OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1864.

THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST WILMINGTON.—Since our last issue, a week ago, very important movements have taken place on our coast. The immense armada which sailed from Old Point a fortnight ago appeared off Fort Fisher and the neighboring coast, bombarded that strong fortification, landed troops in its neighborhood, who were met by our gallant armies, whipped, and driven back to their ships. Fort Fisher is unharmed, Wilmington untouched. How long we shall be able to say this, is of course unknown, for it is not likely that a long cherished object of the enemy will be abandoned in consequence of one repulse. But let us rejoice and be thankful over the successful defence so far made, and look with hope for a similar result when the attack is renewed.

We refer to our news columns for such particulars as have come to hand.

THE ARMY OF TENNESSEE.—There can be no doubt that Gen. Hood has sustained a serious reverse, though we have no idea that it is so bad as represented by the yankee accounts, which are all we have as yet. The propensity for lying and exaggeration is so great that we might even doubt the whole story of the defeat but for the fact that Hood certainly retreated from the front of Nashville, and was pursued by the enemy south of Franklin. Of course he must have been worsted at Nashville, and probably also in the continued fighting which attended the retreat and pursuit.

The disaster is attributed to the fact that Hood weakened his army (whilst that of the enemy was being constantly reinforced) by sending off his 10,000 cavalry and a division of infantry towards Murfreesborough. Thomas became aware of this movement and attacked Hood whilst his army was thus divided. Precisely the same thing took place at Atlanta. Hood sent off his cavalry, and in its absence Sherman captured that important place. Besides this mistake, as it appears to have been, Hood was surprised at Nashville by a feint upon one wing of his army, where he massed his troops to repel what he supposed the main attack, whilst Thomas directed his principal operations against the other wing.

These disasters, and that at Franklin, (for we must call even a victory a disaster when it loses us 6,000 men, including 13 Generals,) would seem to indicate that Hood is not the man for the place. It may, however, turn out better than now appears. We hope so.

THE NEW HOME GUARD LAW.—We are favored by Judge Shepherd with a copy of the "bill to increase the efficiency of the Home Guard organization," and understand that it was passed substantially, though not exactly, in that shape. It provides for the consolidation of two or more companies or parts of companies, to form one company of 64 men, when called into service beyond the limits of their counties; officers to be elected from those holding the same rank, and the surplus officers to serve as non-commissioned officers or privates, but not to lose their commissions while so serving. A number of companies to be consolidated into battalions or regiments, the Governor to assign officers to command. A Medical Board to examine persons claiming exemption. The exemption of Ministers, by a former act, is by this act confined to those having the care of a congregation, and of millers and blacksmiths to those who are *public* millers and blacksmiths. In addition to former exemptions, this act exempts County Trustees, and regular and public tanners, shoemakers and hatters, skilled as such, and employed as such prior to and since 1st Jan'y 1863. These exemptions to cease in case of actual invasion or insurrection in the county in which the parties reside.

TREATMENT OF NEGROES ON PUBLIC WORKS.—We learn that there is unfortunately too much reason for the resolution adopted by our Legislature, remonstrating against the "cruel and inhuman" treatment of the slaves conscribed for work on the defences in this State. We have unquestionable information from one of the truest men of this county, that one of his own men, as faithful and obedient a servant as he ever saw, has come back to him "*a wreck*," and says "they may kill him if they will, but he will never go back to that work." The same gentleman informs us that he knows of two others who make the same declaration. This is a shocking state of things, as impolitic as it is inhuman, for policy not less than humanity imperatively demanded that these poor creatures, removed by public necessity from the care of their lawful protectors, should be treated with a decent care and kindness, and not after the manner of the vile yankees.

We understand that the owners in this county offered to hire an overseer, at their own expense, to accompany their men and look after their welfare; and that the offer was refused. It may be that there was no law that would justify the acceptance of the offer; but it would be well if there were. Unless something is done, we may have the woods filled with runaways—poor creatures who would never think of absconding from their masters, but who will not go where they suffer so deeply.

THE REPORTED OUTRAGES IN MILLEDGEVILLE.—We have seen a letter from a Reverend gentleman in Savannah, written three days before the evacuation of that place, in which we are requested to correct the story of yankee outrages on ladies in Milledgeville whilst Sherman held that place. The writer had been assured by Gen. Wayne that he had letters from ladies in Milledgeville stating that no such violence had been attempted; and that Gen. Beauregard, who was there after Sherman, has stated that it was not true that such atrocities had been committed. The Rev'd gentleman says that the story is unquestionably false, intended to excite public feeling against the enemy. He naturally concludes that a contradiction will relieve those who have friends in Savannah.

It is one of the disgraceful incidents connected with this amazing march of Sherman through Georgia, that the world has been treated to lies of all sorts by the people of that State.

Besides the newspaper statements of these outrages, we had had verbal assurances of their truthfulness such as led us to believe them unhesitatingly. It is due to truth that they should either be absolutely established by the Georgia press or as absolutely contradicted.

