

# The Western Democrat.

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W. J. YATES, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1865.

THIRTEENTH VOLUME--NUMBER 65

THE  
WESTERN DEMOCRAT,  
Published every Tuesday,

BY  
WILLIAM J. YATES,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS, PER ANNUM:  
\$30 IN ADVANCE.

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## THE NEW HOME GUARD LAW. An Act to Increase the Efficiency of the Home Guard Organization.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That whenever the Guard for Home Defence shall be called into service beyond the limits of their respective counties, the Governor may cause two or more companies to be consolidated into one company so as to make not less than sixty-four men, rank and file, to each company; said company so consolidated shall elect from the Captains commanding the companies so consolidated a Captain to command such consolidated company, and from the first Lieutenants, Second Lieutenants and Junior Second Lieutenants of such companies, an officer of each said rank, to be assigned to duty with such consolidated company, such officers of companies so consolidated shall not be detailed for service with such consolidated company, shall be required to perform service as non-commissioned officers or privates in the consolidated company, formed of their original companies, and while so serving their commissions shall be suspended.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the Governor may, in his discretion, in constituting the consolidated companies contemplated by the first section hereof, take the one-fourth, one-third, or one-half of any company as at present organized with a due proportion of officers, and such of the officers of companies as at present organized, as may be placed with fractions of their companies, to form a consolidated company, as may not be elected to command such consolidated company, shall be required to serve in such consolidated company as non-commissioned officers or privates, and while so serving their commissions shall be suspended. The Governor shall have power to discriminate in favor of farmers and mechanics, when he calls out a less number than the whole of a company, also to declare vacant the office of an officer who is declared by medical board permanently disabled for duty, either in the militia or Home Guards, or of an officer who absconds to the enemy.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That all Quartermasters and Commissaries of regiments or battalions of Home Guards as at present organized, that may be assigned to duty by the Governor with a consolidated battalion or regiment, shall be required to serve as non-commissioned officers or privates, in some one company of their present command, and while so serving their commissions shall be suspended.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That the Surgeon General, by and with the advice and consent of the Congress, shall appoint a Medical Board for each Congressional District in this State, whose business it shall be to examine all persons claiming exemption from Home Guard duty on account of physical disability, that these examinations shall be made at such time and under such rules and regulations as may be established by the Surgeon General, and that the members of said Board shall receive the same pay and allowances while on duty as the Confederate Conscription Boards.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted, That when such companies, battalions or regiments, have been consolidated as herein provided for, they shall continue in such organizations until further provisions shall be made in their behalf.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted, That the second section of "an act in relation to the Militia and a Guard for Home Defence," ratified the 7th day of July, 1863, be, and the same is hereby amended, by striking out the word "these" in the ninth line of said section, and inserting the words "and public," and "blacksmiths" for the words "millers" and "and public" in the twelfth line of said section, and that the proviso at the end of said section be, and the same is hereby repealed; that in addition to the exemptions specified in the acts aforesaid, they shall be exempt from Home Guard duty all county trustees, regular and public teachers, hatters and shoemakers skilled in their respective callings, and who were employed in the same prior to the first day of January, A. D., 1863, and have continued to be so employed since that time.

Provided, tanners shall sell one-third of their leather to indigent soldiers' wives and widows for their own use at schedule prices.

Provided, that no provision of this act shall be so construed as to exempt from military service any person mentioned herein, in case of actual service, insurrection or invasion of the county in which he resides, by Federal forces, except the persons and classes mentioned in the first section of an act in relation to the Militia and a Guard for Home Defence, ratified the 7th day of July, 1863.

Sec. 8. Be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Read three times and ratified by the General Assembly this 23rd day of December, A. D., 1864.

