirs, swept to the front and shot down an enemy. Rushing further on, and still shouting words of encouragement in the ears of all who followed him, he levelled his revolver at another Yankee, but failed to kill him; and, who, taking advantage of his position, shot the brave Colonel, who, with pistol leveled, and still shouting "follow me, my men," fell from his horse. Words are unavailing. A braver man than Col. Robinson never fell in battle. When this sad loss fell upon us, our troops without a leader followed the senior Captain, Strange, from the field, who instantly ordered a retreat.

In the meantime, when the Colonel charged around the house from the left, seeing the necessity of surrounding the house and charging on the right, thereby distracting the enemy and dividing his fire, Serg't Cole cried out: "Charge on the fence on the right, which, being done, he leaped the ditch and fence, calling on the men to follow, and charged the house on the right. Having charged near the house, he looked back for support and saw only seven men following him. About this time, the Colonel fell, our force broke on the left and rear of the house and retreated, when the enemy concentrated their whole fire on the small squad of eight, including Lieuts. Guhan and Moore. Of these one is supposed to have been killed—(name not known) one had his arm broke and horse killed, and a third had his horse killed under him. Among others whose conduct entitles them to honorable mention, are Corporal Ozment, of Captain Cole's company, from Guilford; privates Wm. Latham and James Payne. The latter charged around the house with Col. Robinson and killed an officer who was encouraging his men.

Our loss is one supposed to be killed and eight or nine—some say thirteen or fourteen wounded. Also six or eight horses killed or disabled. The loss of the enemy could not be ascertained, but the officer who visited Mr Gillet's house on Monday, in search of Colonel Robinson, reports that all the rooms in the house, except that wherein Mr Gillet and family were confined, were covered with blood and the Yankees were busily occupied all night attending to the wounded.

THE BATTLE OF SHILOH.

The Atlanta Intelligence, of Tuesday last, learns from verbal and other communications, in which it places reliance, the following results of the "Battle of Shiloh": Over four thousand prisoners were captured; eighty-six pieces of artillery were lost to the enemy. They were mostly rifled, with caissons & limbers complete, and with splendid horses attached. We got a large quantity of transportation wagons and mules, and small arms, ammunition sufficient for another battle, and medicines sufficient to supply our medical department for a long time, besides blankets and clothes for our soldiers, as well as commissary and quartermaster's stores. The encampments of the enemy, sufficient to protect an army of sixty thousand men, were also destroyed. This will do for one battle but had the condition of the country been otherwise than a *quagmire*, much more would have been saved by us, which the enemy lost.

The Richmond Enquirer says: We learn from gentlemen just arrived from Corinth, that the battle of Shiloh, was, considering the numbers engaged, one of the greatest and bloodiest conflicts of latter days—decidedly the most sanguinary ever fought upon this continent, if we except those of the Conqueror Cortez, Manassas, and every other battle of the war pales before it.

We are positively assured that Gen. Beauregard lost between 1000 and 1800 men killed outright, and over seven or eight thousand wounded. The Federal loss is perhaps correctly estimated at about fifteen thousand killed, wounded and missing. The Yankee news papers themselves admit a total loss of between ten and fifteen thousand men.

Gen. Beauregard was among our troops in the hottest of the fight, cheering the soldiers on and inspiring them by his presence. I saw him standing on a stump with uncovered head, and as columns after column would pass by, he would shout "fire low boys, fire low." Gen. Beauregard led the 18th Louisiana and the Orleans Guards, in person, charging the enemy's lines with the colors of the regiment in his hands, driving back the enemy with great slaughter.

Governor Harris, of Tennessee, it appears, was present on the field during the terrible battle of the 6th, and performed a brave and daring act. In the course of the action on Sunday, a Tennessee regiment, on being ordered to the charge, showed some symptoms of wavering. Gen. Johnston called the attention of Governor Harris to the fact. That gentleman at once rode up to the regiment, addressed to them a few stirring, thrilling words, and placing himself at their head, ordered the charge. The charge was made—it proved unsuccessful. Again he led them, and the second time the enemy stood the shock. A third time he brought them to the contest, and with a vigor so determined that the foe gave way and retreated, leaving a considerable number of prisoners in the hands of the Tennessee boys and their gallant Governor.

