LATE OPERATIONS IN EASTERN N. CAROLINA.

From the Wilmington Journal, Feb'y 10th.

We have been favored with the following highly interesting account of the movements of the force which left this place, under command of Brig. Gen'l Martin, to co-operate in the recent demonstration against Newbern. It will be seen that Gen Martin, with the gallant officers and men under his command, accomplished all and more than had been assigned to them. From first to last, the movement was eminently successful, and reflects the highest credit upon all concerned.

As a part of the programme of the late movement against Newbern by the Confederate forces under the command of Major General Pickett, an expedition was organized under the direction of Brig. Gen. Martin, for the purpose of cutting the line of railroad communication between Newbern and Morehead City, and preventing re-inforcements from being sent to the relief of the former place from the latter. The expedition consisted of the 17th N. C. Reg't, Lt Col. Jno. C. Lamb, commanding; the 42d Regiment N. C. T., Col Jno. E. Brown, commanding; Capt. Paris' Va. battery of artillery, and Capt. Ellis' Battery of Maj. J. W. Moore's Battalion of artillery, and two companies of Cavalry—Capt. Harris [of Chatham Co.,] and Captain Harland—the latter from S. C.

The expedition moved from Wilmington on the 28th ult., and made an average march of 20 miles a day over heavy sandy roads at this end of the line, and deep muddy ones at the other. No remarkable incident occurred until our forces approached the enemy's lines, when Gen'l Martin disposed his forces as follows: An advanced guard consisting of all the cavalry, three companies of infantry, and one of artillery, was thrown forward to "feel" the enemy—the cavalry being under the immediate command of Lieut. Col. Jeffords, 5th S. C. cavalry, and the whole under command of Col. Geo. Jackson. The rest of the infantry and artillery followed under the immediate supervision of the Commanding General. On nearing the first pickets of the enemy and discovering them on the alert, the cavalry dashed furiously forward, and the yankee pickets (25 or 30 in number) retreated as fast as their horses would carry them. The road over which pursuers and pursued had to pass was through a swamp, and full of deep holes overflowing with mud and water. But on they sped—some of the yankee horses and their riders turning summersets in the mud, and ours running over them, and tumbling headlong in the deep mire after them; inflicting many bruises upon men and horses (breaking the neck of one of the latter) but doing no serious damage to the riders. It was at this point that Lieut Muse, of Harris' cavalry, while gallantly leading the charge, fell mortally wounded by a pistol shot from a yankee who was being hotly pursued. Having captured a portion and dispersed the rest of these outpost pickets, the column moved forward and soon came to a trading post of the yankees—but the enemy had fled in the direction of a block-house some half mile distant—pickets and reserves. The march was continued and preparations made to storm the work, but a close examination disclosed the fact that the position had been evacuated by the enemy in such hot haste that they left their provisions, books, letters, &c., behind them. Continuing the march for two and a half miles further, a second block-house was discovered and our forces were brought to a stand by a shot from a six pounder which went whizzing over their heads. No one knew the strength of the place—how much infantry or artillery constituted the garrison. It was easily discovered that it was a well built, thick walled house, surrounded by a circumvallation of earth-works.

After a shell or two from Capt. Ellis' Battery, it was at once determined by the commanding General to attack the place with infantry.

Capt Biggs, Co. A, 17th Regiment, was directed to throw his men forward as skirmishers, and feel the strength of the enemy. With the alacrity of volunteers and the steadiness of regulars, they advanced across the open field, in the face of the discharges from the six-pounder and small arms. When within about 200 yards of the block houses, Capt. B ordered his men to charge the works. They responded with a yell which rang out amid the volleys of musketry. It was the work of but a moment. The Yankees broke and ran for their lives. A beautiful six-pounder cannon, a number of rifles, knapsacks, clothing, commissary stores, &c., were captured here, besides a few Yankees who were not quick enough in getting away. One killed and one wounded. No loss on our side. Lieut. Hassell, of this Company, acting Brigade Ordnance Officer, on Gen. Martin's staff, when his Company was thrown forward, by permission of the General, rejoined it and participated in this gallant charge.

But the principal work of the day was still to be done. Newport Barracks—a strong fort—was four miles beyond, just on the railroad, and the Yankees were falling back in that direction.

Just as our forces were emerging from a dense wood into an open field, they were admonished by a shell from a six-pounder Parrott gun that the enemy were about to contest their further advance.

Our artillery returned the compliment in gallant style, and the General directed the infantry to form into a line of battle, the whole being under his immediate eye.

This was quickly done, and the order to move forward responded to with alacrity and spirit. In an unbroken line, they advanced upon the enemy amid the shot and shell of their artillery. When about half way across the field, the order to charge was given, and our brave boys bounded forward with a will.