The following are the sections of former laws to which the above law refers:

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the Governor to cause to be enrolled as a guard for home defence all white male persons not already enrolled in the service of the Confederate States, between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, resident in this State, including foreigners not naturalized, who have been residents in the State for thirty days before such enrollment, excepting persons filling the offices of Governor, Judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts of Law and Equity, the members of the General Assembly and the officers of the several Departments of the Government of the State, Ministers of the Gospel of the several denominations of the State charged with the duties of churches, and such other persons as the Governor, for special reasons, may deem proper subjects of exemption.—Law of July, 1863.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That in addition to the exemptions contained in the act to which this is an amendment, there shall be exempt County commissioners appointed under an act entitled "An act for the relief of wives and families of soldiers in the army," regular millers, blacksmiths who have established shops, necessary operatives in factories and foundries, the Attorney General, Solicitors of the several circuits and counties, physicians of five years' practice, contractors with the State or Confederate Government, one editor of each newspaper and the necessary compositors, printer, engravers, professors in colleges and teachers in academies; provided, that this exemption shall only apply to the drills specified in this bill and not to service when the Guard for Home Defence is called into the field.—Law of Dec, 1863.

The provision in the above section is repealed. The persons mentioned are subject to Home Guard duty only when the county in which they reside is invaded, or in case of insurrection in the county.

Notice.  
All persons leaving Charlotte by Railroad are required to obtain Passports at the Provost Marshal's office. By order, Lieut. G. W. GRAGSON, Provost Marshal. Oct 17, 1864.

## The Western Democrat. CHARLOTTE, N. C.

NEGROES FOR THE ARMY.—The Hon. John Cunningham, of South Carolina, publishes in the Columbia Carolinian his views on the subject of using negroes in our army. These views are given to the public at the request of Gov. Magrath. We make a few extracts from Mr Cunningham's article:

"Pretending, for the moment, the general question of policy, it may be agreed that the State Governments only, and not the Confederate, have absolute control over that policy and its absolute enforcement. But each State may place its organized negro troops at the disposal of the Confederate Government, for the purpose of a common and united defence of the Confederacy. On the question of policy, it may be remarked, first, that the difficulty of the South, arising from the scattered paucity of her population, in obtaining men to fill her armies, renders the conscription of her colored people now necessary; and, second, that the danger of the North's capturing and forcibly arming her negroes against her, enforces this unexpected effort for self-preservation and independence. And, too, the negroes have a vital interest, present and future, in defending the soil and climate, their products, and the system of slave labor which produces them, as the only reliable and permanent sources of their own subsistence and well-being. Nor should, nor will, they be unmindful of these 'domestic relations' which bind them to their homes, their owners, their wives and children, of that lasting peace which is so essential to their happy lives and thriving condition. They may assuredly understand that Yankeeedom will not leave them any of these blessings, and that the North intends to dispossess both them and their owners of their favored country."

The writer explains his plan for preparing the negroes for the field thus:

"Assuming that the negro population of South Carolina are about 400,000, and that half are *workmen* and that of the latter, 75,000 males are capable (say from 18 to 45 years) of bearing arms, 20,000 of them may be readily spared for military service, without materially diminishing the industrial capacity of our slave system of labor, or preventing a full supply of food. This number should be our *main* arm, except under extreme peril to every part of our State, as the question of a sufficiency of food, now so entirely dependent on slave labor, is a paramount one.

I deem it essential that the negro troops, called into the field, should be placed under the command of those to whom they have been accustomed to render obedience and confidence, in whom they recognize rightful and habitual authority, and with whose interest and families they consider themselves identified. Of course, every company could not be raised from the slaves of the captain and lieutenants; but it should come from a common locality, the officers be known to the negroes in that locality, and be known as slaveholders or managers, having a common interest and object with all its masters. The negro soldier will and should be thus impressed by the idea and feeling that he is fighting for a cause common to himself and master, to his country, and all its inhabitants, white and black—contending for the preservation of the sources of their support, comfort and peace; and of their domestic relations."

"The legislative powers only can authorize the raising of negro troops, or any interference with the master's rights of property in slaves. An extra session of the Legislature should be promptly called. A conscription law should be passed, determining the policy, the number and ages of negro troops; also, whether the slave forces should be placed under any Confederate control. Emancipation should be sternly eschewed, either as a general policy in regard to the forces, or as an individual gratification. Let us stand by the State's settled policy in this regard."

