From the N. C. Christian Advocate.

BE NOT DISCOURAGED.

Discouragements come to us often without our seeking. Gloom casts its shadows over us, often when a cloud passes between us and the sun. Despondency seizes upon our spirits, when no adequate cause can be assigned for it. Sinners have no help for this. To cure it, they close their eyes and rush on. But God's people have a present remedy for discouragement and gloom. Their feet need not slide, and the Word of God standeth sure.

It is not a little remarkable, that without any material change in the aspect of our national affairs recently, there appears unfortunately to be settling down upon all classes, to a greater or less degree, the spirit of discouragement, not hitherto felt. It is vain to say that there is *no cause* for this. But we ask, is the cause, or are the combination of causes, sufficient to produce this? We think not.

Peradventure we begin to see our real condition more vividly than heretofore—to feel the pressure of scarceness—of our limited and hampered resources—to feel the power and wrath of our enemy, more than formerly. But to our mind, we are beleaguered with no difficulties which we ought not to have looked for—no surroundings which might not have been anticipated, if we had exercised a little forecaste. We have not yet reached the full measure of conflict and difficulty we may expect. By degrees, Providence is putting us and our principles to the severest test, that we may learn endurance. What God has in store for us, either of blessing or cursing, has not yet been fully developed.

But shall we sit down and repine and grow feebler from stark fear and inaction? Shall we furl our sails and take our berths, and let the ship drive upon the boulders ahead, because the storm is high and raging? Never! No, never! Let the cry, sharp and shrill, from stern to forecastle be heard, "All hands on deck!" It is high time we had played the part of men, fully alive to our responsibilities and destiny.

What greater discouragements have we than our fathers had in the seven years' struggle? What heavier burdens have we to bear, than others before us have shouldered and borne successfully? What hardships have we encountered more than others have endured? Have we suffered, do not our sins merit it? Are we weighed down, do we not deserve it at the hands of an insulted Jehovah?

Perhaps our self confidence, our vaunting pride, our ambition to conquer our foe by our own right arm, our waste of resources, our selfish greed of gain, may force us to the brink of the precipice. Not until then, we fear, will we be willing to lean upon God. Perhaps, rather than be over come, instead of throwing ourselves into the arms of France or all Europe, we may then be willing to cast ourselves upon God implicitly. When we are come to that alternative, then have we strong hope of success.

But can we expect Divine aid unless we become a better people? Can we look for palpable, direct, powerful Divine interference until we put away sin from us? With the coveted Babylonish garment and the golden wedge in the camp, can we prevail against our enemies?

We have a high appreciation of our noble army. We have joined in the adulations so liberally heaped upon it. But it is time we had ceased our vain boasting. What is our noble army worth without God? Our chief commanders and their subordinates, as well as the rank and file, are but as grasshoppers before him. But with all the boasted munificence and self-sacrifice of our people—all of it not a tithe of the sacrifices of our common soldiery—with all the skill and prowess of our leaders and the courage and daring of our men, are there not many Achans both at home and in the field? Are our statesmen and legislators free from the contamination? Are there not thousands among us, who, in spite of our difficulties, have never yet felt one emotion of real patriotism—one genuine impulse to serve God and their country? How many are there who have all along pressed patriotism and duty to God out of the way, that they might gratify their lust for gain, for position and place? While this is so, both among high and low, what can we hope for?

Yet our exigencies, if nothing else, may cure us. When God's goodness fails to lead men to repentance, He does not spare His chastening rod. These exigencies, when they become the more stringent, may after all force us to fall into the hands of God. Shall they lead us by any possible means,—dare we in the face of God, in the face of a gaping world now looking on with intense concern, in the face of posterity, to throw ourselves into the arms of our unrelenting enemy? Can we hope for generosity—justice with him is impossible—can we hope for mercy at his hands? Let the thought be banished. Rather, let us fall into the hands of God.

Let all the people, then, hasten to put away all evil from us. Let our sins be never so dear, still they must be cut off. Surely nothing is so dear as life and liberty. Let us bewail and abandon our sins, and close in with God. When this people shall enter on the purpose as one man, to be free in God's strength—when they cast their idols to the winds, and take the Lord Jehovah for their God, then may they hope for deliverance. Our army may be driven into still narrower straits—our enemies like the locusts of Egypt may fill the land, yet when God undertakes our cause, we shall hear as of old, the rustling in the tops of the mulberry trees—terror shall seize our foes and the victory shall be ours.