GOV. VANCE'S INAUGURAL.—This brief but patriotic production will be found on the preceding page. Since its delivery the Governor has been at the post of danger in the front, sharing in the general rejoicing at the triumph of our arms below Wilmington.

THE OLD ISSUE.—Congress has passed the bill to extend the time for the redemption of the old issue Treasury notes to the 1st July next. We are glad of it, but still hope that they will be hurried in, for the existence of two descriptions of currency, of different values, is an inconvenience, to say the least.

"BE NOT AFRAID, ONLY BELIEVE."—We cannot think it irreverent to quote these sacred words to one who adds to a business letter just at hand the following rather despondent remark:—

"I confess I feel discouraged in regard to our Southern cause, and mainly because our Legislators and Congressmen do not seem to have any common sense."

We too should have been discouraged, and fearful, and miserable, during these four long years of trial and suffering, if we had not had an abiding faith that our cause was in His hands who employed the above exhortation at the moment of raising the dead to life. And as He had the power and the will to restore life, He cannot lack the power, and we trust not the will, to maintain life—the life of a nation as well as the life of the Jewish damsel who died and whom He bade to arise.

Amidst all the alternations of success and defeat, from Great Bethel to Savannah, we have been sustained by a belief that it can scarcely be within the providence of God that peoples so essentially diverse as those of the North and the South are to be chained together in unwilling and unhappy union, or rather that the people of the weaker section is to be subjugated and exterminated; that the stronger may glut their hate upon the sight of our destruction, and indulge their lust of wealth in the appropriation among themselves of our substance. The very cruelties practiced upon us,—the murders, robberies, burnings, stripping of women and children of their all of food and clothing, and the thousand annoying instances of wanton outrage—seem to us to be permitted for the wise purpose of preparing a wall of eternal separation between the sections. It is true that we have suffered and are suffering; that disasters have overtaken us, and that the hearts of many have become faint under them. But these are only common incidents in the lives of men and of nations—by no means evidences of the withdrawal of the favor of Heaven. They tell us that "man's extremity is God's opportunity;" that when we despair of the strength of our own arm to carry us through in safety, we should look to His arm for succor. We know not how the efficient help is to come—how we are to gain Independence and Peace together—but we have never lost confidence, now or heretofore, that it will come, and so come that we shall all see His hand and acknowledge His goodness in it. "BE NOT AFRAID, ONLY BELIEVE."

THE CURRENCY.—It will be seen that the bill to carry into effect the views of Mr. Trenholm in regard to the reduction of the currency, its improvement and final redemption, has passed the House of Representatives. It will probably soon pass the Senate also.

It was elaborately discussed in the House, one of the last speeches being delivered by that venerable and experienced Statesman, Wm. C. Rives of Virginia, who gave to the measure his earnest support, declaring that he believed it would establish the currency on a stable and certain basis, insure our welfare, and avoid impending calamities. In reply to an intimation that the public debt would not be redeemed in full, Mr. Rives said he hoped and believed it would be so redeemed, to the last dollar. To that object he gave his heart and his efforts. He quoted documents to show that such men as Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Alexander Hamilton and Richard Henry Lee, had all earnestly favored the redemption, dollar for dollar, of the Continental money, and a resolution looking to its redemption was almost unanimously adopted in the Congress, though not carried out, because Congress could not regulate the matter, it being, under the articles of Confederation, entirely within the control of the State governments. And this was after their independence was achieved, and no pressing reasons of immediate policy compelled them to uphold the public faith. With us it is a life and death matter. We must uphold the credit of the government, and cannot afford to discuss whether it be well to do so or not. He denied that the bill would operate in favor of speculators. They were not the ones to hold Confederate notes or stocks. He believed the bill would benefit first the Government, as being the great purchaser and most interested in the reduction of prices; second, the middle classes living by wages and salaries; and thirdly the farmer. Mr. R. expressed his firm conviction that we should be ultimately successful in our present great and glorious struggle, and concluded with an apt and beautiful quotation from Thompson's Ode to Independence.

ALAS FOR GEORGIA!—Gen. Sherman reports officially that his entire loss in the march from Atlanta to Savannah was only 1000, that he was not at all molested by guerillas, that he lost not a wagon, but gathered a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and consumed stores and provisions that were essential to Lee's and Hood's armies. Alas for Georgia, that allowed an enemy to pass through 200 miles of her territory without molesting him.

But either Sherman or the Georgians state what is not true. They say that there are 1000 deserters in Macon alone which Sherman lost on his march, to say nothing of deserters at other places, and the numbers that Wheeler's cavalry are said to have killed, wounded and captured.

THE MAILS.—Two or three Richmond papers of last Thursday made their way through this morning. One or two of Saturday's came yesterday. None later have yet reached us. We cannot recollect the day when a paper from Petersburg made its way to this place, or when we received a Virginia paper in due time, and it is several days since a Goldsboro' paper came. The mails from the South are about on a par with those from Virginia.