"Ample provision should be made for compensation to the master for any loss of his slave property in service. Negro troops, while they should be commanded by white officers, should not be mingled in the same ranks, either of company or regiment, with white troops. They should be in the same brigades, divisions, corps or army; but the negroes to the whites should not be in a larger proportion than one to two. The white element should always be proximate and predominant, so as effectually to secure subordination and discipline in the slave force. The officers should be appointed by the Governor."

Mr Cunningham closes his letter with these sensible remarks:

"In conclusion, let the negro soldier not only understand that he is fighting for his master's rights, but his own; and that his master is also fighting for both. He will soon learn, too, that it is better for him to fight the Yankees, in company with his master, than to be forced by the Yankees to fight with them against his master, and to the ruin of his people and country."

BLAIR'S MISSION.—Richmond, Jan 15.—Frank P. Blair left by flag of truce boat yesterday. Col. J. W. Singleton, a prominent Peace Democrat, arrived on return trip and took lodgings at the Spotswood hotel. It is understood that Blair had a private and confidential interview with the President. He came in no official capacity, and has had no official intercourse with any member of the government. The opinion in well informed circles is, that this interview may lead to a conference between authorized agents, or commissioners of the two governments. It is known that the President will permit no obstacle of form to stand in the way of sending or receiving commissioners.

FROM WESTERN VIRGINIA.—The following dispatch from General Lee shows that we have achieved some success in Western Virginia:

HEADQUARTERS, JAN 15.  
Early reports that Rosser, at the head of 300 men, surprised and captured the garrison at Beverly, Randolph county, killing and wounding a considerable number, and taking 508 prisoners. His loss slight.

R. E. LEE, General.

## PRISONERS' CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION. FORT DELAWARE, Oct. 30th, 1864. To the People of the Confederate States.

The undersigned invite your attention to a benevolent enterprise which they believe will commend itself to the hearts and conscience of our entire people. It is "to make an organized effort to supply the wants of prisoners."

We feel confident that if the people of the Confederate States had from the beginning of the war fully appreciated the multiplied wrongs and hardships of this large class of our people, there would long since have been organized a society especially to promote their welfare. But so diverse and onerous have been the duties which this struggle have imposed upon our people at home, they have in a great measure underestimated the trials and sufferings of prisoners, and the wide field which relieving their wants affords for the exercise of Christian benevolence. Whilst therefore we heartily commend the patriotic and benevolent enterprises which you have, during the war, inaugurated to promote the cause of freedom, the good of mankind and the glory of God, we most earnestly ask that another be added to those enterprises by which these glorious ends may be promoted.

We make this appeal to a committee of the "Confederate States Christian Association for the relief of prisoners," a society in operation among the officers in confinement at this Fort; and we cannot better commend this enterprise to your favor than by acquainting you with the nature and purposes of that association.

Early last summer, the officers imprisoned here, who were members of evangelical churches, appreciating the importance of some organized effort to promote the cause of Christ among their fellow prisoners, organized a "Christian Association." In the providence of God the Rev. Isaac W. K. Handy, D. D., and several other ministers were confined here also, and so heartily and faithfully did these godly men direct the efforts of the Association, that God speedily and abundantly blessed those efforts with a gracious outpouring of His Spirit, and in the addition of many souls to His Church. As the summer advanced, and the means at its command would permit, the Association, besides having the gospel preached, and holding daily prayer meetings, established a library of religious and miscellaneous reading, and organized classes on the various branches of science and literature; and so wide was the field which was gradually opened to its operation, that it soon became necessary to re-draft its constitution. This was done in October, and the new Society was styled the "Confederate Christian Association for the relief of prisoners," and was designed to relieve the wants, spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical of all prisoners, whether civil, political or military, in our own or other lands.