The enemy, about 1200 strong, had greatly the advantage of position, being protected by the underbrush and woods on the other side of the field. But no matter. On pressed our brave boys, with a yell of the wildest enthusiasm. As they approached the enemy, the musketry became animated on both sides—rapid and continuous; but the enemy continued to give ground and fall back in the direction of the fort, closely pursued by our forces.

After driving them through the woods, and over the field intervening between our troops and the fort, the enemy opened on us with a 32 pounder from the fort; Capt. Paris delivered a few well directed shots at them from his 12 pound Napoleons, when the General determined to assault the works with infantry. Skirmishers were thrown forward, but on their appearance, the enemy, having previously set fire to all the buildings, evacuated the place, set fire to the Railroad bridge, and tore up the county bridge over Newport river, to prevent pursuit. It was now night, and after a running fight of six hours, over the distance of eight miles, our gallant troops were in possession of the field—the enemy flying for life. Altogether, our troops captured 7 pieces of artillery, several hundred stand of arms, 200 boxes of ammunition, about 75 prisoners, 6 slaves, 12 horses, and commissary stores enough to subsist the troops during their stay in the neighborhood, besides a large quantity of clothing with which our men supplied themselves—such as overcoats, pants, blankets, &c. The enemy burnt most of their quartermaster and commissary stores. They also burnt their stables with the horses in them. Some few horses were rescued by our men. In addition to our captures, we destroyed 1000 barrels of turpentine belonging to the U. S. and burnt two Railroad bridges.

We have to lament the death of the brave and gallant Capt. Leith, 17th N. C. T., and five others, whose names have not been ascertained, in the general engagement above referred to.

Besides the capture of prisoners, about 20 of the enemy were killed—most of their wounded being carried off the field.

The next morning the General directed Col. Jeffords, with a detachment of 60 cavalry, to make a reconnoissance in the vicinity of Newbern—not having heard from our forces there, and being in entire ignorance as to the movements of our troops. This work was thoroughly accomplished. Col. J. went within a mile of Newbern, obtained valuable information; capturing two block houses, spiking the guns, tearing up and burning every railroad and county bridge between the Trent and Shepardsville, or Newport Barracks, and bringing off a full outfit of clothing for his men.

In obedience to orders, Gen. Martin returned to Wilmington with his command, after having accomplished all, and more than all, that had been assigned him.

The prisoners above alluded to arrived here yesterday.

THE CAPTURE OF THE UNDERWRITER.

Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.

KINSTON, Feb. 7.

On the morning of Sunday, 31st January, our boats were launched in Neuse River, and in an hour's time we were pulling down towards the appointed rendezvous some 40 miles above Newbern. One by one the boats came in, and at midday we only awaited the arrival of our commander, Capt. Wood. About 2 o'clock his boat rounded the point, and he stepped ashore into the brigandish looking bivouac we had established. Without delay the arms and ammunition were distributed, the boats made ready, everything put ship-shape for the night, and between 2 and 3 o'clock we hauled out into the stream.

The boats were arranged in two divisions, the first under command of Capt. Wood, the second under Lieut. B. P. Loyall, and the two forming parallel to each other, we pulled rapidly down the stream. Silently the two black lines of boats filed down the stream with muffled oars, issuing no sound but the steady dip as they fell into the wave. Just before dark the boats were hauled alongside each other to receive instructions, and this done, Capt Wood offered up fervent prayers for success, asking God to judge between us and our enemies, and once more we were winding down the Neuse. The night was very dark, and it was with great difficulty the way could be traced, the only bearings being taken from the faint light of the sky seen through the tree-tops above. About 3 o'clock we came into the open country above Newbern, where the river widened and the shores grew low and marshy. The night was foggy and thick; some rain fell.

To get a fair understanding of the plan of attack, I may say briefly that it was intended Gen. Pickett should open upon the yankee lines early in the morning to divert their attention and drive them back into the town. He had with him two brigades only—Clingman's and Hoke's, while Gen. Barton had been sent up the Trent to fall upon the town simultaneously with those in front. In addition to this, Col. Dearing, with a small force of infantry, a battalion of cavalry, and two pieces of artillery, had been sent across the Neuse to threaten Fort Anderson, and prevent reinforcements from Washington. This was the position of affairs at an early hour this morning.

It was hard on to four before we came opposite the town, and so dark and foggy we could see but a short distance beyond our bows. The day before it had been ascertained the yankee gunboats were in the Neuse, but upon reaching the position formerly occupied, they were no where to be seen. For an hour we cruised around from point to point trying in vain to make their lights, and at last, daylight being close at hand, we were forced to give up the search and return up the river. There were no gunboats in the Neuse.

Meantime Gen. Pickett had opened fire upon the yankee lines, and while we were pulling again up the stream we heard his guns booming through the mist, varied at times with the rattle of musketry.

