OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1864.

McCLELLAN'S PROSPECTS.—We are indebted to our friend Capt. J. W. Strange, now stationed on the Blackwater, for a copy of the New York World of the 19th inst. More than 21 columns of it, in small type, are devoted to a description of an immense McClellan ratification meeting, or series of meetings, that took place at Union Square on the 17th. The World claims that there were 100,000 people present, and that they were enthusiastic in their determination to elect McClellan. Meetings were organized at ten different stands around the Square, and speeches were being delivered at all of them at the same time. 68 McClellan clubs, from the different Wards of the city and the surrounding towns and villages, joined the grand procession, brilliant with banners and lights. Mayor Gunther presided and spoke at Stand No. 1, and among other speakers were Hon. Robert C. Winthrop of Boston, Gov. Parker of New Jersey, Jas. T. Brady, A. Oakey Hall, Auguste Belmont, McKeon, Kelly, Purdy, Gallatin, Tallmadge, Walbridge, &c.

Such things indicate that we may have been too hasty in setting down the defeat of McClellan as certain. There appears to be more of vitality in his party than we had supposed.

But there is one view which may decidedly complicate the election. The theory of the United States is that there are still 35 or 40 States, as the case may be, in the Union. It requires a majority of all the votes of all the States, to elect. Now suppose all the States, including the Confederate States, be entitled to 300 votes, Lincoln must receive 156 to elect him. He must get these 156 votes in the United States. Every Confederate State that fails to vote in the election, is, in effect, equivalent to a vote for McClellan, and therefore, if he should actually receive some 70 or 75 votes, though he will not of course be elected, neither will Lincoln be. And the same result may happen in the House of Representatives, into which the election would then be thrown. Lincoln must there get a majority of *all* the States, and it will not do for him to say that the Confederate States are not part of the United States. It is said that the New York Tribune concedes that McClellan will carry five or six States in the Electoral colleges. So we may yet hope for trouble to the yankees from the election. Though we may care but little whether Lincoln or McClellan be elected, we do care, and are very deeply interested, that they get into another revolution in consequence.

PRISONERS.—There are nearly a hundred thousand men occupying the grievous position of prisoners of war—nearly 50,000 on each side. Allowing the moderate number of five to each family to which they belong, and there are near half a million of persons—men, women and children—at home, grieving over the captivity, the confinement, and the ill usage of their dear ones. All owing to the heartlessness and injustice of Lincoln. He is bound by every obligation to treat his own soldiers, at least, if not ours, with humanity; yet he suffers them to experience all the hardships of prison life because to get them back he must restore Confederate soldiers to their family and country; and because the term of service of many of his soldiers whom we hold as prisoners has expired, and if exchanged they would not go back into the ranks. A meaner pretext, a case of more rank injustice to his own soldiers, it would not be easy to imagine. That the Northern people submit to it would be a wonder but for the fact that so large a proportion of the prisoners held by us are foreigners, who have few in the United States to care for them, and those few people of no political influence.

The accounts of the treatment experienced by our men in the yankee prisons are very contradictory, owing, we have no doubt, to the differing characters of the men who have command at the different prisons. We hear of a letter from a young prisoner at Point Lookout, to his mother in this place, in which the pleasant situation of the camp, the rations, the facility for bathing and fishing, and the treatment generally, are spoken of in terms of commendation. We like to hear of such cases, for the evidences of ill treatment at other places are too positive and multiplied to be doubted.

THE VALLEY BATTLES.—It needed no ghost to tell what troops it was that lost the day in the severe battle near Winchester on the 19th inst. The Virginia papers were and are as silent as the grave on that point. No one can be surprised therefore to learn by letters from the troops of other States that it was the defection of Virginians that caused the disaster. Read the letter to the Raleigh Confederate, and see that our North Carolinians were lifting up their hearts to God in thankfulness for a victory already gained when the Virginia cavalry came flying from a foe who was nowhere to be seen—running from their own shadows—and so the tide was turned, the day was lost.

We should not thus call special attention to this fact but for the course of the same Virginia papers in imputing severe blame to Gen. Ramseur on a recent occasion of a loss of a part of his Division in the same Valley army. Gen. Ramseur has been acquitted of blame in this matter; but who or what will justify these Virginia cavalry, upon their own soil,—their own State, their homes and property, their wives and children, depending for protection upon their gallantry? It is probable that they were placed to defend an important point because it was natural to suppose that interest and honor and pride would all combine to make them stand to their arms. Yet they fled panic stricken without a pursuer.

We never hear without amazement of a Virginia Regiment or Brigade wavering or breaking in the Army of Virginia. With so much at stake, in the presence as it were of their wives and children who are to be the victims of their cowardly panic, how can they answer it to their great leader, Lee, that they flinch from the performance of all, and more than all, that is expected of them? Yet during the present campaign of five months the instances have been repeated,—at Spottsylvania, at Lynchburg, at Cold Harbor, at Winchester, and perhaps other places still, where great disaster has befallen, or great good failed to be accomplished, by the defection of a Virginia Regiment or Brigade. It is, as we have said, amazing.