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI PAPERS.—We are indebted to Dr. M. C. McGregor, formerly of this county, for a number of Shreveport, Houston, Galveston, and New Orleans papers of last month. Our contemporaries across the river appear to suffer greater inconvenience by far than the papers on this side, though we judge that in most other respects the war is giving the people far less trouble. Texas crops are most abundant.

COL. BINGHAM'S MILITARY SCHOOL.—We are requested to state, that the scholars at this School (see advertisement) are permitted to remain at school till they are 18 years of age—that is, provided they are good scholars and promise to make good soldiers.

A GOOD COLLECTION.—The collection in St. John's Church, in this town, on Christmas Day, amounted to $1964. It was in aid of the Ladies' Benevolent Society of the Parish.

A NUISANCE TO BE ABATED.—Mr. Foote of Tennessee has announced his determination to retire from Congress and "find in distant countries the home of a refugee." The more distant the better.

CAN IT BE POSSIBLE?—Have our Exchange officers suffered themselves to be again cheated by the yankees, as stated in the following paragraph which we find in the Richmond Examiner?

The Exchange—Captain W. H. Hatch, of the Exchange Bureau, who went to Savannah to superintend the exchange of ten thousand prisoners of war, is expected to reach Richmond on his return to-day or to-morrow. The exchange at that point was broken off after the Confederate authorities had given eleven thousand yankees and received four thousand Confederates. It is said the balance are to be delivered in the James river.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA.

In the Senate, on Tuesday evening, 20th inst., a resolution was adopted protesting against the seizure by Virginia of two trains chartered by North Carolina for salt transportation and prohibiting the use of our road for Virginia transportation until reparation is made. A salary bill was passed, giving the Gov'r $5,500, Treasurer $3,500, Sec'y of State $3,000, Comptroller $2,500. Also, a bill to grade Common Schools.

On Wednesday the Revenue bill was passed, and a motion to make the *Habeas Corpus* resolutions from the House a special order for the next day was rejected.

In the Commons, on Wednesday, a bill was passed to punish violations of the impressment laws. Mr. Carter introduced the Pool Peace resolutions defeated in the Senate, which were made the special order for Jan'y 20, 1865. A bill to secure the State salt works from interruption was passed, 54 to 34. Also a bill making appropriations for the State Military establishment.

In the Senate, on Thursday, a bill was passed authorizing the Gov'r to send $200,000 worth of cotton and tobacco north for relief of our prisoners. $259,020 was appropriated for the Insane Asylum.

In the Commons, on Thursday, the Senate amendments to the Revenue bill were rejected. That for the relief of prisoners [see above] was concurred in. At 4 o'clock, the Senate came in, and witnessed the administration of the oaths of office to Gov Vance, who delivered an address, elsewhere published.

In the Senate, on Thursday evening, a resolution was adopted instructing the State Salt Commissioner to make the necessary investigation as to the possibility of manufacturing salt in Bladen. And another punishing by imprisonment and fine of $5,000 any person interfering with the State Salt works; understood to have been called for by some late interference which led to the removal of the works from Wilmington. A number of acts of a corporation &c. were passed, which will be found in list of acts, and the Senate adjourned to 5 a. m. Friday, at which time it adjourned to 12 o'clock and then to Jan. 17, 1865.

In the Commons, on Thursday evening, a communication was received from the Gov'r in reply to a resolution of inquiry as to the settlement of accounts with Col. McRae, late State agent abroad—and a joint committee was appointed to settle them: Messrs. Leitch and Odom of the Senate, and Messrs. Waugh, McGehee and Murphy of the Commons. On Mr. Shepherd's motion the rules were suspended and the bill to grade the Common Schools passed. The resolution in relation to the Salt works, mentioned in Senate proceedings, was passed. On motion of Mr. Shepherd resolutions of thanks to Speaker Donnell and Messrs. Tucker and Stanly, Clerks, were unanimously adopted. The House adjourned to 12 o'clock Friday, and then to Jan. 17, 1865.

The following laws were passed at the late session:—

Acts to Incorporate—Wilson Academy, Chatham; Trustees of the Orphan Endowment Fund; the Bingham School; Chicora Collegiate Institute; Fayetteville Iron Works; Fay. Enterprise Cotton Factory; Ocknock Iron Co.; Confederate publishing Co.; Confederate Cotton and Woolen Mills, Richmond; Oak Hill Cemetery; Cavanagh Button Factory; Linville steel and iron Co; Cranberry do; Georgs mining and manf. co.; Leroytown do.; Blackmer Masonic Lodge; Jamestown cotton mills; Stokesbury Lodge, Deep River Transportation Co; N. C. Co. of chemists; Pee Dee Lodge, Stanly; Leaksville Lodge; W. R. Davie Lodge; Laplace High School.

