NEGROES FOR THE ARMY.

From the Richmond Whig.

The proposition to put negroes in the army has gained favor rapidly of late, and promises, in some form or other, to be adopted. So far from exciting the repugnance on the part of the army at first apprehended, it has been called for by the resolves of many regiments and brigades, and is known to be favored by nearly all the principal officers. We do not profess to be very sanguine of good results from the measure, but we do not feel that, as civilians, we would be justified, in the present emergency, in opposing the use of any means which our leading military men assure us can be made efficient. To them this cause is trusted and especially to the General in Chief. It is known that he urges—with a warmth he has not, perhaps, exhibited in regard to any other matter of legislation—the passage of a law subjecting the negro element to military use. His opinion, at all times entitled to great weight, becomes imperative as to such a matter, when we reflect that the whole responsibility of our defence has been devolved upon him. If the cause should be lost, when any means of resistance that he had called for remained ungranted, the responsibility for its loss would rest upon those who withheld the aid he called for, not upon him. We prefer to have no share in such responsibility, and, therefore, urge upon Congress to adopt at once some prompt, compulsive and certain measure for raising such number of negro troops as the General-in-Chief may think he can use to advantage, leaving to him the organization, discipline and employment to which they shall be subjected.

We have intimated that our own hopes would not be high of very valuable service from this description of troops, but the military opinion is otherwise; and it is the military opinion that must rule, in military matters, while the war lasts. General Lee himself, freely expresses the opinion that the simplicity of mind, the habit of obedience and the physical hardihood of our negroes furnish all the prerequisites for the creation of effective soldiers. Discipline and drill will do the rest. A paper on this subject, written by Brigadier General Shoup, presents the military view of the subject very clearly and forcibly; and as it is a matter in regard to which our people desire all the light that can be thrown upon it, we assure ourselves that we will meet their wishes in extracting largely from what he has written. After stating that the subject has engaged his earnest attention from the very beginning of the war, Gen'l S. says:

"Napoleon declares as a maxim that 'the first quality of a soldier is the power to endure hard blows and fatigue.' It will not be denied, I take it, that the negro possesses this element in the highest degree. The common opinion is that courage is the highest quality, and, as if to meet that opinion, Napoleon goes on to say, in the same maxim, 'courage is altogether secondary.' It is to be understood, of course, that he here speaks of the private soldier. That courage is necessary in an army, and that of the highest order, is entirely manifest—but to understand this maxim it is necessary to consider the nature and organization of an army. There are, as everybody knows, three separate and distinct grades or estates—the private soldier, the non-commissioned officer and the officer. * * * * Real soldiers come to have no will of their own, but obey simply because they are ordered by proper authority. You will hear it said that this is a West Point notion; but in truth it is the notion underlying the whole military world. On this continent we are new hands at war. We are just beginning to learn what soldiers are. When discipline is properly enforced the soldier is so entirely in the hands of his officers, that the tone, character and courage of a command is entirely determined by these properties in the officers and non commissioned officers. Whenever there is misconduct on, or off, the field, it is to be charged to misconduct or neglect on the part of the officers. All soldiers know this. Thus while courage may be discussed with the private, it is most important in the two higher classes. * * * * * There is no necessity to make anything but a private soldier of the negro. The officers and non-commissioned officers should be taken from the most gallant and meritorious officers and soldiers of the army. Thus, to put a hundred thousand negroes in the field would require (say) ten thousand whites. In these ten thousand would reside the intelligence and courage of the whole. They would be, in some sort, the head or brains, while the negroes would constitute corporeal parts. Since these could be selected of the most superior character we should be able to produce, in a manner, yellow by a stroke, the most superior troops. Discipline could be made perfect, since the distinction between the several orders would be so entirely marked.

"So much for the theory. What has experience shown? It is by no means certain that the negro is so deficient in courage as is generally believed. If we are to credit the statements of travellers in Africa, the native negro is the most sanguinary warrior in the world. In their battles hand to hand they fight till either party is almost annihilated; and our very slaves are in great part the descendants of prisoners captured in war. We see the negro altogether in his servile condition. He naturally shrinks, without regard to appearances. He, however, makes a fearless sailor and fireman. The English have long used him as a soldier, and he has done good service. But the experience of this war are abundantly sufficient to show his adaptibility as a soldier. The enemy has taught us a lesson to which we ought not to shut our eyes. He has caused him to fight as well, if not better than have his white troops of the same march of service. Our prisoners from Ship Island and elsewhere declare that they are far the best sentinels and most thoroughly drilled of the Federal troops. I have myself seen them, in the hands of a single engineer officer, entirely without organization, work under fire, where certainly he could not have held white men. Now, if the enemy has succeeded in making any kind of troops of these negroes with all their non-commissioned officers and a great part of their officers blacks, how much better could we make with all these whites!

