

ADDRESS OF CONGRESS To the People of the Confederate States.

In closing the labors of the First Permanent Congress, your Representatives deem it a fit occasion to give some account of their stewardship...

Compelled by a long series of oppressive and tyrannical acts, culminating at last in the selection of a President and Vice-President by a party composed of sectional and hostile to the South...

Our army is no hired soldiery. It comes not from paupers, criminals or emigrants. It was originally raised by the free, unconstrained, ungrudging assent of the men.

For three years this cruel war has been waged against us, and its continuance has not been consented to on any terms that we could possibly concede.

The course of the Federal Government has proved that it did not desire peace, and would not consent to it on any terms that we could possibly concede.

Resolved, That as our country and the very existence of the best Government ever instituted by man are imperiled by the most causeless and wicked rebellion that the world has seen...

The motive of such strange conduct is obvious. The Republic party was founded to destroy slavery and the equality of the States, and Lincoln was selected as the instrument to accomplish this object.

These reasonable anticipations were doomed to disappointment. The red glare of battle, kindled at Sumter, dissipated all hopes of peace, and the two Governments were arrayed in hostility against each other.

The organized machinery of an established government is a powerful agency in the nucleus of an army; credit abroad, and illimitable facilities in mechanical and manufacturing power, placed them on the "vantage ground."

The war in which we are engaged was wickedly and against all our protests, and the most earnest efforts to the contrary, forced upon us.

It would hardly be fair to assert that all the Northern people participate in these designs. On the contrary there exists a powerful political party, which openly condemns them.

When returns return our enemies will probably reflect, that a people, like ours, who have exhibited such capabilities, and extemporized such resources, can never be subdued; that a vast expense of territory, with such a population, cannot be gov-

erned as an obedient colony. Victory would not be conquest.

The struggle would be renewed between proslavery and antislavery. To impoverish the South by the destruction of its property would be to reduce Northern profits, while the restoration of peace would necessarily re-establish some commercial intercourse.

Not content with rejecting all proposals for a peaceful settlement of the controversy, a cruel war of invasion was commenced, which, in its progress, has been marked by a brutality and disregard of the rules of civilized warfare, as standard, and in unexampled barbarity in the history of modern wars.

Accompanied by every act of cruelty and rapine, the conduct of the enemy has been destitute of humanity and of humanity, which civilization and Christianity have introduced to mitigate the asperities of war.

The wounded at Gettysburg were deprived of their arms and ammunitions left on the field. Helpless women have been exposed to the most cruel outrages and to that dishonor which is infinitely worse than death.

These cruelties and atrocities of the enemy have been exceeded by their malicious and blood-thirsty purposes and machinations in reference to the slaves. Early in this war, President Lincoln avowed his constitutional inability and personal unwillingness to interfere with the domestic institutions of the States and the relation between master and servant.

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State of N. Carolina—Beckburg Co. Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Jan. Term, 1864. H. D. Stowe, adm'r of Harbert Stowe, dec'd, vs. Wm H. Nicholson and wife M. H., and others.

It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that W. H. Nicholson and wife M. H., defendants in this case, reside beyond the limits of this State: It is ordered by the Court that publication be made in the Western Democrat, a newspaper published in the town of Charlotte, North Carolina, of the contents of this order...

State of N. Carolina—Catawba County. In Equity to Spring Term, 1864. Elected Connor vs. Wm. Long and Columbus Connor. In this case it appearing from the oath of Elected Connor that Columbus Connor is not an inhabitant of this State, publication is therefore made in accordance with an act of the Legislature in the Western Democrat, published at Charlotte, for six weeks, for the said Columbus Connor to appear at the next term of the Superior Court of Law and Equity to be held at the Court House in Charlotte, on the 4th Monday after the 4th Monday in March next, then and there to plead answer or demurr, or judgment pro confesso will be taken as to him.

State of North Carolina—Union County. Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions Jan. Term, 1864. Cullen Curlee, Ex'r of Obediah Curlee, vs. Thomas G. Curlee and others. Petition for Settlement. It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that the defendants, Obediah Bacon, Josiah Bacon, Eliah Mullis, and Herron Williams, are beyond the limits of this State: It is therefore ordered by the Court that publication be made for six successive weeks in the Western Democrat, a paper published in the town of Charlotte, North Carolina, of the contents of this order...