It is painful to leave any portion of Virginia in the hands of the enemy, and nothing but the demands of necessity could induce the Government to make such a sacrifice. But it is impossible, with the means at its command, to defend all sections of its vast territory, and if it had an army of a million of men it could not accomplish this object. Washington, in the Revolution, made the attempt in the beginning to defend the seaboard and other exposed portions of the frontier, but was compelled to abandon the system as impracticable, and perilous to the general welfare. In our judgment, it would have been better for us at the beginning to have concentrated our forces around a few vital points, and then to make rapid and vigorous blows upon the vulnerable points of the enemy. The seaboard, at least, is of little importance to us at the present moment. The immense fleets of the North give it an advantage of attack which we cannot pretend to cope with. It is only by drawing the enemy on to the interior, where we shall increase his difficulties of transportation, and the expense and peril of his movements, that we can carry on the war with efficiency and success.

These considerations will be fully appreciated by the loyal people of the South, whose country may for a season be occupied by the enemy. We have no fear that their intercourse with the invaders will have any other effect than to animate and intensify their patriotism. They will keep alive in their hearts the hope of a better future. The day of their deliverance will ultimately come, and it will be all the more bright and beautiful for the temporary eclipse.—Richmond Dispatch.

CONCENTRATING OUR ARMIES.

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THE LATE FIGHT AT YORKTOWN.

A correspondent of the Petersburg Express gives the following account of the fight at Yorktown week before last, in which the 15th N. C. Regiment took a prominent part:

On Wednesday afternoon, about three o'clock, the 15th North Carolina Regiment were in their quarters, with arms stacked, and a picket thrown in advance on the edge of a marsh which separated our line from the enemy. The men were lying about miscellaneously in their bivouacs, listening to the mutual cannonading which has been going on from both sides for the past week, when suddenly they were aroused to a sense of their danger by the driving in of our pickets by the enemy, who made a bold and desperate charge, wading up to their waists in the dam, and so unexpected was the assault, that they had almost succeeded in getting over to our breastworks. Before the line of the 15th North Carolina could be formed, and whilst forming, they were fired upon by the 3d Vermont and another Yankee regiment, when Colonel McKinney ordered a charge, nobly leading his men, with sword waving in the air, and cap in hand, and had nearly repulsed the foe, when he was shot down. The death of Col. M. caused a momentary panic, of which the enemy took advantage, and with large reinforcements endeavored to flank them on the left; but nerving themselves with desperation to avenge the loss of their much beloved leader, they obstinately retained their ground until the gallant Seventh Georgia had hurried to their assistance, and who with a yell that made the welkin ring, at the point of the bayonet, drove the enemy before them to their skulking places, strewn the marsh with their killed and wounded. Whilst the 15th North Carolina and 7th Georgia were engaging the enemy above, the 2d Louisiana was hotly engaged below with two Hessian regiments, who made the same effort, to cross the dam at that point, and were gallantly repulsed three or four times by the Louisianians.—The Yankees with their thirteen pieces of heavy ordnance, attacked our battery at the dam; in the meantime, ten of their regiments being deployed in a field only a short distance from the conflict, desperately charged our breastworks. All their efforts were signally frustrated. They fought with courage, well worthy of a better cause, and as a vacuum was made in their ranks by the death-dealing shells, they would close it up only to renew the fight with more desperate courage—many of the 3d Vermont charging even up to our breastworks where they fell, declaring martyr to an unholy cause. The fight lasted until sunset.

In the 15th North Carolina, there were fifteen killed and thirty wounded. Among the former Col. McKinney. In the 7th Georgia there are two killed and four wounded. In the 2d Louisiana there are two killed and seven wounded.

The guns of our batteries were struck several times, but no casualties occurred from this cause. Of the enemy I can truthfully say two hundred were killed, many of whom are still lying in the swamps where the engagement took place, unburied and uncared for, as the enemy asked no privilege to remove them, and any attempt on our side would be prevented by the deadly fire kept up by the Yankee sharpshooters. The groans of the wounded could be heard distinctly on the night of the battle, where they lay among the dead, unable to remove themselves, with the exception of some few who managed to crawl to our side and ask for protection.

The foregoing information, Messrs. Editors, is reliable, as I gather it from a gentleman who visited the scene of the engagement the day after, especially to get a truthful statement.