It is but a solemn mockery of God, to say we are in the *right*, and God is always on the side of right, therefore, He will surely help us, while we hug our sins to our bosoms. God is surely on the side of right. But while He sanctions right principles and a righteous cause, he cannot be on the side of the wrong doer. The history of the world, moreover, does not show that the right side or the righteous cause is always successful. It shows the mournful contrary in too many cases. Right, justice, humanity, all the world over, from the days of Adam to the present time, have been trodden down by the iron heel of the oppressor. They lie suffering and bleeding everywhere. Earth is not always the theatre upon which God vindicates right and justice. We say history proves that right and justice are not always victorious. But history, experience and Divine revelation all attest, *that those who put their trust in God, shall never be confounded or put to shame.*

Beautiful and True.—In a late article in Frazier's Magazine this brief, but beautiful and true, passage occurs:

Education does not commence with the alphabet—it begins with a mother's love; with a father's smile of approbation, or a sign of reproof; with a sister's gentle forbearence; with a handful of flowers in a green and dainty meadow; with bird's nests admired, but not touched with creeping ants, and almost imperceptible emments; with pleasant walks in shady lanes, and with thoughts directed in sweet and kindly tones and words to nature, to acts of benevolence, to deeds of virtue and to the source of all good—to God himself.

A duel was fought in Texas between a Mr. S. K. Shott and A. W. Knott. The result was that Knott was shot, Shott was not. Under these circumstances who wouldn't rather be Shott than Knott?

THE YANKEE AND THE COSSACK.

From the (English) Saturday Review.

The great service which a period of commotion renders to the cause of progress is that it forces men honestly to take their sides. In time of peace it is easy to varnish over the baseness of an insincere heart by wordy professions. When no danger presses the tyrant can talk the cant of freedom, the egotist can recite the common-places of patriotism. But the moment of peril, when elevated sentiments exact corresponding sacrifices, tests all such hollow phrases. Men are forced to choose whether they will cleave to the professions they have paraded publicly, or to the feelings they have cherished secretly; and, the alternative once forced upon them, the choice is never doubtful. It is for this cause that troubled times seem more rank with meanness than any other, not because mankind really become worse, but because masks are torn off, and hypocrises become untenable, and human nature stripped fairly naked is not a pleasant spectacle to contemplate. Of course the picture is all the more revolting, the thicker and the fairer the veil by which it was concealed.

It is a gloomy aspect that the Federal States of America have presented during the last three years. For not only has there been a sudden development of blood-thirstiness, rare in these later centuries, and a shameless betrayal of loudly-vaunted principles, but the disclosure has taken place in that which used to be pointed out to us as the chosen Temple of Freedom, the shrine of that true peace which is born of money-making, the Paradise of humanity made perfect by trade. But such spectacles, though repellant, are instructive, and serve to instruct the credulous upon this side of the Atlantic as to the real tenets of certain ostentatious votaries of liberty with whom we have to do at home. The case of Mr. Everett is a measure of the value of the noisy patriotism which has driven on the American people, against their better judgment, into this interminable war. Few voices called so eagerly for slaughter as that of Mr. Everett, and upon few men does so great a responsibility rest for the calamities which have bathed the land in blood. He occupied a position from which he not only need not have awakened the sanguinary passions of his countrymen, but he might have done something to stay them.

One at least of those flowery "orations" might have been employed to remind them of the blessings of peace, and of the curses that follow in the train of war. But to the cause of peace he was not prepared to sacrifice a single iota of influence, a single round of popular applause. What was he prepared to sacrifice to the cause of war? He thought it little that the western farmers should send their sons by tens of thousands to satiate with their lives that reckless lust of empire which he was laboring to dignify as a noble aspiration. His estimate of the value of human blood only began to rise when the conscription called for it his own home. His son was drawn and he refused to let him go. He thus furnished to the world a precise measure of the importance which he attaches to the pretexts of the present war. They were momentous enough to require that all other Americans should bleed for them, except only the family of Everett.