COUNCIL OF STATE.—The Governor has called a meeting of the Council of State, to be held on Wednesday next the 5th of October. The purpose is not stated, but may possibly be to consider the propriety of calling the Legislature together, as has been urged upon the Governor, in advance of its regular session on the 3d Monday of November. Two members of the Council having resigned, all the others are earnestly requested to attend.

THE RAILROAD DIVIDEND.—A week or two ago we mentioned that the N. C. Railroad had declared a dividend of 7 per cent. We should have said, dividend No. 7 of fifteen per cent. This will give to the State Sinking Fund $600,000.

A SINGLE CLASS FROM THE UNIVERSITY.—The following from the Raleigh Conservative furnishes a remarkable history of the class that was last graduated at the University of North Carolina previous to the breaking out of the war. It consisted of 81 members, hailing from 10 States, and of these it will be seen that 60 are known to be or to have been in the army; of whom 15 have been killed, 1 died in service, 2 resigned on account of bad health, 1 resigned on account of wounds, 1 resigned for reason not stated, and 40 are still in the army. Most of the 21 who are not enumerated in the Conservative's list were from distant States, and doubtless they too are or have been in the army:—

Of the Senior Class of 1859-'60 Sydenham B. Alexander is a Captain in the 42d N. C. Regiment, Lawrence M. Anderson was killed at Shiloh, Isaac T. Atmore, killed in Virginia, Alexander Barrett is a Lieutenant in the 49th N. C. Regiment, Junius C. Battle was killed at Sharpsburg, Lewis Bond is a Captain and Ordnance Officer, W. H. Borden is a Lieutenant in the 50th N. C. Regiment, Sterling Brickell was a Captain in the 12th N. C., and resigned in consequence of wounds, W. M. Brooks is in the 41st Regiment, Charles Bruce, jr., was killed in one of the battles around Richmond, Capt. George P. Bryan was recently killed below Richmond, Peirce M. Butler belongs to the 2d S. C. cavalry, Alexander T. Cole is in the 23d Regiment N. C. Troops, Daniel R. Coleman is with the 20th, R. E. Cooper is a Chaplain in Cobb's Legion, Thomas W. Cooper, a Lieutenant in the 11th N. C., was killed at Gettysburg, S. Venable Daniel is a Lieutenant in the 17th, Thomas F. Davis was first Lieutenant in the 8th, and resigned on account of bad health, E. L. Drake is in a Tennessee Regiment, Jno. D. Fain is a Captain in the 33d Regiment, Horace Ferrand is in a Louisiana Regiment, J. O. A. Fogle is in a Georgia Regiment, Samuel R. Franklin died, C. H. Fry is in a Mississippi Regiment, James A. Graham is a Lieutenant in the 27th Regiment, Charles Haigh is in the 62d N. C., E. J. Hale, Jr., is Assistant Adjutant General to General J. H. Lane, E. J. Hardin is a Lieutenant and Adjutant to Colonel Mallett of the Conscript Bureau, William J. Headen was a first Lieutenant in the 26th Reg't, and has just been elected for the second time to the State Legislature from Chatham county, W. W. Henry is in the Western Army, S. A. Hightower is in the 26th Louisiana, Thos. C. Holliday was Captain and Assistant Adjutant General to General Davis, killed, R. B. B. Houston was a Lieutenant in the 52d N. C. and resigned, H. F. Jones was aid to Gen. Young, killed, Walter J. Jones is in one of our heavy Artillery Regiments, W. J. King is in the Medical Department at Richmond, J. B. Lutterloh was a Lieutenant in the 56th and killed at Gum Swamp, Eugene S. Martin is a Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion Heavy Artillery, Geo. S. Martin, killed, James B. McCallum killed, James C. McClelland died, E. T. McKethan is a Lieutenant in the 51st N. C., A. N. McKinnon is in the Quartermaster Department at Raleigh, James McKimmon is a Lieutenant in Manly's Battery, Cornelius Mebane is Adjutant of the 6th N. C., J. W. Mebane is a Captain in the army of Tennessee, William T. Nicholson is a Captain in the 37th N. C. and Judge Advocate to Wilcox's Division Court, G. W. Pearce is in the 41st N. C., R. G. Pitman is in the Engineer Department, Geo. McD. Quarles is dead, Iowa Royster a Lieutenant in the 37th was killed at Gettysburg, R. B. Sanders is in the 35th, Joseph H. Saunders is Major of the 33d and a prisoner, E. D. Scales is a Commissary, Farquard Smith and Norfleet Smith are in the 41st, Thos. L. Smith killed, Ed. G. Sterling died in service, R. J. Sykes is in a Mississippi Regiment, G. W. Taylor is an Assistant Surgeon, Joan H. Thorp is a Captain in the 47th, Samuel P. Weir was a Lieutenant in the 46th and killed at Fredericksburg, George L. Wilson died, and William A. Worster, a Captain in the 1st N. C., was killed in one of the battles around Richmond.