Going some 4 or 5 miles up the Neuse, we entered a small creek, and landed upon an island covered with tall grass and a few stunted shrubs. We were still in sight of Newbern, but the boats were hauled close in upon the bank and the men completely hidden. The firing on the opposite shore was now at its height, and we could see by the sound of the guns that Gen. Pickett was driving the enemy, and that the fight gradually turned towards the town. All day long the land fight was going on; but at length night came and we prepared to go down again after the steamers. Two launches, under Lieut. Gill, had now joined us, and about eleven o'clock we hauled again into the Neuse and pulled down towards the town. Completely worn out by the fatigue of the day, I had fallen asleep in the boat, and had slept for upwards of two hours, when the hail of "boat ahoy!" roused me from slumber, and I knew we were close upon the enemy. "Boat ahoy!" again shouted the watch as he sprang the rattle which called the men to quarters. All abreast, about 400 yards away, our boats were bearing down upon the steamer, which loomed up largely ahead of us. "Give way," shouted Capt. Wood; "give way, boys, give way," repeated Lieut. Loyall, and give way they did until the boats nearly sprang out of the water. The instructions were for one division should board forward, the other astern; but, through some mistake, all but two of the boats went forward, Lieut Loyall's alone going aft and Capt. Wood's amidships. I was in the boat with Mr Loyall, and could see the Yankees had all gathered in the ways, just at the wheel house, and as we came up they greeted us with a volley of musketry, which flashed in our very faces, the balls whistling unpleasantly into the boat or into the water beyond. The men gave way strongly, and as soon as the boat struck the side the grapnel was thrown on board the steamer and we were fast alongside. Hot and fast goes the firing; the Yankees having all gotten on deck and armed, were pouring it into us with remarkable rapidity. The flashes came full in our faces, lighting them up with a deathly pallor, while the sulphurous smell of burning powder pervaded the air. Struck by a splinter the first fire, bringing a profusion of blood from my face and nose, I could scarcely see or comprehend all the rapid movements of our little fleet; but I knew our boat was first at the side, Capt Wood's close after, then came Lieuts. Hodge, Kerr, Porcher, Gardner, Roby, and Wilkinson, while a short distance away, slackened up to prevent running down the other boats, was Gift with his launches. Our boat once fast, Lieut. Loyall and Mr. Gill, engineer, sprang forward to lead the men on board. At this time the fire was the hottest I have ever seen even in three years' experience in war, and I hardly dared hope one half our number would come out alive. Mr. Wood, especially, I looked every moment to see fall. Standing upright in his boat, he gave the orders as coolly as he had done an hour before the enemy were in sight. Finding I had sustained but a slight splinter scratch, I went forward to follow Mr. Loyall, when a marine, shot through the heart, fell heavily upon me and crushed me down over the thwarts. Extricated from this, I found the ship was ours, and Mr. Wood, up on the hurricane deck, was endeavoring to stop the fight, as the Yankees had called for quarter. It ceased in a moment, and the prisoners sent aft and secured, and the wounded gotten where the surgeons could attend to them. Poor Gill was lying in the gang-way, shot in four places and mortally wounded, and Midshipman Palmer Saunders cut down in a hand to hand fight, was breathing his last upon the decks.

The fight was now ended; the boarders were successful. And here I should say that the Underwriter was moored, head and stern, to the shore, under three of the largest batteries, and hardly a stone's throw from the wharf. The flash of the guns and the report of musketry had aroused the soldiers on shore, and they were now witnesses of the scene, but determined not to be inactive ones; for, regardless of their own prisoners on board, they fired a shell into us, which, striking the upper machinery and exploding on the deck, produced a terrible shock. I was in the cabin at the time, and thinking the vessel had been blown up, rushed on deck like others. Another shell exploding over the deck explained the cause of the commotion, and told us the shore batteries had opened fire. To spare the prisoners and wounded Capt. Wood ordered them to be put into the boats and the ship made ready for firing. But for them the shore shots would have been returned, for Lieut. Hoge had opened the magazines, and had stationed the men at the guns. As the steam was down it was found that it would be impossible to take time to get it up under the heavy fire of batteries not 100 yards away; and so, the wounded and prisoners being put into the boats, the vessel was fired. In five minutes after our boats had left the side the Underwriter was one mass of flame, burning up the dead bodies of the Yankees killed in action; also, three or four dead negroes in the coal bunkers.