To Amend—Act to restore the Courts; Convention's Salt Ordinance; anti-distillation act; Asheville & Greenville plank road charter; sec. 8. ch. 112 Rev. code; Shelby & Broad River R R charter; Sapona Iron Co's charter, Hickory Nut Turnpike charter; Oyer and Terminer Courts Acts; Roanoke Nav. Co's charter; Merchants B'k charter.

To extend time for registration of Grants, &c. Concerning Judges' expenses. In reference to Sardis Academy. To legalize advances to Insane Asylum. To permit 21 Magistrates to transact business in Wake. To authorize issue of certain coupon bonds. Authorizing chief clerk of the Treasurer to witness transfer of bonds, &c. In regard to fees of N. Hanover county Solicitor. Increasing members' pay. In relation to alimony. Repealing acts appointing tax collectors in Mecklenburg and Anson. Repealing act forbidding fish traps in Big Swamp. Authorizing payment of bounty to our citizens who have enlisted in the navy. To legalize an order of Bertie Special Court. To provide just pay to the Public Printer. In regard to Courts of Oyer and Terminer. In relation to qualification of Magistrates in the enemy's lines. In favor of estate of J. D. Wynn. The Revenue Act. To support Deaf and Dumb Asylum. To support Insane Asylum. Home Guard Act. For Local defence. To grade Common Schools. For relief of soldiers' families. To authorize attachments against corporations. To supply water in Fayetteville. To secure Salt works from interference. In relation to Watauga roads. To collect arrears of taxes in Nash and Robeson. For relief of indigent soldiers' families in Northampton. For relief of N. C. prisoners. To legalize Madison Co. Ct. acts. Providing for the military establishment. For holding Hertford Court. Authorizing sale of lots in Webster.

Resolutions were adopted—*in favor of*, W S Webster; of increase of soldiers pay; of Sheriff McBride; of Shff H B Guthrie; of Sheriff B P Melvin; of Tax Collector Ray; of the Junior Reserves; of Drury King; of W W Holden, late printer; of thanks to N C officers and soldiers; to the Junior Reserves and Home Guards; to Col J B Starr and his command; in relation to the Salisbury distillery; directing Maj Dowd to pay money in hand to Treasurer; in relation to expense of executing conscript laws; in regard to Public Treasurer; in reference to the employment of light duty men on active service; John Rhem's taxes; Doorkeeper's pay; payment of soldiers' bounty; commendatory of the N C Educational Association; relative to brigading certain N C reg'ts; making inquiries of the Treasurer; directing the Gov'r to correspond with Gov'r of Va. about salt; also with the authorities at Richmond in regard to disabled soldiers; instructing our Congressmen as to the same; in favor of Sheriff J W Steed, Power, Lowe & Co, Legislative officers, J S Montgomery, Gresch & Litchford, Virginia Atkinson, Sheriff Meroney; for protection of State Salt Works; in reference to Revenue Laws; protesting against ill treatment of slaves conscribed for work; in reference to making salt in Bladen; of thanks to Capt. Teague and men.

NEW REVENUE ACT.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE, Dec. 27, 1864.

Messrs. E. J. Hale & Sons:—As the Revenue Act is not yet printed for general use, I will give, with your permission, some of the material points which may be interesting to your readers.

There will be no re-assessment of property which is taxed ad valorem; but the valuation of 1863 will form the basis. The takers of the tax lists must be appointed at the County Court next after the 1st of January, unless such Court should be subsequent to the 2d Monday of March, and in that event a Special Court must be called to make the appointments. The tax lists are to be taken in the last 20 working days of April and must be returned to the clerk of the County Court by the 2d Monday of May. Every person in giving in lands and slaves will render the list as nearly accurate as possible, as to the locality and description of lands and the number and ages of slaves, together with the value both of the lands and slaves at the last assessment. If land has been reduced in value by the destruction of improvements upon it, or if slaves have died or become greatly impaired in value, provision is made to meet the change. In the case of land, the owner or his agent makes an affidavit stating how far the estate has been reduced in value; and if this is not satisfactory to the taker of the list, two freeholders are to be called in who will make with the list taker an adjustment that is final. In the case of slaves impaired in value, the owner makes an affidavit setting out the measure of his loss. If he has purchased slaves since the 1st of April 1863, and their value is not known or has not been ascertained by assessment in the State, the owner must give in these on oath and declare their value on the 1st day of April 1863. In the case of slaves subsequently born, the owner must list them as of the first day of April, rendering the value on oath. All other subjects required to be listed, such as debts due, money invested in stocks, furniture, cotton, tobacco, naval stores, &c.—will be given in on oath according to the value of the same on the 1st day of April 1863; and whenever the taker of the tax list is not satisfied with the valuation by the owner, he may revise and correct it. The valuation of slaves is to be made uniform through the State. It was ascertained by the returns in the Comptroller's report that a fair State average is $550. Each county now has its average fixed by the assessments of 1863. If in any county the average is under $550, it must be advanced in such ratio as will be as nearly equal as possible to the State average; and the clerk in making out his next tax list will fix the valuations of each owner of slaves by such increase as to conform to this change. The same rule will be applied, on the other hand, where the county average is above $550.