REINFORCING THE ARMY.—The Raleigh Confederate has recently published a series of Editorial articles urging a reinforcement of the army by requiring some of the exempted classes to go into the service. In its last issue the Confederate says that only one paper, the Charlotte Democrat, has responded favorably to its suggestions; and it infers that the other papers in the State are of an opposite way of thinking. This is a misconstruction of our silence. It is not that we are either opposed to or in favor of the Confederate's suggestion, but simply that we have not access to the statistics necessary to the forming of an opinion upon the subject. It is a very delicate question, how far the producing classes may be further depleted to strengthen the fighting class—a question which it is the province of the Confederate and State governments to decide, and as to which, as we have said, we have not data upon which to found an opinion or to justify advice. All that we can do will be to conform to the decisions of Congress and the Legislature upon so vital a point, and this we are prepared to do, and will be glad if the decision shall be that any of us can be more useful in the field than in printing a newspaper.

BROWN AND STEPHENS *versus* HOLDEN.—The Governor of Georgia and the Vice President of the Confederacy have been falsely claimed as the file-leaders of the Raleigh Standard and its party as in favor of State action in the negotiation of a peace. Gov. Brown has many vagaries to answer for, but this is not one of them. His answer to Sherman's proposal to hold a conference with him and Stephens on the subject, is conclusive evidence of his dissent from the Standard, if there had not been sufficient evidence previously. "Tell Gen. Sherman," said Gov. Brown, "that I understand him to be only a General of one of the Federal armies, whilst I am merely a Governor of one of the Confederate States. I don't see how we can negotiate; or, if we should undertake it, how our negotiations can lead to any practical results." Sensibly and truly spoken. And just as the Governor of North Carolina would have spoken under similar circumstances. But what would have been the course of our would-be Governor? Why of course he would have been bound by his pledges to meet Sherman, and thus commit himself and the people of the State to a violation of the Confederate constitution, which expressly confides to the President and Senate the exclusive right to negotiate and make treaties with foreign powers. If Gov. Brown or any other Governor were to enter into a negotiation with the enemy he would be a traitor and would deserve a traitor's doom.

STRANGE CONDUCT.—Five recusant conscripts disappeared from this town on Tuesday evening under singular circumstances. It is the habit of the Commandant of the Home Guards now in Moore county, when a deserter or recusant conscript comes in and delivers himself up, to give him a furlough of a few days to go home and make his arrangements to start to the army. Among the many who had enjoyed this furlough and faithfully returned to camp were 9 conscripts and 1 deserter, who were started off for the army on Monday afternoon. They were in charge of a single private of the Home Guard, unarmed, and walked part of the way to the Railroad on Monday night and the remainder on Tuesday morning. They then came on the train to this place, and while their guard was procuring transportation tickets five of the conscripts deserted, leaving the one deserter and four other conscripts to go on. These men came in of their own accord; they could have violated their parol in Moore; they could have escaped at any time on Monday or Tuesday during the march to this place; but they came on so quietly and resolutely as not to excite the slightest suspicion of an intention to runaway, and yet disappeared as soon as they arrived here. We did not hear their names.

WELL DONE.—Two of our Fayetteville companies of Home Guards now in Moore, learning that a widow near their camp was likely to lose her crop of fodder for want of laborers to pull it, turned in and stripped it upon a ten acre field. The widow's blessings rest upon them for the good deed.

STARTLING NEWS FROM MOORE COUNTY.—In the New York World of the 19th, we find an extract from the Newbern Times, as follows:—

"On the 18th ult, a collision took place in Moore county between the deserters, some seventeen hundred in number, and the State Guards, in which the latter were repulsed with a loss of four killed and one wounded."

A big fight or a big lie, beyond a doubt.

OUR PRISONERS AT FORT DELAWARE

From the Richmond Whig.

We have received the following, how or through whom we care not to state. It is the unvarnished account of one who has seen and felt the horrible treatment to which Confederate prisoners are subjected at Fort Delaware:—

"Fort Delaware, situated upon an island near the mouth of the Delaware river, was formed by the sinking of an English vessel loaded with peas, and thence takes its name as Pea Patch Island, but is more familiarly known both to yankees and "Rebs" as H—l. It contains about 75 acres of land, and is entirely surrounded by a wall seven or eight feet high, that the island may not be overflowed by water, as it is six feet below high tide; so it will be seen at once that the wall is a very necessary precaution in keeping the inhabitants from being washed away. There is a ditch running entirely around inside the wall; the interior is cut up in small ditches, and resembles the plat of some town, to be built in far off future. There are a few shabby houses on the island used as "boarding houses," principally by the employees. There has been a very good church built, but by what denomination or for what purpose I am unable to say, as they all appear to be highly educated in the art of swearing, and treating their fellow beings with the greatest barbarity. The fort is a mere shell, and would not stand two good rounds from one of our rifle pieces, and I understand it is already cracked. It has some very old Columbiads mounted on it, which use the old-fashioned shell, with tow wad; but it is not my intention to describe the fort, but to say a few words in regard to the treatment of prisoners, giving a few stitches here and there just as they happened. I have now been a prisoner of war —— months, and of course a great deal has happened which I have forgotten, as I kept a diary, only from memory. The general treatment of prisoners was very bad, often not having enough to eat—sufficient to keep body and soul together, and most of us being ragged and without shoes or head covering.