The contrast between the words and the deed was a striking one, and created some sensation in England. But it was not so striking as that of which the mails of the last fortnight have brought us the account. The eager and passionate affection with which, just at the present crisis, the representatives of Russia have been received, not by the mob, but by the rulers of the Federal States, is a revelation of the depths of Yankee feeling for which even those who loved them least were scarcely prepared. That their hearts were receding further and further from freedom, while their lips still muttered its formulas, had long been evident to all dispassionate observers. The readiness with which they admitted the pretension that, in the presence of insurrection, no law was sacred, and no excess of prerogative blameable, betrayed sufficiently how little of the true spirit of liberty had survived in them. But at least it was thought that the mere recollection of what they had once professed might still weigh with them so far as to prevent them from exhibiting any open sympathy with tyranny, except where their own immediate interests were served by it.

The comparison between the Poles and the Confederates, between Mouravieff and Butler, Berg and M'Neill, was certain enough to be drawn for them by their enemies; it seemed hardly necessary that they should draw it for themselves. If only for the sake of the sympathisers who were upholding their cause in England, and who still had some liberal decencies to maintain, they were bound at least to show a decorous reserve in their new taste for strong Government. But the revolution of feeling among them is so complete that they have not only ceased to put forward the doctrines which it was once necessary to profess in America, but they seem altogether to have forgotten that such doctrines were ever avowed. Mayor Opdyke and Secretary Seward write as if their own antecedents and the antecedents of their country had entirely passed away from their memories. They appear to have no conception that they are living in the country which recognised Hungary in the very outset of its struggle, which received and feted Kossuth, which paid court to Garibaldi. It has all passed away like a dream.

They may have professed to sympathize with rebels once, but that was before they had rebels of their own. They may have extended a hand to struggling nationalities in past time, but that was only when they could embarrass an antagonist or a rival by doing so. Now they look upon matters in a different light. Experience has taught them the meaning and importance of ideas upon which they may have idly cast discredit in times gone by. They perfectly understand the value of a state of siege, and the uses of an arbitrary conscription, and the service which an unlimited power of arrest may render to a tottering Government, and the luxury which is felt by thoroughgoing partisans in insulting disaffected women. They now understand, what they were slow to comprehend before, that when the lust for territorial expansion has become a master passion, it is compatible with no remnant of human pity. Those who covet the rule of continents, and reck not of the enmity of the populations who inhabit them, must not flinch at the sight of human suffering, or shrink from the guilt of wholesale carnage.

Russia and the Federal States are the only two countries in the world in which this mania has possessed the souls of the population, and thrusts out every better and softer feeling. In both the misery of whole nations trampled under foot, the sacrifice of freedom at home, the loss of esteem and character abroad, are counted as nothing in comparison with the one great object of ambition. The desolation of territories, and the extinction of vast masses of human beings, are a cheap price in the eyes of the Eastern Autocrat and the Western Republic, to pay for extended empire. In both there is a pretence of higher motives. The Russians profess a special care for the orthodox religion, and extirpate Catholics in its name. The yankees affect a sudden enthusiasm for negro freedom, and massacre whole populations of white men in its behalf. But in each the crusade is a hollow pretence; in each the greed of empire is the one motive to which every human sympathy and every divine law is compelled to bend. It is little wonder that those whose national aims are so marvelously similar, and who are at the same moment compelled to defy the reprobation of the rest of the civilized world, should be led both by feeling and policy to draw nearer to each other.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

ROCKINGHAM, Jan'y 9, 1864.

Messrs. E. J. Hale & Sons: I ask a place in the columns of your valuable journal for a partial discussion of the very important question briefly touched upon in your issue of the 4th inst. as to the power of the Confederate Congress to call back into the public service those who have furnished substitutes.

No one, I think, will deny that if Congress possesses the power, the exigencies of the country imperiously demand its exercise. To show that it has the power is the object of this communication.

I admit in the outset that the constitution confers upon that body no power to "impair" the obligation of a contract, but I will try to show that the exemption claimed by the principals referred to rests not upon a contract proper, within its constitutional meaning, but upon a "privilege," or an indulgence, and that such should be recalled, in what you have most appropriately denominated "a case of governmental life and death."

The contract alluded to was purely and solely of a "civil" character, those arising between man and man, and those in which pecuniary value was involved. That this is so, the very fact that the word "contract" was used sufficiently establishes; for the word itself presupposes a *consideration* in value, or in natural affection, with the degrees of relationship established to give it efficacy and make it binding.

Such must be the circumstances under which the main contracting party acts, or the act itself is invalid, a mere *"nudum pactum,"* a naked agreement.

I hope to show that the exemption claimed by the principals referred to is not only wanting in the main and essential element of a contract, viz: *a consideration*, but that it sustained by the Courts, which I have no idea they will be, they will have to run counter to their own decisions involving the same principle, as well as numerous decisions of the Judiciary of other States, as is well known to the profession.