Writing this four days after the fight, worn down with the fatigue of arduous duty and of sleepless nights, I am entirely unable to do justice to this naval battle. Of course, in the darkness of the night, there were many things which did not meet my eye—many acts of daring, and many deeds of heroism. All fought well. From Commander Wood down to the youngest midshipman, not one faltered. The steamer was boarded very handsomely. The enemy had sufficient notice to arm themselves, and the boarders had to fight their way upon the decks. Worst of all were the land batteries which turned their guns upon us. In the whole history of naval warfare, cutting a steamer from under land batteries has been considered the most daring and hazardous achievement that could be accomplished. The danger and risk is so great that such attempts have been few. The feat of Lord Dundonald in cutting out the ship at Callao was considered, by all odds, the greatest act attached to his splendid naval reputation, and the readers of Marryatt will remember well his ideas upon the subject. The "Underwriter" lay under three very large forts, close beside a town filled with troops, and tied head and stern to the shore.

Seeing the vessel well on fire, we turned once more up the Neuse, and pulled away from the town. A heavy storm came up, the rain poured down in torrents, wetting us to the skin, and half filling the boats with water. As we rounded a point of woods we took a last look at the burning ship, now completely enveloped in flame, the lurid light flaming in the sky and flashing for miles across the water. Although hidden from our view, we could see by sudden flashes up the sky, and by the dull, heavy, booming sound which came to us upon the night air that the shell room was reached and that the explosion had begun. Turning into the creek, we landed on the shore to care for the wounded. In the evening they were sent up to Swift Creek Village, and from thence to Kinston. Two days after the whole party arrived, except, alas! the four poor fellows left behind.

To close, I will say the "Underwriter" was a large side wheel steamer, formerly a New York ocean tug boat, but was commissioned in September, 1861. She fired the first gun at Roanoke Island; had engines at 800 horse power, the largest the yankees have taken across Hatteras swash; mounted four guns—two large 8-inch shell guns, one 12 pound rifle, and one 12 pound howitzer. She was 186 feet 9 inches in length, 35 feet beam, and about 325 tonnage. Jacob Westervelt—a grand rascal—was her commander. Taken all in all, the "Underwriter" was one of the most formidable gunboats of the new purchase, and the best in the sounds.

BOHEMIAN.

Cheering News From North Alabama.—Cheering news reaches us to-day through a private source from North Alabama, stating that Corinth has been in the possession of the troops under Gen. Roddey since 26th January, and that upon the evacuation of that post, Gen. Roddey ordered a portion of his forces under Col. Johnson to cross the Tennessee river at Pride's ferry and at Bainbridge, for the purpose of connecting with him and attacking Athens, where the enemy were in force. Roddey himself, with 350 men, accompanied by two pieces of artillery, crossed at Brown's Ferry, and after dark, dismounted his men, and marching them on foot to Athens attacked that place before daylight—the enemy being encamped there, drove him through his camp and though the entire town, when his retreat became a rout. Our troops then withdrew, burning and destroying his entire camp, together with a large amount of commissary and quartermaster stores; brought out 20 prisoners, 100 horses, &c. Every man loaded himself with clothing, blankets, shoes, and whatever else he desired.

Col. Johnson failed to connect with Gen. Roddey by reason of his meeting near Choal Creek, Wilder's (Federal) brigade, where a desperate fight of four hours ensued. After night Wilder retreated, and Johnson fell back, having received orders from Gen. Roddey so to do. The force Johnson encountered is estimated at three to one, and the force Gen. Roddey fought at Athens was two to one. Roddey's was a complete surprise; Johnson's a fair, open fight against the large odds mentioned. A letter from North Alabama, says the victories were beyond the most sanguine expectations, and the enemy severely punished. Our loss was 13 killed and 30 wounded, against *positively* three times this number on the part of the enemy.

The people are represented as being in fine spirits since the evacuation of Corinth and these successes, and are ploughing and preparing for planting crops.—*Richmond Whig.*

28th N. C. Troops.—This was Gen. Lane's old regiment. Col. Speer, now commanding it, writes on the 5th inst., that it "re-enlisted almost to a man to-day, for the war. It was the first Volunteer Regiment that re-organized for three years or the war, and is now the first Regiment to re-enlist for the war in this Brigade. It is the largest Regiment in the army of Northern Virginia, and has been in all the battles and skirmishes that the Light Division have been in."

Gen. Hood.—Gen. Hood has been promoted to a Lieutenant Generalcy, and will take command in about two weeks. The corps to which he has been assigned is understood to be that formerly under Gen. D. H. Hill, in the army of Gen. Johnston.

Gen. Bragg has left Montgomery, Alabama, and is on his way to Richmond, via Eufaula.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE ARMY.

The following address has been issued by the President in response to the re-enlistments of our gallant soldiers:—

Soldiers of the Armies of the Confederate States!

In the long and bloody war in which your country is engaged, you have achieved many noble triumphs. You have won glorious victories over vastly more numerous hosts. You have cheerfully borne privations and toil to which you were unused. You have readily submitted to restraints upon your individual will, that the citizen might better perform his duty to the State as a soldier. To all these you have lately added another triumph, the noblest of human conquests—a victory over yourselves.