"We are taken out of our barracks almost daily and crowded together upon a small piece of ground, called H—l's Half Acre, surrounded by a ditch. There we are kept almost the whole day under a scorching sun. If it was winter, it would have the opposite effect, freezing our limbs, which it did very effectually for a great many. A great many died from this kind of treatment. Prisoners were allowed in the spring of '64, to receive clothing—after the yanks thought there was a sufficient quantity in the barracks to make a raid "pay," they would have a general "*Hike out*"—(a term they use when driving prisoners out of the barracks,) to have all the clothes they had received taken from them, leaving them without a change of clothing. This system of robbery continues up to this time. They said this was done to clothe the ragged prisoners; but I have not seen them give any of the clothes to any one. They are very strict in searching the men. After making us pull off boots, &c., they take our pocket knives, spoons, cups, &c., bought from the sutler. Some of the boys jocosely remarked, this was done to pay their war debt. Our rations are of the poorest kind, not cooked well, and very scant. It is principally salt beef and crackers—six crackers and a few ounces of beef being the allowance per day. This diet caused the scurvy to break out on the men dreadfully. It was a horrible sight, to see the poor fellows limping about, covered with ulcers from that dreadful disease—which could have been easily prevented if the yanks would have issued a few anti-scorbutics—such as vinegar or vegetables. There is a poisonous miasma which rises on the island, which lays a man liable to any and all diseases. The peculiar disease is termed by prisoners the Lincoln grip which makes its appearance in summer. It comes with pain above the eyes, and lasts from five to seven days. There seems to be no remedy for it, and nature has to take its course. The barracks are open and extremely cold. In winter, one stove only is allowed two hundred men with one bushel of fuel per day. Each man gets a single blanket. A great many men were taken from the barracks last winter stiff frozen. The only way they manage to escape freezing is by continually double quicking. Many say they double quicked more last winter than they did during three months' service in the army. For the least offence men are shot down in cold blood with the slightest provocation, or are bayonetted, struck over the heads with muskets, or tied up by the thumbs. Not a morning passes out that some poor Confederate is not strung up for the amusement of the azure bellied gentry. After being thus kicked and cuffed, if outraged manhood dares to resent the treatment death is the certain penalty. It is due to truth to state that our prisoners have been more humanely treated of late by the 6th Massachusetts regiment, and the privates would be kinder if the officers would permit it.

"For a time we were under the command of a Lt. Morion, alias Campbell, a deserter from Co. I, 16th Miss. He took the oath and as a reward for his treachery received a commission. I cannot refrain from relating an incident which occurred during his administration. As horrible as it is, it can be attested by numerous truthful witnesses. A poor dead Confederate being stripped naked, was laid in his rough box for interment. Even in death his face wore a smile. A yankee doctor seeing it exclaimed, "the d—d Reb. is grinning at me," and seizing an axe, mutilated and mangled a foot before which he would have quailed if life had not been extinct.

"Our men are all buried as cross-ties on a railroad, laid crossways until they are three deep. In '63 they died at the rate of 25 per day, but now we do not lose more than 4 or 5 in the same period. Do publish this, and you will oblige one who has suffered.

THE MAINE ELECTION.—The New York World of the 19th inst. has the following:—

The Telegraph and Postoffice—Lincoln's Eyes and Ears.—Our Democratic friends will do well to remember that the telegraph wires, like the postoffice, are under the control of Mr. Lincoln and his partisans. The false returns from Maine, claiming twenty and twenty-five thousand majority for Cony, when, in fact, his majority of 17,116 last year has been whittled down to 3 or 4,000 this year by Democratic gains in every county save two, are one specimen of the use that will be made of the control of the wires. But the mails and the wires are to day the eyes and ears of the would-be despot at Washington.

Mr. Lincoln, at the White House, is every day in the habit of receiving and reading dispatches stolen off the wires, as his postmasters are in the habit of opening and reading the letters of Democrats which are sent through the mails. Our friends will do well, therefore, to use ciphers, in those messages which are of any importance politically, and to employ the express companies instead of the mails.

Postmaster Blair, Secretary Stanton and President Lincoln connive at and practice this thieving from telegraph wires, and from mails. The usual precautions against such thieving must, therefore, be taken.