You will of course understand me as alluding to decisions made not only by our Judges but by those of other States, as to the question "whether a legislative body could rightfully impose restrictions on a Bank already incorporated."

There has been no decision in so many words, of a case similar to the one now at issue, for the simple reason that it is the first time the question has arisen either under the old or new government; but the *principle* upon which this case turns has been well established by co-ordinate branches of both.

But to return to the question of the Bank. The Supreme Court of N. Carolina, in the case of the Bank of Fayetteville, as to issuing small notes, has said that a legislative body can impose restrictions, even after a Bank has been chartered. And they have given the best of reasons why they could and should do so, and the reasons assigned are that "State necessity" demanded it.

Such a decision would not have been made by the learned Jurists referred to if there had been any "contract" which the constitution had declared should remain inviolate, and yet it is easy to show that in all the essential elements of a contract, the act referred to was more of a contract proper than was the enactment now under discussion.

The State act, like the Confederate act, had parties, but then there was a divergence in a most important particular, for in the Confederate enactment there was an entire absence of any the least *consideration*, whereas (if I mistake not) the Bank *paid* a bonus at the time the charter was obtained.

Again, to show that the decision of the Judiciary of N. Carolina was not a novel one, but that it was in the most perfect accordance with decisions again and again made by other States, I will mention a precisely analagous case.

In 1805 the Penobscot Bank was incorporated by the Legislature of Massachusetts; the penalty for a failure to redeem its notes was 6 per cent. In 1809 the Banking institutions of that State suspended, and the Legislature of that year imposed 2 additional per cent. per month upon all Banks failing to redeem their notes on demand. A case was made up; the counsel for the Bank denied the constitutionality of the act of 1809, contending that it "impaired the obligation of a contract;" but what said the court? "The incorporation of a Banking Company was a *privilege* conferred by the Legislature;" that punctuality and promptness in meeting every demand on such an institution was essential to its existence, and a failure in this respect was such a *public inconvenience* as authorized the additional 2 per cent. complained of.

The names of the parties I have forgotten, but will further state that the books of the profession are filled with similar decisions, as is well known to every lawyer.

But it has been said, that admitting the enactment was only an "agreement," should not even agreements bind honorable men? and was not the plighted faith of the government pledged to carry it out?

To the first interrogatory I answer, undoubtedly they should, *unless* intervening circumstances interpose, which go plainly to show that the agreement would not have been made if the circumstances had been foreseen. (I speak here of an agreement without any the least consideration, simply "*ex gratia.*")

To the second interrogatory, if not already disposed of, I answer, no.

Let us try it by this test: A promises B, that on a given day he will loan him his horse. B makes all the necessary arrangements for his journey, and with urgent business on hand asks its performance; but he is disappointed; and why? Because in the mean time A's family was taken sick, and a physician must be sent for. The non-performance of the agreement was justifiable; and why? Because it was with A a case of the greatest emergency.

The government "agrees" with this principal that he may put in a substitute and obtain a discharge; the exempt claims, that the discharge was final, but the government says, not so, for *since* your discharge, the life or death of the body politic is most imminently at issue in the war I am now prosecuting for your independence. At the time I entered into the agreement I had no idea that this war would assume such gigantic proportions, still less did I suppose that it would be prosecuted on the part of the enemy with such a malignant and fiendish hate. I must not only revoke the indulgence given, by calling you back into the service of your country, but I must likewise keep the substitute himself. Who is there that does not say, (in the case put,) that the government as well as the individual has been released by the force of overpowering circumstances from carrying out the "agreement?"

The question then simply turns upon whether it in reality be a case of "political life or death," as you have most appropriately denominated it. To argue this, and attempt to prove it such, would be an insult to the understanding of your readers, for it is becoming more and more apparent every day.

RICHMOND COUNTY.

YANKEE ATROCITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA.