The Society was organized upon this broad basis with the hopes that the United States authorities might permit it to extend its operations to other prisoners, and that it might by its objects and efforts suggest to the people of the Confederate States the importance of organizing in each community and State of the Confederacy, similar Associations to which this might be auxiliary. Our Association has been in operation under its new title but a short time, but bids fair to be eminently useful, even with the restrictions which the prison rules impose upon its operations. But we trust that God will extend its usefulness still further, by removing such obstacles as hinder its efforts, and that the people of the Confederate States will cordially respond to our appeal in behalf of their prisoners and will furnish this and similar associations in other prisons the means to supply their wants.

But our efforts should not stop here. That benevolence does not deserve the name of Christian benevolence, which does not embrace our enemies as well as our friends. There are thousands of prisoners in our own prisons whose wants should be supplied. Let us endeavor to discharge our duty to them as well as to our own prisoners, and exemplifying the teachings of him who said, "love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you."

We therefore most earnestly appeal to you to organize associations everywhere throughout the Confederacy for the relief of prisoners. Let names be raised, and books and clothing be bought, collected and forwarded to the associations in the various prisons, and when necessary let the King's minister be sent to preach to the prisoners, and rest assured God will bless your efforts by promoting our country's good, and His own glory.

R. B. VANCE,  
LEWELLYN SOUTHGATE, } Committee  
Geo. M. EDGAR, }

CONGRESS.—On the 16th, the House committee appointed to investigate the conduct of the Hon. H. S. Foote, in attempting to pass our line into the enemy's country, made a report declaring that Mr Foote was absent from his seat in the House without leave, but the public good would not be subserved by compelling his attendance. A resolution was adopted declaring that Mr Foote had no privileges as a member of the House, and referring the whole matter to the President with a statement of the facts. [The northern papers announce that Foote's wife has arrived in Washington city. It is cowardly and disgraceful to any man to desert the country now. Every honorable man, who has lived and co-operated with the southern people in this war, feels bound to remain and share the common fate, whatever it may be. Certainly the yankees will entertain no respect for a man who sneaks off from us now.]

On the 17th, the Senate passed a bill increasing the maximum rates of compensation allowed Railroad companies for transporting the mails. In the House, Mr. Miles submitted a resolution which was adopted, for the appointment of a joint committee to prepare an address to the people of the Confederate States assuring them of the unalterable determination of Congress to prosecute the war, &c. The death of Hon Mr Morgan, representative from Texas, was announced and appropriate resolutions of respect adopted.

## DECISION ON THE TAX QUESTION. The Mobile Register contains a lengthy decision rendered by Hon. Wm. G. Jones, Confederate judge for the State of Alabama, in the case of the Savings bank of Mobile against Henry Barwell, Confederate States tax collector.

The plaintiff brought his action at law to recover sums of money it had been compelled to pay as Confederate taxes for 1864 on State bonds, purchased by it from the State of Alabama, and the questions presented were: Are State bonds taxed by the act of Congress, and if so, is such taxation constitutional?

The plaintiff also embraced in his suit a claim for money paid in new issue as soldiers' tax, levied and collected under the act of the 10th of June, 1864, and this branch of the cause turned on the question whether the plaintiff was not entitled to pay this tax in four per cent. certificates issued to plaintiff under the funding act of February, 1864, and which certificates have been since held by plaintiff. The tax collector compelled payment in Confederate notes of the new issue, reducing four per cent. certificates. The case was in the nature of an agreed one by Government and plaintiff, and the questions arose on separate State demurrers to each count of the complaint.

The case was argued for plaintiff by Robert H. Smith, Esq., and P. Phillips, Esq., and for the Government by A. J. Requier, Esq., district attorney, and the court decided:

1st. That Congress did not possess the constitutional power to tax State bonds.

2d. That the tax acts of Congress did not attempt to embrace State bonds as a subject of taxation.

3d. That soldiers' tax was payable only in Confederate treasury notes of the new issue, and could not be paid in four per cent. certificates, and that the act of Congress in requiring the tax to be thus paid did not violate the pledge given by Congress, in the funding act, that the four per cent. bonds should be received for all public dues payable in 1864. That this pledge only related to the taxes then provided to be levied, and did not extend to such as the necessities of the Government might require to be afterwards raised.