As the time drew near when you who first entered the service might well have been expected to claim relief from your arduous labors and restoration to the endearments of home, you have heeded only the call of your suffering country. Again you come to tender your service for the public defence—a free offering which only such patriotism as yours could make—a triumph worthy of you and of the cause to which you are devoted.

I would in vain attempt adequately to express the emotions with which I received the testimonials of confidence and regard which you have recently addressed to me. To some of those first received, separate acknowledgments were returned. But it is now apparent that a like generous enthusiasm pervades the whole army, and that the only exception to such magnanimous tender will be of those who, having originally entered for the war, cannot display anew their zeal in the public service. It is, therefore, deemed appropriate, and, it is hoped, will be equally acceptable, to make a general acknowledgment, instead of successive special responses. Would that it were possible to render my thanks to you in person, and in the name of our common country, as well as in my own, while pressing the hand of each war-worn veteran, to recognize his title to our love, gratitude and admiration.

Soldiers! By your will (for you and the people are but one) I have been placed in a position which debars me from sharing your danger, your sufferings and your privations in the field. With pride and affection my heart has accompanied you in every march; with solicitude it has sought to minister to your every want; with exultation it has marked your every heroic achievement. Yet, never in this toilsome march, nor in the weary watch, nor in the desperate assault, have you rendered a service so decisive in results as in the last display of the highest qualities of devotion and self-sacrifice which can adorn the character of the warrior patriot.

Already the pulse of the whole people beats in unison with yours. Already they compare your spontaneous and unanimous offer of your lives, for the defence of your country, with the halting and reluctant service of the mercenaries who are purchased by the enemy at the price of higher bounties than have hitherto been known in war. Animated by this contrast, they exhibit cheerful confidence and more resolute bearing. Even the murmurs of the weak and timid, who shrink from the trials which make stronger and firmer your noble natures, are shamed into silence by the spectacle which you present. Your brave battle-cry will ring loud and clear through the land of the enemy, as well as our own; will silence the vain-glorious boastings of their corrupt partisans and their pensioned press; and will do justice to the calumny by which they seek to persuade a deluded people that you are ready to purchase dishonorable safety by degrading submission.

Soldiers! The coming spring campaign will open under auspices well calculated to sustain your hopes. Your resolution needed nothing to fortify it. With ranks replenished under the influence of your example, and by the aid of your representatives, who give earnest of their purpose to aid, by legislation, largely to your strength, you may welcome the invader with a confidence justified by the memory of past victories. On the other hand, debt, taxation, repetition of heavy drafts, dissensions, occasioned by the strife for power, by the pursuit of the spoils of office, by the thirst for the plunder of the public treasury, and, above all, the consciousness of a bad cause, must fall with fearful force upon the over-strained energies of the enemy. His campaign in 1864 must, from the exhaustion of his resources both in men and money, be far less formidable than those of the last two years, when unimpaired means were used with boundless prodigality, and with results which are suggested by the mention of the glorious names of Shiloh and Perryville, and Murfreesboro' and Chickamauga, and the Chickahominy, and Manassas, and Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

Soldiers! Assured success awaits us in our holy struggle for liberty and independence, and for the preservation of all that renders life desirable to honorable men. When that success shall be reached, to you, your country's hope and pride, under Divine Providence, will it be due. The fruits of that success will not be reaped by you alone, but your children and your children's children in long generations to come, will enjoy blessings derived from you that will preserve your memory ever-living in their hearts.

Citizen-defenders of the homes, the liberties and the altars of the Confederacy! That the God whom we all humbly worship may shield you with his Fatherly care, and preserve you for safe return to the peaceful enjoyment of your friends and the association of those you most love, is the earnest prayer of your Commander-in-Chief.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Richmond, 9th Feb., 1864.

Fayetteville.—We were pleased to see the distinguished position assigned to Cadef Rose, of Fayetteville, on the roll of merit at the Military Institute of Virginia, at its late examination. The ancient town of Fayetteville has responded nobly during the war to the necessities of the country. Her sons are gloriously associated with the first of our successes in arms. Within our observation they have achieved high renown. Our own comrade, Capt. Benj. Robinson, has earned a name for daring and courageous performance of duty which will descend to posterity as part of the history of the Revolution. His unselfish disregard of peril when retiring from the bloody field of Williamsburg he stopped to yield support to a wounded comrade, was a noble manifestation of brave and chivalrous nature. Along with the other associations of that memorable attack, is the sad fate of poor Mullins—who died during that bleak and dreary night in the enemy's redoubt, giving utterance in his last moments to the beautifully filial and patriotic sentiment:—"Tell my mother that I died as I wished to die, the death of a brave soldier." Lieut. Anderson, who was also of our companions, bears upon his handsome and manly brow the mark of his devotion. And these are but a few of Fayetteville's representatives on the field. Many others share with them the honors of a faithful service.