We publish below, from the New York Daily News, an account of Gen. Wild's late raid through the counties of Currituck, Camden and Pasquotank, North Carolina. It will be found that our accounts of his infamous proceedings, bad as they were, were considerably underdrawn, and told but half of the truth. We invite the attention of the reader to this account:

NORFOLK, Dec. 28, 1863

To the Editor of the New York News:

The policy of Gen. Naglee, during his brief military rule over the citizens of Norfolk and vicinity, was marked by so many courtesies and kind acts, that it was apparent to the most casual observer, had he remained to have controlled this department six months longer, four fifths of our population would, under his mild, beneficent sway, long since have earnestly arrayed themselves on the side of his Government. The grateful results of the law of kindness were everywhere made manifest. Order sprang out of chaos. No man appealed to him in vain who had grievances to be redressed. Persons and property were held inviolate, except for pressing military purposes; and justice was administered with an even hand to the loyal and disloyal alike, according to their respective deserts. The most humble, without being kept waiting at the door by official menials, had a ready audience; and the machinery of Government moved on, as by clock-work. Indeed, such was the ascendancy acquired over the people that upon his removal many hot-headed secessionists declared they were rejoiced at the contemplated change, because he was fast insinuating himself into the good graces of our people; making them feel that the government, of which he was the honored representative, still cherished for her erring sons a feeling of parental kindness.

But Mr. Lincoln, or his advisers, grown drunk with power, spirited away this good man, to make room for another, and now what is our condition? I speak it in plain truth. I speak it as Union men from the beginning speak it. It is a Reign of Terror. Gen. Wild seems to be independent of Gen. Barnes, who, we believe, if he had the power, would deal kindly and gently with us, reports only to General Butler. He has visited the surrounding country with fire and sword, literally so, and far beyond the Federal lines devastated whole provinces; and threatens that this is only the beginning of that terrible vengeance which he purposes to call down upon the heads of defenceless women and children.

In the county of Pasquotank, North Carolina, 40 miles from Norfolk, he hung Daniel Bright at his own house, because it was believed he was attached to an organized, commissioned guerilla company. He seized more than 100,000 dollars worth of personal property in the adjoining counties; stripped the farmers of every living thing, and brought it all away, leaving hundreds of inhabitants without a pound of meat or a peck of meal.

Many of these people, to my knowledge, were loyal, and had been so for months; suffering for this loyalty persecution from their own people. They had certificates of protection from the former commandants of this post; and no man questioned their good faith. When he took the property of Mr. Morrisetts, of Camden county, North Carolina, he interposed his certificate of loyalty; Gen. Wild paused for a moment, took the property, however, promising to return it when he reached Norfolk. The old man followed him to this city, and again pressed to his attention his promise and the shield of a Government manifesto, but in vain. The gentleman flatly told him this property belonged to his negroes, and his loyalty did not protect him. I saw the tear gush from the old man's eye as he turned away, muttering in the anguish of his broken heart, "I am a ruined man; my children are beggars."

Negroes were permitted to curse and abuse defenceless ladies, to strip them of their jewelry and clothing, and offer them indignities which would offend delicacy to repeat. A small Confederate force captured two of his negroes in a skirmish, and for this he outraged all the laws of civilized war. He arrested two ladies of high character, permitted a brutal negro soldiery to tie them hand and foot, (as I believe and am credibly informed,) and kept them in this condition for two days and nights; brought them to Norfolk, and now keeps them confined in a close room. These he holds as hostages for the return of his negroes. He visited the farm of Mr. Gregory, an old man of seventy odd years of age, who I feel certain never took any part in this war—set fire to his dwelling and outhouses, of immense value, and burned them to the ground; stripped him of all his personal estate, and brought him a prisoner to Norfolk. The old man, bowed under the weight of many years, infirm in health, weeps in sorrow on his sad and melancholy fate, declaring before God and man, he never had raised his hand in aid of this unholy war. He, also, is held as a hostage. I am ready to exclaim, with Madam Roland, Oh! Liberty, how many crimes have been committed in thy name.

You will ask me who is Gen. Wild? I answer, God knows! Whence or where he came, or what his lineage, the future must disclose. His history is faintly written here in atrocities that make the blood run cold. Whatever else he purposes is not for me to say. You will inquire further, does Gen. Butler give his countenance to these acts of inhumanity? I answer, in all candor, I believe not. I saw a letter from Gen. Butler directing Gen. Wild to make no arrests without specific charges; the prisoners to be sent immediately to Gen Getty for investigation; to seize no property unless under military necessity. Notwithstanding, however, these express orders, the property has not been returned—the prisoners are still in jail. The truth is, each superior officer, including the Provost Marshal, seems to be independent in his sphere of action, and each, Gen. Barnes excepted, assumes to play the petty tyrant, and lords it, unchecked, over a defenceless people.