The tax on profits, dividends on manufacturing stock, steamboat and railroad, and on the profits made in buying and selling manufactured goods, cotton, tobacco, corn, bacon, salt, will be 5 per cent. up to $10,000, then 8 per cent up to $30,000, from $30,000 to $30,000, 12 per cent., and above $30,000, 15 per cent. The tax on lands, slaves, furniture, debts due, &c., is 1 per cent. $1000 of property is exempted in favor of soldiers, their widows and families. The poll tax on those out of the military service is $3.

The Bank tax is not changed. Express companies and Rail Road companies acting as Express men are taxed 20 per cent. of their gross receipts but are not subject to county taxes.

These items embrace the points in which most persons are immediately concerned.

With respect, J. G. SHEPHERD.

DIVIDENDS.—Bank of Fayetteville, 15 per cent.; Bank of Clarendon, 5 per cent.

THE ATTACK UPON WILMINGTON.

[See preceding page for earlier mail and telegraph accounts. The following is by the last mail:]—

In Monday's paper we gave all that had occurred up to Saturday night. We resume with the operations of Sunday, Christmas day.

Precisely at 10 o'clock, as the bells began to ring summoning the worshippers to church, the deep booming of guns from sea announced that the enemy's fleet had re-opened upon Fort Fisher, and the deep, heavy and incessant roll was kept up with terrible rapidity during the whole day, and away into the night, and all night, and all day yesterday, with little abatement until about noon, when it is probable that the gradually rising sea compelled the fleet to haul off, or at least slacken their fire. Up to 3 o'clock on Sunday the casualties in the Fort were 43.

On Sunday afternoon it was ascertained that the enemy had succeeded in effecting a landing at a point not far from the head of the Sound and just below the site of old Camp Wyatt, say 5½ to 6 miles above Fort Fisher and 16 from Wilmington. They were confronted by Gen. Kirkland, with such of his gallant men as were then with him, their object being to interpose between Wilmington and Fort Fisher, and to prevent their doing so. Their force became swelled by new regiments landed from their transports, ours by arrivals of some of the most gallant veterans on the continent. On yesterday Gen. Bragg assumed command in person, and at the date of this writing (Monday 7 P. M.) we have the gratification of being able to state that the communication with Fort is uninterrupted, with no yankee interposed between our troops in the field and our troops in Fort; that the Fort is all right, and the men in good spirits. The enemy's proud armada and terrific bombardment have, so far, been powerless to do anything against the "scientific sandhills" that line the New Inlet to our River, and which stand as a proud monument to the scientific genius of the chief engineer [Gen. Whiting] under whose eye our defences have been mainly planned and executed, and who, himself, was also in Fisher to watch the performance of his works. Fort Fisher and its defence will always be associated with the names of Maj. Gen. Whiting and Col. Lamb.

During the night of Sunday and on the morning of Monday two attempts were made to take Fisher by storm, but both were gallantly repulsed by our Junior Volunteers. We might mention many instances of individual gallantry then and there performed, but forbear, as we could hardly fail to do unintentional injustice, and we hope soon to have a full account.

Yankee prisoners say that the land force with the fleet consisted of four brigades of four regiments each, each regiment numbering about 560 men. Of these three landed, all under command of Gen. Ames. The fourth, composed of negro troops under Wetzell (captured at Plymouth) had not yet landed. Who and what our troops opposing them are, they will soon find out. They are just the same men that have been whipping them all along. We will be somewhat mistaken if this does not prove to be one of the worst failures that the united genius of Welles and Stanton has yet prepared for the arms of the United States.—*Wilmington Journal, 27th.*

Battery Anderson [where the enemy landed] is a small two-gun work, situate about 3½ miles north of Fort Fisher, and about a mile and a half from Sugar Loaf, on the Cape Fear river. Battery Anderson was garrisoned by all or a portion of Capt. Southerland's company of 10th N. C. Troops, who were captured by the enemy.

A yankee Lieutenant, captured by our forces, says that Butler has not yet landed. Weitzel, he says, commands a negro corps, not yet on shore. The whole force is commanded by Butler.

We learn that the enemy's fleet suffered severely in the bombardment of Sunday. Four gunboats were disabled. Prisoners report the loss of two gunboats on the Roanoke.

Capt. Wm. M. Parker, connected with the State salt works, we regret to learn, was captured near Sugar Loaf on Sabbath, while in charge of a small wagon train conveying stores to our troops.

North Carolinian, 27th.