The enemy are still heavily fortifying themselves at the late scene of attack, and in fact all over the Peninsula. When the great battle will come off no one can predict, but we have all nerved ourselves to the conclusion that it will be one of the most desperate of the war.

Brig Gens J C Breckinridge and Hindman have been appointed Major Generals, and Capt Jack Morgan appointed a Colonel.

THE NEW MILITARY OR CONSCRIPTION LAW.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

To this law of Congress as at first published by us there were subsequently passed several amendments or auxiliary laws. We present the following synopsis of the law as thus modified, which we are satisfied will be found correct, in the hope and belief that it will prove useful in contributing to a general understanding of it:

The conscription law places in the service of the Confederate States, for three years, unless the war sooner ends, all white men between eighteen and thirty-five years of age, resident in the Confederate States, and not legally exempt from service.

The law is silent as to exemptions; but an act defining the class of exempts has been passed, which embraces generally those hitherto exempt, with some additions.

All twelve months' men, between the prescribed ages, are continued in service for two years from the expiration of their present term, should the war continue so long; and all those under eighteen and over thirty-five, are to be retained for ninety days after their term expires, unless their places are sooner supplied by recruits.

The term of service of those who originally enlisted for the war, or who have since re-enlisted for that period, is not affected by the act, and those over thirty-five, are not permitted to re-enlist in other organizations than those to which they now belong; and all re-enlistments that have been made from one existing company to another, or into a new company, where the re-enlistment has not been perfected by actual transfer, is in effect cancelled.

Companies, battalions and regiments of twelve months' men, retained in service by the act, shall be entitled, within forty days from the date of the act, on a day to be fixed by the Commander of the Brigade, to re-organize, by electing all their officers whom they had a right heretofore to elect.

Companies, battalions, squadrons, or regiments organized, or in process of organization, by authority from the Secretary of War, which may, without the consent of the President, employ State officers; if such consent cannot be obtained, Confederate officers shall be appointed by the President.

Persons not now in service, who shall be enrolled, shall be assigned by the Secretary of War to the different companies of the State from which such persons are drawn, until each company is filled to its maximum number.

Seamen and ordinary seamen, enrolled under the act, may, on application of the Secretary of the Navy, be transferred to the naval service.

If, after filling up the companies, regiments, battalions and squadrons from any State, the excess shall remain any of the enrolled men, the excess shall be kept as a reserve, and at stated intervals, not exceeding three months, drawn to be made by lot, shall be drawn from the reserve to keep the companies as nearly full as practicable. The persons so reserved remain at home until called into service, and receive no pay until actually mustered in.

They are not, while at home in reserve, subject to the rules and articles of war, except that if they willfully refuse to obey a call of the President they shall be held as deserters, and punished as such.

Whenever the President shall think that the exigencies of the service require it, he may call into active service the entire reserve, or so much as may be necessary, and they shall be organized under such rules as the Secretary of War may adopt, and shall elect their field and company officers.

The reserves from each State, when thus called into service, shall be organized as follows: Every man mustered into service, who shall bring with him a musket, shot gun, rifle or carbine accepted as an efficient weapon, shall receive the value of it as ascertained by the mustering officer under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe, or if the owner be unwilling to sell, he shall receive one dollar a month for the use of such arms.

Persons not liable to duty may be received as substitutes, under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe.

Vacancies shall be filled by the President from the company, battalion, squadron or regiment in which such vacancies occur, by promotion according to seniority, except in case of disability or other incompetency.

The President may, however, fill a vacancy by promoting any officer of the company, battalion, squadron, or regiment, who may have been distinguished in the service by valor and skill, without reference to seniority. Vacancies in the lowest grade of commissioned officers of a Company shall be filled by election or the President may promote to such vacancy non-commissioned officers, or persons, who by distinguished services by skill and valor in the service. Persons not now in service, may, before being enrolled, volunteer with existing companies now in service.

EXEMPTIONS.

Under the Conscription Law of Congress.

The following exemption bill was passed by Congress, and signed by the President just before the adjournment:

A bill entitled "An act to exempt certain persons from enrolment for service in the armies of the Confederate States."