EAST TENNESSEE.

The "dark and bloody ground" of E. Tennessee, after having for a few days been evacuated by the gallant Vaughn, is again to feel the shock of contending hosts. Vaughn was at Carter's Station a few days since, on his way down the country. The Confederates appear determined that the foot of the invader shall not rest in quiet upon the soil of Upper East Tennessee. Vaughn fights, and when pressed by numbers, falls back, "picks his flint," and comes again. If pluck will win, Vaughn is sure of the game. The Federal hold upon the upper portion of the State is so precarious, and costs them so much to keep up even the semblance of possession, that it seems strange to us they do not abandon it altogether. Confederate scouts range boldly over all the upper counties, and the Federals, unless in heavy force, dare not show themselves anywhere.

Stoneman, according to the Yankee papers, was in Nashville a few days ago, having just returned from his raid thro' East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. He boasted that he had destroyed the Saltworks and Lead Mines, and that he only lost two thousand men! We happen to know that the Lead Mines were being worked as usual two days after his visit, and that the damage done the Saltworks could be repaired in three or four weeks. This is the testimony of gentlemen who were on the ground. And to inflict this trifling damage, he only lost two thousand men! He does not appear to rate men very high.

At last accounts from Kirk, he was at Newport, supposed to be on his way to Knoxville. About a dozen of Mallendore's scouts fought him at the river as long as they could. The scouts have worried Kirk a great deal, hanging upon his flanks and rear, and "pecking away" at him at every opportunity.—Asheville News.

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.—The Canadians seem to be in great trouble about the passport system which Seward has introduced ostensibly to prevent conspirators, etc., from crossing the line and burning the godly towns of Detroit, Buffalo, etc. Their journals gravely assert that Mr Seward is behind the times—that the passport system has been abandoned even by France and Austria; and that, while in full operation, it never prevented a single conspirator from crossing the line. They complain also of the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty as a great grievance, calculated to fall with heavy force upon Canada, and earnestly desire the British Government to interfere, and get all things straight, if it be possible to do so by negotiation.

The Canadian journals must have a far more indifferent opinion of Seward's sagacity than we can venture to entertain, if they believe he is not aware of the inefficiency of the passport system. He knows well enough that it cannot prevent such incursions from Canada as he affects to dread, and that a half dozen passport officers upon a line two thousand miles long can afford no security against Confederate raiders, were there really any danger of them. But there is no danger; and that no man knows so well as Seward himself. His object is palpable. It is, in the first place, to annoy the British Government as much as possible, and to affront them at every turn. He knows that he shall gain great credit with his own countrymen without any danger. He sees clearly enough that he may offer Great Britain any amount of insult and injury, and that she will carry her resentment no further than a protest or remonstrance. In the meantime, his own countrymen will applaud to the very echo everything he does or says offensive to Great Britain. For, since the days of the Revolution, nothing more has ever been necessary than to abuse John Bull, who is heartily detested there.—Richmond Dispatch.

Says Artemus Ward: "Yu ma differ as much as yu please about the style of a young lady's figger, but I tell yu confidentially, if she has forty thousand dollars the figger is about as near ripe as yu will get it."

Always read the advertisements in a newspaper.

## SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN. A few years ago, a little boy, who had been taught to keep the Sabbath as a holy man, was playing near one of the churches of the one pleasant Sabbath afternoon in summer, hearing the voice of the preacher, ventured fully on the steps almost to the church door. The minister was speaking of Jesus. This boy never heard such words before. He was much interested and listened there until the service closed, when, fearing the people, he ran away quick that no one could speak to him. He often thought of that man "who talked," and soon used to come every Sabbath and sit down the door to hear. One day a very good man had seen him there several times, came to wish such a kind look and pleasant manner he dared to say a few words. He said he there "because he liked to hear the man in the box (pulpit) talk." This good man gave some better clothes and brought him to the bath School. The teacher several times repeated to him those tender words of Jesus, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and for them: for of such is the kingdom of God." He came very regularly every Sabbath and proved very much; but he never forgot the lesson, "those words that Jesus said," and after a few weeks, a Bible was given to him, first wish to find "that nice verse." Not many months after, he was sick, and few days the doctor told his poor mother that boy must die. She tried to talk with him at it, but it seemed as if it would break her heart. "Mother," said he, with a faint voice, "can find those words that Jesus said to children?" They found them and read them again and again to the teacher said he meant me. Me come. If I won't Jesus take me?" Then after a little he said, "Ma, lay my finger right on that verse; let me with it there, then Jesus will see the words said, come. He'll let me come. He'll take my." He died with his hand on those words Jesus came, and, as we believe, took Jimmy's better world. Teacher, drop the seed in those youthful hearts for it shall spring up and bear fruit above. For "feed the lambs," for they shall bless thy fulness when Jesus shall give thee thy reward. N. C. BONDS.—We learn that the recent advance of our State Treasurer for the purchase of State bonds resulted as follows: The various ranges from par to 121 premium—that the bidding was at a premium of 103. The Treasurer however, in accordance with the reservation of right to do so, which he had wisely made, rejected all the bids. He has since sold about \$150,000 of bonds at a premium of 175; and about \$300,000 at a premium of 200. We further learn that he has declined making any additional sale until it shall be seen whether the five or six millions due the State from the Confederate Government, chiefly for clothing to our troops, shall be paid.—Richmond Conservative. The Rev. Dr. Hawks, we understand, resigned the rectorship of Christ Church, Baltimore and returned to New York, as the Associate Rector, with the Rev. Dr. Seabury, of the Church of the Annunciation. Doubtless his faithful devotion to the South has again caused his removal. The last accounts from him, in Baltimore, were that Federal authorities were harassing him. His great popularity and power, as an orator, made his especially obnoxious to the Administration, and the result seems to have been what his friends, of some time, have feared. The Associate Rector are in sympathy, each with the other, in regard both their ecclesiastical and political views. Dr. Seabury is the author of one of the ablest works in defence of American Slavery, ever published, probably the very ablest. Both are men of great power; and the congregation to whom they minister is blessed "far above the common walks of men."—Church Intelligencer. NORTHERN NEWS.—On Thursday, 12th, the Yankee Senate adopted a resolution, terminating the Canadian Reciprocity Treaty. Year 21, say 8. There is now no further doubt of the termination of the treaty. A telegram of the 12th, from Cairo, says Fortrose is reported concentrating a large force. A telegram from Wheeling says the Confederates under Rosser captured the town of Beverly and a large portion of the force defending it, on the 11th. McClellan will leave New York, on his European tour, early in February. James Guthrie has been elected Senator from Kentucky, to succeed Powell. GONE TO THE YANKEES.—Among those who embraced abolitionism, and went North from Atlanta with the Yankees, was William M. Markham, for many years a resident of that city, where he had made a large fortune. Scofield, his partner in the rolling mills, and John Flynn, master mechanic of the Western and Atlantic railroad. Also, John Moesslian, city treasurer, and who had possession of the city funds; W J Hudson, county tax collector; and H C Holcomb, clerk of the city council. The Intelligencer very deservedly holds the names of these men up as proper objects of public scorn and indignation. WHO WILL MAKE A GOOD WIFE.—When you see a young woman who rises early, sets the table and prepares her father's breakfast cheerfully, depend upon it, that she will make a good wife.—You may rely upon it, that she possesses a good disposition and a kind heart. When you see a young woman just out of bed at nine o'clock, leaning with her elbow on the table, gasping and sighing, "Oh, how dreadfully I feel," rely upon it, she will not make a good wife. She must be lazy and morbid. When you see a girl with a broom in her hand sweeping the floor, with a rubbing rug on the table clothes lying in her hand, you may put it down that she is industrious and will make a very good wife for anybody. When you see a girl with a novel in her left hand, and a fan in her right, shedding tears, you may be sure that she is unfit for a wife. If happiness and misery are before you, which will you choose?