The Carolinian has the following list of wounded in the first day's [Saturday] bombardment of Fisher, received in Gen. Hos. No. 4, Wilmington:—

B H White, C, 7th battalion; J H Johnson, F, 10th; B R Merritt, G W Britt, J W Ward, F, 36th; H Maultsby, Chas Grimsley, Wash Ragan, B, 36th; Morris Chappell, Matthew Hall, John McLaughlin, H, 36th; all comparatively slight, except B R Merritt, who lost his left arm. Besides these it mentions Sgt L A Clouse, 42d, John P Graham, E, 1st battalion, slight in hand, and seaman J F Huggin of the Chickamauga, thigh amputated.

Rev. Luther McKinnon, Chaplain 36th N. C. T., furnishes the Journal with the casualties at Fisher on the second day's (Sunday) bombardment:—

Killed.—Elias Davis, Capt McCollum's Co Junior Reserves.

Wounded.—36th N C T.—Arch'd Campbell, C, slight, arm; W J Ward, E, severely in both legs, right amputated; N S Toler, B, contusion, arm; Corpl L H Perry, B, slight, back; J J Clark, B, slight, knee; Corpl D P McNair, B, slight, head; Sgt Ballantine, B, contusion; Henry Stricklin, E, leg, severely; R Everett, E, contusion of both legs.

10th N C T—Corpl R W Best, fracture of frontal bone; Corpl A J Best, comminuted fracture, laceration of arm; M Vincent, face, contusion; all of Co F.

3d Battalion, N C.—W P Carriker, flesh in thigh, hand and leg; J F Lassiter, contusion of shoulder; W T Phelps, flesh, back; A W Graves head; Sgt Shoulder, fracture of jaw and wrist; all of Co C.

40th N C T.—Sgt P B Jones, B, contusion, face.

1st N C Battalion.—Adjt Brown, contusion of hip; P P Chapman, A, flesh, face; Quincey Carragan, D, hand.

7th Junior Reserves.—G M Long, B, slight, shoulder; Edw Duffy, reg't and company not given, slight, shoulder.

Navy.—Lt T L Dornin, toe broken; Saml Coley, splinters, face; W H Jolly, barn from gun bursting; Thos Cowdin, contusion; J S Briggs, do; M Pronsyons, slight; T Wilson, flesh, face; T Robinson, head, severe; A Wallen, contusion of hip, severe.

Capt W H C Strong, A D C to commanding General wounding, concussion of left hip, slight.

North Carolina Reserves.—We learn verbally that after the enemy landed three brigades above Fort Fisher, a force was sent to attack Fort Anderson on the river, and succeeded. The enemy held it for a short time, but was driven out by the Senior and Junior Reserves, with great bravery. The boys are said to have fought with great intrepidity.

Raleigh Conservative.

We are informed that the repulse of the storming party that attempted to capture Fort Fisher on Sunday night, is due in part to the gallantry of our Reserves. God bless the boys—may they long reap the fruits of their gallant conduct.

Wilmington Carolinian.

The True Spirit.—We learn from an entirely reliable source, that Nathan Milam, Esq., of Warren, one of the most wealthy citizens of that county, aged 63 years, did not read Gov. Vance's proclamation until Saturday night last. He determined at once to go to the defence of Wilmington, and left home on Monday for that place. He was accompanied by John Twitty, another wealthy and aged citizen of that county on the same mission, and we learn that other citizens of that county are arranging to follow. The gentlemen are beyond the military age and have been classed among the "original secessionists." All honor to them. If all our people, both secessionists and those who were opposed to secession, will imitate the example, the enemy will be beaten back without difficulty. Rally, people of North Carolina, to the rescue.—*Ral. Conservative.*

Several exempt gentlemen from Moore and Chatham have reached Fayetteville this week on the way to Wilmington. The first to arrive was the Rev. Harris Tysor, of Fair Haven, Moore county, who is not deterred by either age or calling from going to the post of danger. The satisfactory turn of events may have induced some of them to return home.

OBSERVER.

The Yankee Fleet.—The Baltimore American says the expedition against Wilmington is commanded by Admiral Porter. The land forces were conveyed by about 90 transports, (including the supply vessels,) and are commanded by Butler. The naval portion of the fleet—that is, the war vessels proper—number 64, including the largest and most powerful in the navy. The war vessels are in five divisions; the first of 16 ships, 116 guns, Com. H. K. Thatcher; 2d, 14 ships, 143 guns, Com. Joseph Lanman; 3d, 11 ships, 96 guns, Com. J. F. Schenck; 4th, 16 ships, 158 guns, Com. S. W. Godon; Ironclad division, 6 ships, 30 guns, Com. W. Radford. The Malvern is Admiral Porter's flagship, armament not stated.

BY TELEGRAPH.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION

From the United States.—RICHMOND, Dec. 27.—The Washington Chronicle of the 25th has been received, but contains no news of interest.

Advices from Nassau mention the arrival there from Wilmington of the Little Hattie, Banshee and Agnes, and the sailing for Wilmington of the Petrel, Little Hattie and Star.

Foreign news to the 14th is unimportant. The London Times argues [in favor of] opening negotiations to close the American war. The Times says it must come to that at last.

☞ No telegram was received from any quarter last night or this morning.