While her soldiers before the enemy have done their duty, her people at home have not been unmindful of theirs—no community has labored with greater unanimity or more assiduously or usefully, than she. Her press has been a model of dignity, of sound instruction and example—and all classes of her citizens, young and old, male and female, have surrounded the altar of their country with deeds of generous sacrifice and service.

The writer of this article claims the privilege thus to accord a place in history to the virtues of a people among whom is to be found all those endearing qualities of good morals, refined hospitality, and enlarged liberality, which give stability to governments, and make populations happy.

Raleigh Confederate.

The True Reason.—The Standard and its associates have been admonished again and again that it is not any misrepresentations by their enemies that have impressed the Northern press and Mr. Everett, and yankees generally, with the idea of their *Union* tendencies—and that their Convention means secession. Below they will find an extract from the New York Herald of a late date, confirming this admonition:

"We are also inclined to believe that this news is true, for the significant extracts which we gave our readers yesterday from the Raleigh Standard, broadly hinted at an impending State Convention which would be charged with the business of seceding from secession."

It is, as we have said, from the "significant extracts" from the Raleigh Stapdard, given by way of encouragement to the Herald's readers, wherein is "broadly hinted at an impending State Convention which would be charged with the business of seceding from secession"—that the Herald draws the belief that the news is true.

Raleigh Confederate.

ESCAPE OF YANKEE PRISONERS

The most important escape of Federal prisoners which has occurred during the war took place at the Libby prison last Tuesday night. Of the 1100 yankee officers confined therein, 109 failed to answer to their names at roll call yesterday morning. Embraced in this number were 11 Colonels, 7 Majors, 32 Captains, and 59 Lieutenants. Every means was adopted to ascertain the manner of their escape. At first Major Turner was inclined to the opinion that the sentinels had been bribed to pass them out, and this impression was strengthened by the assertion of the yankees remaining that the work had been accomplished through means of heavy fees, paid a Confederate officer in the building, and his influence over the guard. On learning this the order was given to place the guard in Castle Thunder. Not feeling satisfied, the Major determined to leave no stone unturned to ferret out the mystery, and proceeded to search in every direction for information. After a fruitless examination of every part of the building where it was thought possible for a man to escape, the idea struck them that some clue might be obtained by going into the lot on the opposite side of the street, when a large hole was discovered in the corner of one of the stalls of a shed, which had been used as a stable, and on a line with the street running between it and the Libby prison. This discovery satisfied them of the means by which the escape had been made, and their next step was to trace out the spot where the tunneling was commenced. It was found that a large piece of granite, about three feet by two, had been removed from the foundation and a tunnel extending 59 feet across the street, into a vacant lot, cut through. This tunnel was about 7 feet from the surface of the street, and from 2½ to 3 feet square. The lot is several feet below the street, and the fleeing prisoners when they emerged from the tunnel found themselves on level ground. By this route they got into Canal street, and keeping close to the eaves of the building they succeeded in eluding the vigilance of the sentinels. The prisoners are confined in the second story of the Libby prison, and the first and basement stories had to be attained before the mouth of the tunnel could be reached. By some means the prisoners would cut through both these floors when they wished to gain the cellar, and after they had passed down would close up the holes with the planks which had been taken out so neatly that it could not be discovered. The cellar covers the whole area of the building and is only used as a place for storing away meal, &c, for the use of the prison. It being very large only the front part was required, and therefore the back part of it, which is considerably below Cary street, is scarcely ever visited. The dirt which accumulated as the work progressed was spread about this part of the basement and then covered over with a large quantity of straw which has been deposited therein. It is not known how long the operatives in this stupendous undertaking have been engaged; but, when the limited facilities which they possessed is taken into consideration, there can be no doubt that months have elapsed since the work was first begun. The whole thing was skillfully managed and bears the impress of master minds and indomitable perseverance.

No doubt that further escape through this avenue was contemplated, and the earnestness with which the prisoners who remained behind tried to throw the blame upon the guard was only done to prevent further inquiry into the matter, and thereby leave the tunnel open for others to pass through. Probably one more night might have emptied the prison of the whole number confined therein.

Yesterday workmen were engaged in stopping up the passage, and it may now be safely relied on that no other prisoners will ever take their departure from the Libby against the knowledge and consent of the officers in charge.

Four of the prisoners who succeeded in getting out were, late in the afternoon, recaptured and brought back. They had gotten about 22 miles from the city before they were overtaken. It is hardly probable, from the steps which have been taken to prevent it, that many of them will succeed in reaching the yankee lines.—*Dispatch.*

The yankees repulsed in Florida.—RICHMOND, Feb. 12.—Official dispatches from Gen'l Beauregard state that Gen. Finegan repulsed the advance of the enemy to Lake City, Fla. General Wise had driven the yankees on John's Island, towards their gun boats, and was in pursuit today, though outnumbered two to one.