Lecture.—The address of Capt. Benjamin Robinson was delivered on Monday night, according to notice, before a very respectable audience at the Fayetteville Hall. The subject was well conceived, and its delivery reflected no discredit on this young officer, who has committed the enemy on many a battle field, and bears honorable evidences of the part he has taken in the war. He showed unmistakable signs of equal fitness for position in this new arena. His subject was North Carolina, her interests, and her duty in the struggle for our independence, and every one who heard him doubtless felt at the close of the address that he was proud of his State and the prowess of her soldiers in the field, and blushed to hear of a single *croaker* within her borders.

The proceeds of this Lecture are to be contributed to a fund for the establishment of a Hospital Library in this place, and we hope that the lead taken by our young friend in delivering the first Lecture may be followed by others of the talented in our community. The cause is one that appeals to our patriotism and generosity.

North Carolinian.

Deaf and Dumb Asylum.—Alexander Collie, Esq., of London, has forwarded to Willie J. Palmer, Principal of the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, a valuable present, consisting of books, maps, beads, &c., for the Blind of the Institution. The articles have safely arrived.—*Raleigh Conservative.*

Dead.—We regret to learn that James M. Bullock, Esq., of Granville, late a member of the House of Commons from that county, was found dead on his farm a few days ago, near, or on the rail road, having fallen from his horse. Whether his death was caused by apoplexy or by some assassin, seemed to be a matter of doubt.—*Ib.*

General Early and one of his aids, Lieutenant Colonel Mann Page, had their horses killed under them in the battle at Winchester.

FROM THE VALLEY.

The Rockingham Register of the 24th inst. says the fight near Winchester commenced on Sunday afternoon, at a late hour, and was resumed early next morning and continued until the afternoon of Monday, at which time the Confederates were compelled to retreat, leaving our dead and the most of our wounded in the hands of the enemy. In the early part of the engagement the enemy, although in stronger force, was driven before the Confederates for some distance; but a portion of our cavalry on the left unfortunately gave way, when our whole line was forced back. The battle was a hard fought and bloody one, the number of dead and wounded being very heavy. Our loss in killed, wounded and missing is variously estimated at from 2,500 to 3,000, whilst that of the enemy is represented as "terrific," as we used artillery upon them at short range with great effect. A gentleman—an officer—who passed over a part of the battle-field as we were driving them before us, says their dead lay in heaps—"their loss was terrific."

In the fight we are said to have captured six or seven hundred prisoners, including three colonels. Our loss in captured is said to be about five hundred, including the sick and badly wounded.

Official dispatches received on the 23d state that the enemy attacked Gen. Early late yesterday (22d) at Fisher's Hill, and succeeded in forcing back the left of the line; and throwing a force in his rear, compelled him to abandon the position, leaving 12 pieces of cannon in their hands, though losing but few men.

Gen. Early is said to have fallen back to Port Republic, on the South bank of the South fork of the Senandoah a position naturally very strong.

Since writing the above, we learn by passengers who arrived on the Central train last evening, that Gen. Early had not fallen back to Port Republic, but was at Keezletown, six miles north of the first named place. Heavy cannonading was heard at Staunton Saturday and yesterday morning, showing that Early had turned upon the enemy. If he held them in check until yesterday, there is a cause to expect that the next news from the Valley will be of a cheering character.—*Richmond Sent., 26th*

[The Virginia cavalry ran at Fisher's Hill as at Winchester, causing the second as they did the first retreat. The Examiner learns "that when the attack was made by the enemy, our cavalry (God bless 'em) on the left ran off, and that Gen. Early at once ordered a retreat, which was executed in good order and without loss, except of the twelve cannon."]

FOR THE OBSERVER.

GRIMES'S BRIGADE, NEAR WINCHESTER, Sept. 19.

Messrs. E. J. Hale & Sons: I send herewith a list of casualties in this Brigade, in an engagement with Maj. Gen. Averill's Division of Cavalry, near this place, which you will please publish for the benefit of those who have friends in the Brigade. Respectfully,

W. L. LONDON, A. A. G.

List of Casualties in Grimes's Brigade in the engagement on the 5th Sept. 1864.

43d N. C. T.—Wounded: Co. C, Lieut S D Killette; E, John Whitley; H, Lieut B F Moore, Wm Harrington; I, R Redfearn; K, Isaac Sneed, B S Pond, Geo K Caudell.

52d N. C. T.—Wounded: Co. E, John Probst; I, Elijah Corcoran.

45th N. C. T.—Wounded: Co. A, David Joyce; C, Wm Harris; F, Sergt Lewis.

53d N. C. T.—Wounded: Co. B, J N Howie; E, Sergt W E Patterson; H, John Eaton.

Recapitulation: Killed none, wounded 16.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

Messrs. Editors: Please give room in your paper for the following list of casualties, for the benefit of those who have friends and relatives in this Company:

Casualties in Co. H, 30th N. C. T., in the battle of the 19th Sept., near Winchester, Va.—Wounded: Corp'l J J Hight, mortally; Corp'l H Matthews, leg broken. Missing: Private E Hendrick.