Section 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That all persons who shall be held to be unfit for military service under the laws of the Secretary of War, shall be all in the service or employ of the Confederate States; all judicial and executive officers of Confederate or State Governments; the members of both houses of Congress, and of the legislatures of the several States and their respective officers; all clerks of the officers of the State and Confederate Governments allowed by law; all engaged in carrying the mails, all ferrymen on post routes, all pilots and persons engaged in the marine service, and in actual service on river and railroad routes of transportation; all telegraphic operators; all ministers of religion, in the regular discharge of ministerial duties; all engaged in working iron mines, furnaces and foundries; all journeymen printers actually employed in newspapers, all preachers and professors of colleges and academies, and all teachers, leaving as many as twenty scholars; superintendents of the public hospitals, lunatic asylums, and the regular nurses and attendants therein, and the teachers employed in the institutions for the deaf and dumb and blind; in such apothecary store now established one apothecary in good standing, who is a practical druggist, superintendent and operator in wood and other factories, who may be exempted by the Secretary of War, shall be, and are hereby, exempted from military service in the armies of the Confederate States.

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FROM THE WEST.

Late accounts from Missouri say that Gen. Seigle died of pneumonia, at Keatsville, some days ago. The Louisville papers admit that Gen. Buell arrived at the Tennessee Sunday evening of the battle, and crossed the river with his forces that night, and that the whole were engaged in the fight of Monday.

Reliable accounts from Nashville say that four thousand Kentucky troops have quit the army and gone home, in disgust, on account of Lincoln's Abolition policy. There are nine thousand sick troops at Nashville. The Federals are reported to be moving their sick and stores from the city.

Senator Washington Barrow and Gen. W. G. Harding have been arrested on a charge of treason and put in the penitentiary. Mayor Cheatham, Mr. Brannon, Sharp and Hamilton, manufacturers of arms, &c., have been arrested on a similar charge, and all are to be tried at the Federal Court at Nashville.

The Huntsville Democrat says that 1,000 effective Federal troops and about 7,000 sick Federals remain at Nashville.

We are advised that Federal rule is becoming very stringent at Nashville; that arrests are being made, and among them ex-Gov. Neil S. Brown has been imprisoned.

ISLAND NO. 10.—A Northern correspondent, of the St. Louis Republican reports as follows: On Island No. 10 there are five batteries and twenty-two guns, but few tents, and no property, except cannon balls, that can be made available. The island was abandoned by all but gunners a week since.

There is now excellent opportunity to notice and hear of the effects produced by huge mortar shells. Holes, as if animals had burrowed, are visible where the missiles fell without exploding, and large trees are broken like twigs. Where the fire proved true, and they did burst, their destructive properties are apparent—timber for a hundred yards around bearing scars, and hollows being scooped out of the earth. Yet, from the great precautions taken by the enemy, only three men were killed, although the prisoners tell of many narrow escapes.

GOOD SHOTS.—The Atlanta Commonwealth of the 16th inst., says: "A gentleman from the West informs us that he saw and conversed with a Federal officer, a prisoner, who stated that in the recent battle at Corinth, the Confederates shot at their enemies as if bees, hitting nearly every time in the head. He noticed in passing over the battle field that nearly all their wounded had balls planted in their foreheads.

The same gentleman informs us that he saw and examined a breast-plate that had been taken from a dead Yankee. It was made of very fine wire, woven closely together, and could resist a ball from the most powerful rifle. Although his breast was protected by this novel contrivance, his head was left exposed, and in its very centre he had received the fatal ball. Three other breast-plates were found upon the bodies of the dead.

COMMUTED.—We learn that the sentence against D. W. Hay, convicted of the murder of Joseph Steele, and sentenced by Judge Withers, at the last term of the Court of Sessions for this District, to be hung on the first Friday in May next, has been, by Governor Pickens, commuted to entry into the service of the country for the war.—Lancaster Ledger.

PAY YOUR DEBTS.—Many thousands of dollars have been paid out in this county, recently, for mules and wagons, besides the very large prices every kind of produce is selling for—which is putting into the pockets of the people an amount of money the like of which never was before known. But it is reported to us, as a general thing, the people are not paying their debts, and hoard their money, or keeping it to speculate with. This is all wrong, and will prove to be a sad mistake in the end. They that owe money, and have it to pay with, would act wisely to liquidate their indebtedness, in small or large sums. Quite any "sort" of money will pass current now, but this will not always be so.—Statesville Express.

THE CONSCRIPT LAW.—We publish in another column this