War News. CONFEDERATE VICTORY IN FLORIDA. TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 21. To the President: I have just received the following despatch from Gen. Finnegan, dated yesterday: "I met the enemy in full force to-day, under Gen. Seymour, and defeated him with great loss. I captured five pieces of artillery, hold possession of the field, and the killed and wounded of the enemy. My cavalry are in pursuit. I don't know precisely the number of prisoners, as they are being brought in constantly. My whole loss will not, I think, exceed 250 killed and wounded. Among them I mourn the loss of many brave officers and men."

Understand that Gen. Finnegan also captured many small arms. (Signed.) JOHN MILTON, Governor. CHARLESTON, Feb. 23.—To Gen. S. Cooper: The latest reports from Gen. Finnegan give no particulars of the victory at Ocean Pond, except that he has taken all of the enemy's artillery; some five or six hundred stand of small arms already collected, and that the roads for three miles are strewn with the enemy's dead and wounded. G. T. BEAUREGARD. An official dispatch from Gen. Finnegan, dated Sandersville, Va. Tallahassee, 26th inst., says: "My advanced guard occupy Baldwin; my main force will reach there this afternoon. The enemy have retreated to Jacksonville."

FROM MISSISSIPPI. DEMOPOLIS, Ala., Feb. 23.—The enemy's forces are along the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and are making a retrograde movement in the direction of the Mississippi river. Their mounted infantry in North Mississippi are also retiring, being closely pressed by Gens. Forrest and Lee. A letter states that on the 20th the enemy left Meridian for Raymond or Canton, our cavalry pursuing. Gen. Forrest has Grison surrounded, and has captured many prisoners. LATER. An official telegram has been received in Richmond from Gen. Folk, transmitting a dispatch from Gen. Lee, dated Starkville, Miss., 23d. Gen. Lee says Forrest reports severe fighting all day yesterday, ten miles south of Pontotoc. We killed 40 of the enemy, and captured 100. Our loss not so large. We also captured four fine pieces of artillery. Fighting commenced near Okalona this evening, and was stubbornly contested, as the enemy was forced to make repeated stands to hold us in check, and save his pack mules from stampeding. The fight closed with a grand cavalry charge, by which the enemy's whole force was completely routed, with heavy loss. DEMOPOLIS, Feb. 26.—Later intelligence from Mississippi states that Gen. Forrest's loss, during the recent engagement near Okalona, did not exceed two thousand, while the enemy's loss is estimated at six thousand. Late on the evening of the 22d, the enemy formed three separate lines and made desperate stands, but our troops charged them on horseback, with sabres, and each time the enemy recoiled, and were driven back with great slaughter. Many of them passed through our lines and were captured. The road was lined with sutler's stores thrown away, dead horses and Yankees. Next morning Gen. Forrest's command were too much fatigued to continue the pursuit. Gen. Gholson with six or seven hundred Mississippi State troops went in pursuit. Many of the enemy's wounded fell into our hands. Among our wounded is Col. Barton of Bell's Brigade, severely in the breast. Gen. Gholson has captured many prisoners, small arms, sabres, saddles, &c., and still is pursuing them. Gen. Forrest had two horses shot under him. He killed two Yankees with his sabre. Sherman's advance has reached Pearl river. FROM JOHNSTON'S ARMY. DALTON, Ga., Feb. 25.—Our army is in line of battle at Tunnel Hill. There was a sharp engagement yesterday between Clayton's brigade and the enemy, which lasted half the day. Woolford's cavalry, backed by a regiment of infantry attacked our line, and were repulsed three times. In the first assault 100 Yankee saddles were emptied. Our artillery did great execution. There has been heavy artillery skirmishing along the lines, at intervals, all day, with occasional volleys of musketry. Both sides are evidently maneuvering for position. Casualties trifling. FROM EAST TENNESSEE. BRISTOL, Feb. 24.—A letter from Powell's river, near Cumberland Gap, dated 20th inst., states that several Yankee regiments lately passed through the Gap, on six days' furlough, declaring they would never return. Gen. Grant refused to give any more furloughs. There is no more remaining in the Yankee army. There is but five regiments at the Gap. They are closely besieged, and suffering for supplies. It is expected they will evacuate the place in a short time. The notorious Tory Jones, of Claiborne county, was captured near Tazewell, a few days ago. It is stated that Gen. Longstreet can take possession of Knoxville whenever he chooses to do so. Brownlow must skedaddle again.