Our only hope, now, is in Gov. Pierpont. He has been sent for to stay the hand of rapine and violence. Can he do it? We shall see. In the meantime, unless I am crushed beneath the despot's tread, you shall hear from your correspondent again.

Salting Beef for Summer Use.—For 100 lbs. of beef take 16 quarts fine Ashton sack salt and 4 ounces saltpetre; cut the meat and pack it in edgwise, after rubbing the pieces all over with the salt; and after a layer is completed, take an axe or mall, and pound down solid. Then sprinkle on a little saltpetre and fill up all interstices with salt, and so on, until the cask is full. Those who do not like saltpetre, may omit it without injury to the meat.

I have salted my beef in this way for fifteen years. It needs no soaking before boiling, and will be tender and sweet the year round. By this way of salting, it makes its own brine, and never wants repacking—nor the brine scalding. If the brine should not cover it in the spring, sufficient may be added for that purpose.

A. WANZER, Sherman, Ct.

Vessels Captured.—Hunt's Merchant's Magazine says that up to October 1st, 1863, as far as reported, 175 yankee vessels had been captured. The summary shows 1 U. S. gunboat, 1 steamer, 1 steam tug, 54 ships, 42 barks, 32 brigs, 47 schooners—30,999 tons. The Alabama captured 59 of these.

FROM THE NORTH.

Howe's Proposition to Conscribe a Million of Men.—The New York Times, commenting on the bill of Senator Howe, of Wisconsin, to call out a million of men for ninety days, says it would take three months to get a million of men mustered into the service, three months longer to drill and brigade them, and require 36,000 officers, who cannot be found:

"Considering the state of the South, however, it would seem wise for our crusaders to take at least a million of sheep with them to cook as they went along, and it would be well for every man to drive his own animal.

They would be sure to die like cockroaches before they ever got near the enemy. And we need hardly say, that when they did meet him, ten thousand of such troops as Lee or Johnston command would be a match for one hundred thousand of them, and would readily drive that number off the field in utter rout.

The sole result of this "grand uprising" would, therefore, probably be the desolation of some hundred thousand Northern homes, and the leaving down south in the hands of Jefferson Davis's "ragamuffins" one million muskets, one million hats and coats, and pocket handkerchiefs, several hundred tons of pie and hard tack, and we were going to add one million pairs of pantaloons; but, we believe that our fugitives stick to their pantaloons as well as their pantaloons to them, even in the wildest rout. In a word, no force can carry either food or clothing to the Richmond captives except a highly disciplined, well organized and perfectly manageable one, led by able and experienced officers. The Senate Committee on Military Affairs know this, so they will of course not waste much time over the consideration of Mr. Howe's bill."

France and the United States.—In the Senate, on the 11th, Mr. McDougall introduced a joint resolution in relation to the occupation of Mexico, which was referred to the committee on Foreign Affairs:

Resolved, That the occupation of a portion of the territory of the republic of Mexico by the armed forces of the Government of France, with the purpose avowed, by the Government of France, is an act unfriendly to the republic of the United States of America.

Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That it is the duty of the proper department of this government to demand of the government of France the withdrawal of her armed forces from the Mexican territory within a reasonable time.

Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That in the event the government of France shall decline or refuse to so withdraw her armed forces, or shall fail to take measures to that effect on or before the 15th day of March next, then it will become the duty of the Congress of the United States of America to declare war against the government of France.

Sale of Confiscated Property.—WASHINGTON, January 11.—At the sale of confiscated property in Virginia to day, Arlington (Gen. Lee's property) was bid in by the Government at $26,800. For this the Government had three or four competitors. The Custis Mill and farm was purchased by M. E. Flannigan at $4,100. There were, in all, thirteen sales, amounting to $50,000.

The Capture of the Living Age.—The Confederate sailing privateer Tuscaloosa, better known as the Conrad, and tender to the Alabama, seems following up the work of her illustrious rival. The American ship Living Age, which has arrived at London from Akyab, reports that on the 13th September, being then in latitude 25° south and longitude 2° east, she was brought to by the Tuscaloosa and declared a prize, but released on giving a bond for $160,000. The Tuscaloosa is in charge of Capt. Low, late of the Alabama, and intended cruising for some time in that position on the lookout for the homeward bound.

Seizure.—On the 2d instant the New York police seized six millions of Confederate Bonds, about one million in Treasury Notes, documents, presses &c., at the office of Winthrop Hilton, No. 11 Spruce Street. Hilton, it is said, had a contract with Mr. Memminger to furnish Bonds.