From Savannah.—A gentleman arrived in our city Saturday who left Savannah on Wednesday. Everything was quiet up to that time. Gen. Slocum marched in on Wednesday morning at the head of about three hundred men and posted guards around to protect property. No outrages had been committed. It is thought that Gen Sherman will not permit his army to go into the city. It is said that Sherman intends to request all residents to take the oath of allegiance. Those who do so will be allowed to remain, and their property will be respected. Those who refuse to do so will be compelled to leave, and their property will be confiscated.

Augusta Chronicle, 25th.

The Augusta Chronicle of the 23d gives some particulars of the fall of Fort McAlister and Savannah, derived from a gentleman who left Savannah on the night preceding the evacuation:

When he left the city several hundred families were without anything to eat. Provisions were exceedingly scarce.

During the past week several assaults were made upon our lines, but were repulsed signally.

Our works around the city were very strong, and the line in all probability would have been held had it not been for the fall of Fort McAlister.

The usual garrison of Fort McAlister numbered about 125 men. A day or two before it fell, however, about 600 more troops were sent to their aid. By its fall we lost between 7 and 800 men.

The Fort was attacked on the North side by Sherman's forces. No attack was made on the South, or water side. If the fort had been as strong on the land side, as it was on the water side, it never could have been captured.

Sherman transferred the heavy guns from Fort McAlister to a position from which he could shell the city in case he wished to.

The residents of Savannah did not expect that the city would be captured. They were totally unprepared for such a result. But very few of them succeeded in getting away. Those who did, were obliged to leave most of their effects behind.

The best order was maintained throughout the entire siege. All the whiskey was locked up. The stills were all seized by the authorities. The four local companies were assigned to police duty and kept law breakers quiet.

All the rice on the plantations in the vicinity of the city fell into the hands of the yankees. Some estimate the amount at 500,000 bushels.

The Confederate Government succeeded in removing most of its stores. The main loss sustained by it was the loss of the siege guns and the gunboats.

Both of the printing offices in the city fell into the hands of the yankees. We are informed both editors left before capitulation. Mr. Snead of the Republican left early last week, with the government funds of which he was custodian.

Our informant says that the Georgia militia—or "Gov. Brown's pets" as some term them—have behaved themselves nobly throughout the whole campaign.

Col. Kirk on another Raid.—Col. Kirk, with his own command and the 8th Tennessee, was at the Warm Springs last week. He did not, so far as we can learn, venture this side of that point. As usual, he levied a heavy tax on all citizens living within his reach. Mr. Rumbough, proprietor of the Springs, lost a wagon and team and a negro boy; Mrs. Garrett, one mile below the Springs, was also a heavy sufferer. Wm. P. Blair was captured, with the understanding that he would be taken to Knoxville.

When last heard from Col. Kirk was encamped at Paint Rock, five miles below the Springs. He has probably had sound reasons for "changing his base" before now.—*Asheville News, 22d.*

Supreme Court.—Opinions have been delivered in the following cases:

By PEARSON, C. J. In State v. Elick, a slave, from Granville, no error. In State v. Howie, from Mecklenburg, no error. In Caldwell v. Cowan, in equity, from Rowan, defendants entitled as next of kin.

By BATTLE, J. In Wilson v. Stafford, in equity, from Forsyth, directing decree for plaintiff. In Horah v. Horah, in equity, from Rowan. In Bringle's case (*habeas corpus*) affirming the decision of Judge Heath.

By MANLY, J. In State v. Dick, a slave from Iredell, error. In State v. Bryson, from Henderson, no error. In McCrachen v. Love, in equity, from Haywood, demurrer overruled.

Ral. Confederate, 28th.

Coming Back.—Many citizens of Western North Carolina, who went off to the enemy a year or two since, have voluntarily returned, and given pledges for their future loyalty and good conduct. Some of them, we learn, express themselves very emphatically as satisfied with their experience in the Yankee service. It is not, they say, the feast to which they were invited, and henceforth they are with the Confederacy, for weal or woe.—*Asheville News, 22d.*

Gunboats blown up.—A Newbern letter, Dec. 13, to the N. Y. Herald, says three yankee gunboats were blown up by torpedoes on the Roanoke, while on an expedition 8 miles above Plymouth. "The Roanoke river is a perfect network of torpedoes. A large number have already been taken up, and a still larger number are supposed yet to remain."