From Knoxville—The Small Pox Raging.—MORRISTOWN, Feb. 12.—The latest news from Knoxville states that there are 2200 cases of small pox among the yankees. Eighty died on Monday. The main body of the enemy is between there and London. There is much suffering among the citizens there.

Feat of Mosby's Men.—A few days ago 16 of Mosby's gallant rangers attacked 25 yankees between Berryville and Charlestown, and completely routed them. They killed 3 of the enemy, wounded 4, captured 3, and took 5 splendid horses. The remainder were glad enough to make their escape. We had no casualties.

Confederate Bonds Advancing.—RICHMOND, Feb. 1.—The stock market is buoyant; Confederate bonds further advanced. Auction sales today of 8 per cent. bonds long dates, at 125½ and interest; 7 per cent at 112.

One for Twelve.—A person advertises in the Lynchburg Republican for $6,000 in Confederate money, for which he offers to pay in gold at the rate of *one for twelve.* A heavy decline.

The Alabama.—This vessel is making a sensation in the east. Late Java papers are full of her. Nov. 16th she captured the Amanda and cargo of 315 tons sugar and 4000 bales hemp. Next day she took the Winged Racer and sugar cargo. Both vessels were burned. They are valued at $440,000. The London Post says:—

"The great topic of the East India press by this mail, is, of course, the Alabama, her late manœuvres and probable future tactics occupying much of their space. The American flag, however, is fast disappearing, ships taking shelter under that of Peru, Prussia and Portugal. Risks in American bottoms are point blank refused by Eastern insurance offices, and by this mail only one ship is reported loading under the American flag. Meanwhile the cause of all this consternation is quietly cruising in the Straits of Sunda, patiently waiting for coming prizes."

Important Decision Expected.—An important case is now pending before Judge Pearson, upon a writ of *habeas corpus* contesting the Constitutionality of the act of Congress demanding service of Principals who have furnished substitutes. We are informed that this case will be argued in the Court House at Salisbury on Friday the 19th of this month, by able Counsel on both sides. The Associate Justices of the Supreme Court are invited and expected to attend.

Greensboro' Patriot.

Lieut. Gen. Polk has issued an order in his Department which will prevent traveling through our lines, and trading with the Yankee enemy.

"Massa," said Sambo, "one of your oxen is dead, 'toder too. 'Fraid to tell you boff at once for fear you couldn't bore it."

SCHEDULE OF PRICES
FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

WE, the undersigned Commissioners of Appraisement for the State of North Carolina, do hereby declare the following to be the uniform prices for property impressed for the use of the government for the next two months, subject to alteration should circumstances, meanwhile, occur to make it advisable:

Apples, dried, good, peeled, per bush 28 lbs.			$ 5 00
" " "	unpeeled, " 28 lbs		3 50
Axes,	"	with handles, each	12 50
"	"	without " "	12
Bacon,	"	sides, per lb.	2 25
"	"	hams, "	2 25
"	"	shoulders, per lb	2
"	"	jowles, "	1
Beans,	"	white or cornfield, per bus 60 lbs.	10
Brandy,	"	apple, per gal.	20
"	"	peach, "	25
Beef,	"	fresh meat, per lb	60
"	"	salted, "	55
"	"	corn, "	90
Brown stuff,	"	per bus, 28 lbs	1
Candles,	"	tallow, per lb	2 25
"	"	adamantine, "	2 25
Chains,	"	trace, per pair	9
Cloth,	"	woolen, fr soldiers clothes, ¾ yd wide, 10 oz to yd, and *pro rata* as to greater or less weight or width, per yard	6
Coffee,	"	Rio, per lb	4 50
Corn,	"	unshelled, per bus, 70 lbs	5
"	"	shelled, sacks not included, per bus of 56 lbs	6
Corn meal,	"	sacks not included, per bus of 50 lbs	6
Drills,	"	cotton, ⅝ yd wide, 3 yds to lb, per yard	80
Flour,	"	extra family, per bbl of 196 lbs	60
"	"	extra family, per sack of 98 lbs	28
"	"	superfine, per bbl, 196 lbs	55
"	"	superfine, per sack, 98 lbs	25
"	"	fine, per bbl of 196 lbs	50
"	"	" per sack of 98 lbs	25
Fodder,	"	baled, per 100 lbs	4
"	"	unbaled " "	3 50
Hats,	"	wool, each	5
Hay,	"	baled, per 100 lbs	5
"	"	unbaled " "	4
Hides,	"	dry, per lb	8 25
"	"	green, "	1 75
Horses,	"	artillery, 1st class, per head	700
"	"	artillery, 2d class, per head	500
"	"	extra, per head	
Iron,	"	pig, per ton of 2,000 lbs	110
"	"	square or round, per ton	600
"	"	hoop, per ton, 2,000 lbs	600
"	"	flat or band, per ton, "	600
"	"	boiler plate, " "	600
"	"	serviceable rail road, per ton of 2,240 lbs	400
"	"	castings, per lb	15
Jeans,	"	wool domestic, per yd	6
Kettles,	"	camp, iron, per lb	15
Lumber,	"	per 1000 feet,	50
Lard,	"	clean, per lb	2 25
Leather,	"	sole, "	6
"	"	upper, "	7
"	"	harness, "	7
Molasses,	"	cane, per gallon	10
"	"	sorghum, "	5
Mules,	"	1st class, per head	700
"	"	2d class, "	500
"	"	3d class, "	400
"	"	extra "	
Nails,	"	per keg,	75
Oats,	"	sheaf, unbaled, per 100 lbs	4
"	"	" baled, " "	4 50
"	"	shelled, per bus	4
Osnaburgs,	"	cotton, ¾ yd wide, 7 oz to yard, per yd,	1 00
"	"	cotton, ⅞ yd wide, 8 oz to yard per yd	1 30
Peas,	"	cow, per bush of 60 lbs,	10 00
Potatoes,	"	Irish " " "	6 00
"	"	sweet, per " " "	5 00
Peaches, dried,	"	peeled, per bush, 88 lbs	8 50
"	"	unpeeled per bush 88 lbs,	5 00
Pork,	"	fresh, net, per lb,	1 50
"	"	salt, "	2 00
Quinine,	"	good, per ounce,	26 00
Rice,	"	new, per pound,	25
"	"	old, "	20
Rye,	"	good per bush of 56 lbs,	6 00
Sacks,	"	two bush osnaburgs, each,	2 00
Shirting,	"	cotton, ¾ yard wide, 4½ yds to lb, per yard,	1 30
"	"	cotton, ⅞ yd wide, 3¾ yds to lb, per yard.	1 10
Cotton stripes,	"	3 yds lb, per yd,	1 75
Salt,	"	Coast, per bush, 50 lbs.	15 00
"	"	Liverpool, per bush of 50 lbs,	30 00
"	"	Virginia, per bush of 50 lbs	20 00
Steel,	"	cast, per pound,	4 00
Shoes,	"	army, per pair,	15 00
Shoe thread	"	flax per pound,	10 00
Socks,	"	soldiers' wool per pair,	1 50
Sheep,	"	fat, per head,	25 00
Sugar,	"	brown, common, per lb,	2 00
Soap,	"	hard, per pound,	40
"	"	soft per pound,	25
Shucks,	"	baled, per 100 lbs,	4 50
Shorts,	"	good, per bush of 22 lbs,	1 00
Ship stuff,	"	good, per bush of 37 lbs,	1 75
Tea,	"	black, per pound,	5 00
"	"	green, per pound	8 00
Tent cloth,	"	cotton, 10 oz to yd, per yd,	1 30
Tallow,	"	clean, per pound,	1 50
Vinegar,	"	cider, per gallon,	2 50
"	"	manufactured, per gallon,	1 25
Whiskey,	"	good, per gallon,	25 00
Wheat,	"	first rate per bush of 60 lbs,	10 00
"	"	fair, per bush of 60 lbs,	8 50
"	"	ordinary, per bush of 60 lbs,	8 00
Wheat straw,	"	baled, per 100 lbs,	1 50
"	"	unbaled, per 100 lbs,	1 00
Wool,	"	washed, per pound,	6 00
"	"	unwashed, per pound,	5 00
Wagons,	"	wood axle, 4 horse, new, each,	350 00
"	"	iron axle, 4 horse, new, each,	475 00
"	"	wood axle, 2 horse, new, each,	250 00
"	"	iron axle, 2 horse, new, each,	275 00
Wheat bran,	"	per bush of 17 lbs,	70
Yarn,	"	cotton, per bunch 5 lbs,	10 00

HIRE OF LABOR, TEAMS, WAGONS AND HORSES.

Baling long forage, per 100 pounds,	60
Shelling and bagging corn, sacks furnished by government, per bushel,	25
Hire of 2 horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by owner, per day,	12 00
Hire of 2 horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by government, per day,	8 00
Hire of 4 horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by owner, per day,	22 50
Hire of 4 horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by government, per day,	15 00
Hire of 6 horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by owner, per day,	23 00
Hire of 6 horse teams, wagon and driver, rations furnished by government, per day,	20 00
Hire of laborer, rations furnished by owner, pr day,	3 00
Hire of laborer, rations furnished by Gov't, per day,	1 75
Hire of laborer, rations furnished by owner, per month,	75 00
Hire of laborer, rations furnished by Gov't, per month,	45 00
Hire of horses, per day,	1 50