War.—Hostilities have commenced between the Republic of Ecuador and the United States.

Foreign.—European dates of the 27th have been received. We annex the few items of interest:

Lord Lyons' Prediction.—The Liverpool Post gives prominence to the following paragraph:

"We consider ourselves in a position to state that Lord Lyons, in a despatch to Earl Russell, from Washington, announces that the war will be terminated within the next three months. The Confederates being in the greatest extremities, will have speedily to propose an armistice. In our informant we have the fullest possible confidence. It is possible that Lincoln's proclamation has reference to the facts on which Lord Lyons grounded his conclusion."

Mr. Lincoln's last Message.—The synopsis of Lincoln's message and proclamation, received per Arabia via Halifax, attracted general comment. The London Times looks upon the message as warlike, and says the effect of the whole document, amnesty included, resembles that of the last battle. The offer of peace is on terms that cannot be accepted. The whole question still depends on the fortune of war. It may be gratifying to the North to be formally assured that the Government is strong and successful enough to offer an amnesty. But it is evident that Lincoln anticipates no pacific result; nor does the Secretary of the Treasury, who looks forward still to two years' war expenditures. Commercial circles in New York appear to share his misgivings, the premium on gold having risen under the message.

The Daily News awaits the arrival of the full message before giving an opinion.

The Morning Post thinks Lincoln must be "joking," and says he should have remembered that a Confederate army was encamped within a hundred miles of Washington before he ventured to dictate such terms of amnesty.

The Morning Herald ridicules the proclamation, and denounces the vindictive spirit of the proffered amnesty, which it says offers nothing which could be withheld if the last Southern town had been taken and the last Southern regiment cut to pieces. The real object is to establish a pseudo State government wherever secure foothold can be found.

The Morning Star applauds the honesty of Lincoln, rejoices at his determination to put down slavery, and says his peace overtures to the South are large and liberal.

We learn that when Beast Butler saw the large numbers of men coming forward to take his required oath of allegiance, at Norfolk, he fumed and cursed at a great rate, and abused them most roundly for cowardly traitors to their country. He said he expected and hoped they would refuse to take the oath, and he intended to take their property—for this was what he wanted. The property holders have saved it for the present, but other requirements still more galling and degrading will be exacted of them, and they will have to descend to still lower depths, and after all lose their property—for this is what the yankees are fighting for.—*Spirit of the Age.*

Elizabeth Stilwell, of Henry Co., Ga., celebrated her 99th birthday, a few days since, by spinning eight cuts of thread and reeling it

WAR NEWS.

From Northern Virginia.—The report of the landing of the Yankees in any force at Acquia creek is not confirmed.

The latest news we have from the Northern army is that the Yankees were falling back, after destroying a large amount of property. The jail at the county seat of Westmoreland, in which had been stored a large amount of bacon, was burned with its contents. Richmond C. H. had also been destroyed by fire.

The enemy are said to have landed in Middlesex from gunboats, which had ascended the Rappahannock, and destroyed the provisions of the people. They are following the example of Lord Dunmore, in the Revolution, and of Admiral Cockburn, during the last war with Great Britain, and with the like result exciting the bitter hatred of the people, and branding their names with eternal infamy.—*Rich. Sen., 18th.*

From the Trans-Mississippi.—MOBILE, Jan'y 16.—A special despatch to the Evening News from Summit states that General Taylor was at Alexandria on the 15th fortifying.

From 12,000 to 15,000 troops were encamped at Algiers, supposed to be destined for Mobile. There is a large fleet in the lake for them, waiting for coal. A large number of coal barges have passed down. Five gunboats are at the mouth of Red River.

Our cavalry dashed into Bayou Sara on the 9th, capturing two speculators.

Meadville was sacked, and 20 men captured by 300 yankees from Natchez.

Wirt Adams is pressing the enemy closely at Baton Rouge, near which he captured a Lieutenant and 15 men.

Yankees at Madisonville—Capture of Schooners.—Information has been received at Mobile of the landing of one thousand yankee infantry at Madisonville, on the Pontchartrain coast. Some concluded that it was preliminary to an advance on Mobile, but the papers of that city are of the opinion that their object is to get timber for some military object.

On the night of the 20th ult, Lieut. Sibley, of the 15th Alabama Cavalry, Col. Maury's command, destroyed Toomey's Mills, on Pearl river, and captured and burned two schooners under the guns of Fort Pike, and brought off the crews of both vessels. This was effected without loss on our side.