A. D. McGILL, Acting Ord. Serg't.

Anson Companies 14th N. C. T., at Winchester, Sept. 19.—Co. C—Killed: Private W L Stanosck. Wounded: Lt. W A Liles in foot, Sgt J W Turner leg, Corp J B Waddill right thigh, Private C Coyer shoulder, J J McLendon left arm, G A Morton leg (contusion), W C Threadgill left hand and prisoner, T J Watkins in face and shoulder, Jos. Wheeler in knee.

H—Killed: Capt J R Deberry. Missing: Private J A Tally, and W E Doyle in left foot. Wounded: Corp E Lowder in head, E Maberry severe in left shoulder, Private E M Maberry, D D Nobles in right arm, John Dry.

Death of Gen R. D. Johnston.—Brig. Gen. Robert D. Johnston, commanding the 5th, 12th, 20th and 23d Regiments of North Carolina Troops is reported to have been killed at Winchester on Monday last. Gen. J. was from Lincoln county, where he raised a company early in 1861. This company was attached to the 12th Volunteers, (23d Troops,) and on the re-organization of the regiment, Capt. Johnston was made Lieut. Colonel. For his distinguished gallantry he was promoted to Brigadier General from Lieutenant Colonel, and assigned to the command of what was then known as Iverson's Brigade. He was a nephew of Col. William Johnston, of Charlotte, and graduated at our State University in 1858, with distinction.—*Ral. Conservative*

Wounded and Captured.—We have seen a letter from the Quartermaster of the Brigade to which the 23d N. C. is attached, which states that Col. C. C. Blacknall, of that regiment, received a severe wound in the foot and was carried to a lady's house in Winchester, where, on the retiring of our forces from that place, he, of course, fell into the hands of the enemy. The letter states that Col. Blacknall's command had a most important position, which they held with persistent valor and firmness, thereby saving the Brigade if not the Division. The regiment suffered greatly in killed and wounded. This is the third time that this gallant officer has been wounded and fallen into the hands of the enemy.—*Ral. Confederate.*

Gen. Beauregard.—Gen. Beauregard, accompanied by Col D. B. Harris, Col. A. G. Rice and Col. A. Roman, of the General's staff, arrived in Charleston Sunday morning. We learn that President Davis and General Beauregard had a long consultation at Burkeville, Va., last week, the result of which is said to have been highly gratifying, and will probably lead to the assignment of Gen. Beauregard to the command of the Army of Tennessee. The General will remain in our city until further orders.—*Charleston Courier, 26th.*

As public curiosity is much exercised concerning this distinguished hero, and more particularly at present with regard to his assumption of command in Georgia, we are permitted to give the substance of a brief colloquy between a gentleman and President Davis:

Gentleman.—"Mr. President, we have heard here that Gen. Hood has been superseded. Is it so?"

President.—"If so, I have not heard it and do not know it to be so."

Gentleman.—"We understand that Gen. Beauregard was to assume command."

President.—"Gen. Beauregard will take any command and to serve his country. He will pass through Augusta in a few days."

The quidnuncs are welcome to draw whatever conclusions they please.—*Augusta Constitutionalist.*

Southwestern Virginia.—It is reported, and we believe on good authority, that a large force of Federal troops are collecting at Beaver Creek, Kentucky, a short distance beyond Pound Gap, for the purpose of making a raid on the Virginia Salt Works. It is also reported that twelve thousand men (Yankee) were at Lexington, Ky., two weeks ago.—*Richmond Sentinel, 26th.*

The Losses in the Valley.—Gen. Early, we hear from good authority, puts down his total casualties in the battle of Monday, at 1500. The Yankee official dispatches say they lost 2000.

Lynchburg Republican, 24th.

Captain Semmes' New Ship.—The "London Telegraph" of the 10th inst says: An agent of Lloyd's reports that a large steamer is stated to have put into Nieduip, with signals for a pilot. She changed colors at Bremerhaven and hoisted the rebel flag. The pilot who took her to Bremerhaven believes she still remains there. She steams ten knots at half speed. She is reported to be commanded by Capt. Semmes, has three hundred men on board, and is pierced for forty guns. She is stated to have been built at Bordeaux.

HOW AN ARMY SLEEPS.—A correspondent of the Griffin Rebel says that the army of Georgia "sleeps with one eye open, and that one following the motions of Sherman."

An old friend in New York once said, that to succeed in business in that sharp city, a man must sleep with one eye open and one leg out of bed. The soldiers in Georgia have improved upon this; they sleep with both legs out of bed.

BY TELEGRAPH.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION

From the Valley of Virginia.—CHARLOTTESVILLE, Sept. 27.—There was an engagement near Port Republic on Monday between our cavalry and that of the enemy. They came over the river but were driven back 3 miles.

The enemy's cavalry entered Staunton about 6 P. M. Monday. A force appeared at Waynesboro' at 9 o'clock this morning, but went back a mile from town and have done no damage up to 4 P. M. Smoke seen indicates that they are burning the railroad track between Christian's creek and Staunton.