HOUSE FOR RENT. In Monroe, Union county, N. C., neat and comfortable buildings and pleasant situation, in the suburbs of town. D. A. COVINGTON. \$100 REWARD. JANE, belonging to the estate of A. A. Coffey, dec'd. Said negro is 15 or 16 years old, about 5 feet 6 inches high, very dark. She has very large feet, toes turned out much more than common. It is supposed that she is in the neighborhood of Charlotte, N. C., and is passing herself as free. Will pay one hundred dollars for the apprehension and delivery of said negro to me, or if lodged in any jail so that I can get her. Pleasant Valley, Lancaster Dist., S. C. Feb 2, 1864. J. M. POTTS, Adm'r.

RUNAWAY. From the plantation of Mrs. R. A. Hunter, in Sharon neighborhood, a negro man named WASH, about 35 years old, medium size, and copper color. It is supposed that he has been persuaded off by some mean white person, and may be trying to make his way to the Yankees. A reward of \$100 will be paid for his apprehension and delivery to me, or his confinement in any jail. J. W. MANLY. Feb 2, 1864. 1m-pd.

Announcement. We, as soldiers, respectfully announce THOMAS R. MAGILL as a candidate for the House of Commons for Union county, at our next regular election in August, next, and as such will be voted for by MANY SOLDIERS IN THE ARMY. December 22, 1863. tpd.

Announcement. We, as soldiers, respectfully announce Capt. J. E. MOORE as a candidate for Sheriff of Union county at our next regular election in August, and as such will be voted for by MANY SOLDIERS. Feb 16, 1864. If

DR. J. M. MILLER, Charlotte, N. C., Can be found at his Office next door to Mitchell's Drug Store, opposite the Democrat Office. Jan. 12, 1864.

State of N. Carolina—Beckburg Co. Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions—Jan. Term, 1863. James Hood vs. Martin Harky. Petition for the partition of the Lands of John Harky, deceased. It appearing to the satisfaction of the Court that Martin Harky, the defendant in this case, resides beyond the limits of this State: It is ordered by the Court that advertisement be made in the Western Democrat for six weeks, commanding said defendant to appear at the Court House in Charlotte, on the 2d Monday in April next, and plead answer or demurr to this petition, or judgment pro confesso will be entered against him. Witness, Wm. Maxwell, Clerk of our said Court, at office in Charlotte, the 2d Monday in January, 1864. 8-6t WM. MAXWELL, Clerk.

NOTICE. The firm of WILLIAMS, OATES & CO., is this day (Jan. 1st, 1864) dissolved by mutual consent. All persons interested will call and close their accounts with either of the undersigned. L. S. WILLIAMS, L. W. SANDERS. January 12, 1864.

Salt! Salt! Salt! We will exchange Virginia Salt for Pork, on as good terms as any body. YOUNG, WRISTON & ORR. December 1, 1863. If

Conscription Office. RALPH, N. C., February 11, 1864. The following "Notice" from the Bureau of Conscription, is published for the guidance of all concerned. Compliance with its directions will save applicants for exemption or detail much unnecessary delay in the investigation of their claims. By order of the commandant, E. J. HARDIN, Adj't.

NOTICE. CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, WAR DEPT., Bureau of Conscription, Richmond, Jan. 29, 1864. Paragraph X of General Order No. 82, Adj't and Inspector General's Office, of 1862, requires that all applications for exemption must in all cases be made to the Enrolling Officer.

If the local Enrolling Officer has not the power to act, or is in doubt, he will refer investigation under Circular No. 2, current series, refer such applications, through the proper official channels, to this Bureau. All such applications addressed to this Bureau will necessarily and invariably be returned for local investigation, and the applicants will thus have uselessly lost time and prolonged suspense. Appeals from the adverse decisions of the local officers, and from the commandant of Conscripts for the State, will be forwarded by them for hearing upon any plausible ground of appeal as set forth. Commandant of Conscripts will give this notice extensive circulation in the local press of their respective States. By order of Col. Preston, Supt., C. B. DUFFIELD, A. A. G. Feb 16, 1864. 1m