154th Tennessee Regiment.—DALTON, GA., Jan. 14.—An enthusiastic meeting of the old 154th Reg't Ten. Vols. was held to-day, at which stirring resolutions were unanimously passed, tendering their services to the Confederate States as long as the war lasts; approving of the contemplated action of Congress, and approving consolidation. The example so nobly set by this time honored command, has begun to inspire the whole army. The most auspicious results from its patriotic action may be anticipated.—*Rich. Enq.*

Ashore.—We regret to learn that the steamship Advance was run ashore last night not far from the Western bar. So far the enemy had not opened fire upon her, and there are reasons to hope that she will yet be got off. We trust that she may be.—*Wilmington Journal, 18th.*

The Confederate Government and North Carolina.—It having been stated by the enemies of the State and the Confederacy, that North Carolina was clothing her troops and was not promptly paid by the General Government, we took occasion to inquire into the matter, and find that, at the suggestion of the Confederate authorities here, the State made her drafts quarterly instead of at longer periods.

The statement for the quarter ending on the 31st of December 1863 is as follows: The amount has been paid by Major W. W. Pierce, and is in full to date.

We are indebted for this statement to Mr. Ballard, the efficient and gentlemanly disbursing clerk of the department:

Amount of clothing delivered by the State of North Carolina to the Confederate States, tarough Major W. W. Pierce, Chief Q. M., C. S. Army, Raleigh—in the 4th quarter 1863, commencing 1st Oct. 1863 and ending 31st December 1863:

Jackets 32,482, Pants 11,556, Shirts 39,060, Drawers 19,212, Blankets 17,946, Hats 1346, Shoes 13,184, Socks (pairs) 22,169, Haversacks 2500, Leather (lbs.) 2102.

Amounting in the aggregate to $1,203,144 80.

Raleigh State Journal.

Changes in North Carolina Troops.—Capt. Mark D. Armfield, of Burke county, the senior captain of the Eleventh (Bethel) regiment, died at Johnson's Island, December 3, 1863.

Captain Frank W. Bird, of Bertie, has been promoted to Major of the Eleventh regiment.

Colonel George C. Gibbs, of the forty-second regiment, has resigned.

Colonel Edward Hall, of New Hanover, has resigned the colonelcy of the forty-sixth regiment. Lieutenant Colonel W. L. Saunders, of Rowan, has been promoted to colonel and Major Alexander C. McAlister to lieutenant colonel of the forty-sixth.

Lieut. Col. Samuel H. Walkup, promoted to colonel of the forty-eighth regiment, vice Hill, deceased.

Major Alfred H. Belo, of Forsyth has been promoted to lieutenant colonel of the fifty-fifth regiment, vice Smith, deceased.

Yankee Opinion of the Condition of Arkansas.—The New York Tribune contains a long letter from its Arkansas correspondent, reciting the incidents of a trip through that State with a "secession friend." Much of the letter, says the Mobile Register, is mere fancy work, but one item deserves copying. The writer says there was a time when he believed in the starving out process, but so far as that idea applies to Arkansas, he has concluded to give it up. "It's a pretty hard matter to starve a people who have an immense number of cattle, a fair supply of hogs, an extraordinary yield of sweet potatoes, and nearly corn enough to have kept the Egyptians during the seven years' famine. The yield of corn is, as the natives of this region express it, "powerful"! The writer states that there are few arms-bearing men left in Arkansas, but that women and children are plentiful, and the latter are taught by their mothers to believe that a piece of roast boy or girl never comes amiss to a Yankee soldier. The word yankee has as horrible a significience to an Arkansas child as "Claverhouse" used to have to the children of the Scottish Covenanters.

To Hire.

BY the month, two first rate NEGRO HANDS. Also, to go into the country, a Boy and Girl, of 10 and 12. Apply to D. McLAURIN.

Jan'y 18. 2tt

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THE Rockfish Manufacturing Company wish to engage a few respectable young women in the Weaving Department. Application to be made at the Factory to Mr J. E. VAN AMBERG, Superintendent, or to C. T. HAIGH, Pres't, in Fayetteville

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AVON E. HALL,

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WILL give quick despatch to goods consigned to him. Particular attention given to all produce sent him for sale. Consignments of Naval Stores for sale or shipment, solicited.

Wilmington, Jan'y 19, 1863 88ly