Up to 4 o'clock this afternoon no fighting between the armies. No serious anxiety is felt here.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Sept. 28.—It is difficult to get at precise facts. Both armies have moved, Early following the enemy. Reports say he will attack them to-day at Mt. Sidney.

It is reported that we whipped the enemy yesterday at Weir's Cave.

The enemy's cavalry are on a raid, their whereabouts not known.

From the North.—RICHMOND, Sept. 28.—New York papers of Monday contain no war news of importance. At last account's Sheridan, they say, was still in pursuit of Early.

Gov. Dennison has not yet accepted the Post Master Generalship.

A Democratic meeting in Lincoln county, Missouri, was broken up by soldiers, one man killed and three wounded.

Henry Winter Davis of Maryland has taken the stump for Lincoln.

From Europe.—RICHMOND, Sept. 28.—European advices are to the 12th inst.

The British press are discussing yankee politics, generally favoring or predicting McClellan's election.

The city of Nankin, China, has been captured by the Imperialists.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have received a demonstration in Denmark. They will visit Sweden and Strasburg.

The marriage of the Banker, Erlanger, [who negotiated the Confederate loan,] to Miss Slidell, has caused a sensation in Paris.

From the South-West.—JACKSON, MISS., Sept. 27, *via* MOBILE.—Certain [probably New Orleans] papers 24th and 25th[?] received. Banks has been superceded by Gen. Hurlbut of Memphis, and has gone North. Before leaving he published a five column letter in the Era full of his lies from beginning to end about Louisiana.

The steamer Colossus in Ohio river has been captured by 14 Confederate prisoners on board, who killed three, paroled the others, and escaped with their arms.

The Missouri campaign is said to be under Magruder, Price and Dobbins. Dispatches from Cairo say they are near Cape Girardeau.

The yankee iron clad gunboat Antelope, carrying 6 guns struck a snag six miles from New Orleans last Friday and sank. The steamer Saratoga was fired into on Wednesday nearly opposite Baton Rouge by Confederate batteries. Damage not known.

A negro was shot in Vicksburg on the 16th for desertion from the yankee army.

Canby has issued orders seizing all cotton sold by Confederate government to foreigners and delivered on Mississippi river.

CHINESE SUGAR CANE.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

Messrs. Editors: Many inquiries have been made of me in regard to the Chinese Sugar Cane and its treatment; allow me to reply through your paper. First, as to its poisoning cattle: My opinion is that the cause is similar to a theory which I have in private expressed as to the cause of the famous Milk Sick. It is a noted fact, in our mountains at least, that if cattle are kept up until the dew dries off from the green forage and driven in before the dew falls in the evening, that they never suffer from this sickness. Hence I drew the idea that it was caused by some poisonous exhalation which combining either with the Hydrogen of the dew or with some of the chemical elements of the plants—perhaps both—formed as long as the dew lasted a poison—say similar to Hydrocyanic (Prussic) Acid or some of its combinations. At any rate I am informed that the cane on the eastern side of our mountains or even of our common wild Cherry when wet with dew are deadly poison, but when dry from the sun are harmless. The similar theory I have in relation to the Sorghum is that its poisonous qualities, if it has any, are due to a similar combination of its acid with some other chemical constituent with the dew, and that the reason of its being more injurious to cattle in certain sections—swampy regions for instance—is because the dews are heavier and more fully laden with the hurtful gases in those sections. This is theory it is true but theory drawn from observation. Then too some may pull it with dew on, others in the middle of the day. Then again that cane grown on high sandy land is not so apt to poison as that grown on rich swamp or low land. Some think the cause is from the fibrous matter accumulating in the stomach and, being hard and indigestible, thus fills the passages and produces death. I do not think any one has proved this by opening the stomach of an animal, dead from eating the Sugar Cane; and if it were so the same result would occur in one section as well as in another. Whereas a gentleman of Sampson says his cattle died from eating the Sugar Cane, while gentlemen from Richmond and Robeson say their cattle live on it. I am fage with these ideas but they may serve some one, who has the ability, for foundations on which to base experiments next year.

My opinion is that sugar cannot be made to any profit from the Sorghum. The only part of the cane which will make sugar is that which has a red heart, and if it is desired to make sugar the butts up to near where the red heart ceases must be cut off and ground for that purpose. Some varieties have no red heart.

The experiments which I have made show that it is very hard for the cane to get too ripe, and if kept for several days after cut will yield less juice but more syrup, than if cut and immediately pressed. The saccharine matter does not evaporate, it loses only the watery acid. The gain is: saving of time in pressing and boiling. Thus: instead of making 10 gallons of syrup from 100 gallons of juice you make 20; besides, the syrup is better.