FAYETTEVILLE MARKET.—Dec. 29

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

Bacon 6 00 Pork 6 00. Lard 6 00
Beef 1 50 to 2 00 per pound, retail.
Beeswax 5 00 Butter 8 00 to 9 00
Cotton 1 75 Coffee 25 00
Cotton Yarn—40 00 to 50 00 per bunch.
Copperas, retail $5 to $7. Dried Fruit 1 50
Flour—Super, $285, Family, $300
Grain—Corn $25 00 Wheat $40 to $45. Rye $25. Oats 15 00. Peas $22 50
Hides—Green 3 50, dry 6 00 to 7 00
Iron—Swedes 5 00, country made 3 50.
Fodder $10. Hay $10 Shucks $10.
Flaxseed 15 00 per bu.
Green Apples 25 00 per bushel.
Eggs 4 50 to 5 00 per dozen.
Leather 25 00.
Liquors—Corn Whiskey $60 00. Apple and Peach Brandy $60 00.
Molasses, country made, 18 50 to 20 00.
Rice 75 by cask
Sugar 3 00 per bbl; retail 10 00.
Soda 7 00 to 8 00 per lb.
Soap—Family Bar 5 00 per lb., Toilet 8 00 to 10 00.
Nails 4 00 to 4 50 per lb.
Onions 35 00 per bushel.
Potatoes—Irish $20 bush; sweet $10.
Fayetteville 4-4 Sheetings, 4 50
Salt 40 00 to 45 00 per bushel.
Spirits Turpentine 3 00 per gallon.
Tallow 5 00 Wool $8 to $10

Corrected by R. L. PEMBERTON.

Municipal Election.

For Mayor,
A. McLEAN.
Commissioners,
Ward No 1. A G Thornton.
2 M McKinnon.
3 Alex'r Johnson, Jr.
4 R M Orrell
5. Dr. K A Black.
6 J R Lee
7 J C Pos [2tpd

A. A. McKethan declines serving as Commissioner in Ward No 5. John C. Haigh desires not to be voted for in Ward No 3.

Dec 29 96-2tpd

For Mayor, Maj. D. G. McRae.

IN these critical times we should have the services of a man of firmness and decision, one who knows the law and has the independence to enforce it. The name of D. G. McRae, Esq., is therefore offered to the voters in the ensuing election as possessing the requisite qualities, and will be supported by many who desire to be relieved from the present condition of affairs.

Dec'r 29. 1tpd

Blank Deeds for sale at this office.

NEW RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION.

From this date the price of the Semi-Weekly Observer will be $20 for one year, $10 for six months, $5 for three months. The price of the Weekly Observer will be $15 for one year, $10 for eight months, $8 for six months, $5 for four months, $4 for three months.

Dec. 15, 1864.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

There will be a meeting of the Young Ladies' Knitting Society at the residence of Mr. S. J. Hinsdale, on Saturday afternoon at 3½ o'clock.

DIED.

At the residence of her father, in this vicinity, on the 26th inst., AGNES, daughter of Barth'w and Minie H. Fuller, aged 10 years, 3 months and 2 days.

Near Brenham, Washington county, Texas, Nov'r 6th, 1864, JOHN WATKINS, infant son of W. S. and Frances H. Mallett.

AUGUSTINE SHEPHERD, Esq., was born in Fluvanna county, Virginia, May 27th 1789, and died in Wadesborough, Anson county, N. C., Dec. 17th, 1864. He was for more than 40 years a worthy member of the Episcopal Church.

"I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, Write, From henceforth blessed are the dead who die in the Lord; even so saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labors."—Com.

Departed this life, on the 22d of December 1864, in the 80th year of her age, Mrs. MARY FINLAYSON, consort of Angus Finlayson. Mrs. Finlayson was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church for many years. She has not only gained a large circle of friends in this world but we hope she has gained an inheritance which she is now enjoying at God's right hand in Heaven.

Near Green Lake, Richmond county, of diarrhœa, on the 8th Dec'r, HARRIET E., youngest daughter and child of W. R. and Sarah W. Lovin, aged seven years, one month and eight days.

Scenes seraphic, high and glorious,
Now forbid her longer stay;
See her rise o'er death victorious,
Angels beckon her away. F. A. L.

In Lincolnton, very suddenly, Mr. SAMUEL LANDER, Sen'r, at an advanced age. He was an old citizen of Lincolnton, and always enjoyed the respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens.

Of yellow fever, at Newbern, N. C., on the 11th Oct'r, Mr. DACLIFF O. WULFF, aged 59 years.

Killed, near his residence, in Robeson county, on Wednesday 21st inst., Mr. JAMES P. BARNES.

Mr. Barnes had started to the Post Office, and on his way was shot by three persons who had prepared blinds by the side of the road in order to conceal themselves, and who waited his approach. When fired on by two of the desperadoes he turned toward his home, but soon fell from exhaustion. Whilst lying down, one of the gang rushed upon him and shot him in the face, approaching as near to him as four or five yards. He lived but a few hours. One of the gang, (the one who ran up to him and shot him,) *he knew*. Mr. Barnes was 47 years and 6 mos. old, was extensively known in the county, and was a general favorite where he was best known. He was in the Advisory Board for Robeson county at the time of his death. The gang who shot him were deserters. The fiend (whom he recognized,) was a *free negro*. The whole community are greatly shocked.

James P. Barnes took a deep interest in the present great struggle for Southern Independence, was a man of very fine judgment, and very liberal in