Again, after thorough experiments I found the surest way of making good syrup to be not to use any soda or lime. I boiled the juice down to say one-half and then added two or three buckets of good spring water, boiled down again and if thought necessary added more water and then boiled it to a syrup. If the soda or other alkali is added at the proper time—when the acid matter is far in the minority it may do good, but if added at any time when the acid has the preponderance it is almost certain to give the syrup that quality which blackens the teeth. The great secret, though, is in having the cane fully ripe. Still I think unless under very careful management that soda had best not be used.

My opinion is that high sandy land fairly manured produces the cane from which to make the best syrup.

A fine beer, and by distillation an excellent article of rum, may be made from the skimmings by putting to each half barrel 10 or 15 gallons of warm water—the washings of the pots. Some of the froth which rises in the last part of the process of boiling the syrup should, too, be added. This rum, well made, is said by judges to give egguog a better flavor than any other liquor.

Fayetteville, N. C., Sept. 27, 1864.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

The members of the Young Ladies Knitting Society are requested to meet at Mr. A. W. Steel's residence on Friday afternoon.

Sept. 29th.

LIBERAL.—At a meeting in Macon, Geo., on the 23d inst., nearly $35,000 were subscribed for the relief of the refugees from Atlanta.

MARRIED,

In Robeson county, on the 18th inst, by Alexander McIntyre, Esq., H. H. ELLIS to Mrs. MARTHA P. KELLY, late of Columbus county, N. C.

DIED,

In Raleigh, on Sunday night last, Mr JOHN KNOX WARDEN, of this town, aged about 44 years.

On Haymount, 22d Septr, JOHN AUSTIN LEWIS, only child of John Marshall and Sarah A. Bradford, aged 11 months.

In this county, on the 9th inst., PASCHAL ALEXANDER, infant son of L. A. and C. J. Page.

Of consumption, near Summerville, on the 5th inst., Mr. WILLIAM H. REID.

Salt for Blue Stone.—A farmer friend at our elbow says salt is an excellent substitute for blue stone, in the preparation of seed wheat. It would not cost much to try it.—*Asheville News.*

FAYETTEVILLE MARKET.—Sept. 29.

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

Bacon 5 50 to 6 00 Pork 2 50. Lard $5 50 to $6.
Beef 1 50 to 2 00 per pound, retail.
Beeswax 3 00. Butter 5 00 to 6 00.
Cotton 1 50 to 1 75. Coffee 12 50 to 15 00.
Cotton Yarn—20 00 to 40 00 per bunch.
Copperas, retail $5. Dried Fruit 1 00 to 1 50 per lb.
Eggs 2 50 to 3 00 per dozen.
Extract Logwood 6 00 to 8 00 per lb.
Flour—Super, $250. Family, $265.
Flaxseed 8 00 to 10 00 per bu.
Fodder 10 00. Hay 8 00. Shucks 6 50.
Green Apples 10 00 to 12 00 per bushel.
Grain—Corn $26 50. Wheat $30 00 to $45 00. Rye $20. Oats $10. Peas 15 00.
Hides—Green 2 50 to 3 50, dry 5 00 to 6 00.
Iron—Swedes 3 00 to 3 50.
Leather—Upper 20 00, Sole 17 50.
Liquors—Corn Whiskey $45 00. Apple and Peach Brandy $40 00 to $45 00.
Molasses, country made, 15 00.
Rice 60 by cask.
Sugar 8 00 per bbl; retail 9 00 to 10 00.
Soap—Family Bar 2 00 per lb., Toilet 5 00.
Soda 5 00, retail.
Nails 3 00 to 4 00 per lb.
Onions 20 00 per bushel.
Potatoes—Irish $10 to $15 bush; sweet $10 to $12.
Spirits Turpentine 3 00 per gallon.
Fayetteville 4-4 Sheetings, 1 62 to 3 50.
Salt 37 50 to 40 00 per bushel.
Tallow 3 00 to 3 50. Wool $5 to $6.

JOHN H. COOK, Auctioneer.

Fine Buggy Harness.

ON Thursday 6th October will be sold at Auction, 1 Set SUPERIOR NEW BUGGY HARNESS.
At the same time,
1 New Hickory Buggy;
1 Fine Buggy Horse
Sept 26 71 2t

Miss H. E. Crow will open a School for Young Ladies on Green Street, Oct. 3d, 1864. She is a graduate of St. Mary's Hall, Burlington, N. J., and a subsequent residence of two years with a French family in Philadelphia enabled her to acquire fluency in the French language. She has had five years' experience in teaching. She will teach the ordinary English branches and French.

TERMS PER SESSION OF TWENTY WEEKS:
English, $60 00
French, 25 00
One half to be paid in advance, the rest at the end of the session. 1tpd

Miss M. A. Dews will commence teaching SCHOOL on the 10th of Oct. at the residence of Rev. J. E. Hardwick. Terms $20 for ten weeks
Sept. 29. 71-8tpd

ENROLLING OFFICE,
Maj. Examining Board, 4th Cong Dist.,
Wilmington, N. C., Sept. 26th, 1864.

PART I—In obedience to Circular No. 45, Conscript Office, Raleigh, N. C., dated Sept. 17