* * * * But it is alleged by those who oppose the measure, and here seems to lie the great difficulty, that they will not fight in our cause. Here again let us go to that highest of all authorities—Napoleon. He says in one of his maxims of war, 'a good general, good officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, good instruction and strict discipline, make good troops without regard to the cause in which they fight.' By 'cause' we are to understand the particular sentiments or preferences of the troops. This is the broadest and most positive enunciation of a principle which goes to the very foundation of the whole matter. It is strictly true, and proceeds from the very nature of army organization and discipline. It will be observed that he assumes the two higher orders, officers and non-commissioned officers, to be good. Such would be the case in the plan proposed. The truth is, troops always hold the sentiments and opinions of their officers, whatever they may be. Even the negroes that have served with our armies as cooks and teamsters, are as thoroughly enlisted in our cause as are their masters; and in many cases have been known to fight as gallantly as they. It is altogether a mistaken notion to suppose that it is pay or bounties that induce men to fight. These considerations may cause them to enlist, but once made soldiers, they find themselves in the hands of a giant that leaves them no power to escape—discipline. One who is not a soldier can hardly understand this, but it is not the less true. Nor is it patriotism, nor any other sentiment, that holds a soldier at his post. Give our troops—brave and patriotic as they are—liberty to go home to-day—removing all influence of officers—and how much of an army would you have to-morrow? The negroes, however, should be given pay, etc.

"The best troops in the French service are not Frenchmen—the Zouaves and the Turcos. What patriotism had the Hessians and other mercenaries that fought against the colonies? They did not fight voluntarily. They were soldiers, and had no option. A still more forcible example is to be found in India. There we see the extraordinary spectacle of a people held in subjugation by troops composed of natives. Indeed, voluntary service is the exception in the military world. Wars are not conducted on that principle, as we have ourselves found in this. The armies of Europe are to-day composed of men who are in arms entirely against their will. Who ever heard of the serfs of Russia refusing to fight because they are not freemen? All that is required, then, to make a soldier, is a good physique, without regard to his inclinations; and I do assert that the more simple-minded, the more faithful and obedient he will be—and obedience is the foundation, top and middle of a soldier's education.

"I speak now of heavy infantry. With the other arms a somewhat different rule holds—since more individuality is required—but the same is substantially true throughout. Thus the negro is excellently adapted for a soldier.

"The negro does not fight for the enemy because he is free. He has been tricked and forced into his service, and he cannot help it. Those who have been recaptured say they would rather fight on our side, because we knew better how to treat them.

"It is not true, then, that to make good soldiers of these people, we must either give or promise them freedom. On the contrary, it is my firm conviction that to do either would be to impair their efficiency and tractability. But the greatest possible advantage can be had by skillfully using their desire for freedom. The President should have power to declare free such of them as may from time to time be recommended for such reward, by their officers, for gallant or meritorious conduct. This would act as an ever present spur. It should not be to take effect at the end of the war, but be declared at once in general orders and the soldier should be given honorary cheverons to distinguish him during the remainder of his service. To say that all should be free at the end of the war would have little effect. The uncertainty and vagueness would altogether fail to impress a simple minded negro beyond a week. As well might one promise to free one's cook at some indefinite period with the expectation of thereby securing good dinners. But if it be held out as a boon within his immediate grasp, and which he sees conferred upon others every day, it must have a most excellent effect. Besides, to either give or promise freedom wholesale, would have a most pernicious influence upon the whole race. It is wholly unnecessary, and should not be done, as a mere matter of expediency.

"But, it is alleged, he would desert. No soldier who understands the potency of discipline could hold such an opinion. Whenever the officers and non-commissioned officers of a guard do their duty, the sentinels do theirs also. Remembering that there would be many roll calls a day by whites—that they would not only have to pass their own lines of sentinels, but through the picket and grand guards, (white,) it will be seen how difficult escape would be. Those who attempted it would be so severely and so certainly punished that few would make the experiment.

"But, it is urged, they would desert in the day of battle. This would be far more impossible than the other. There is altogether too much danger in that direction. They would receive the fire from both parties. The line of file closers would, however, be quite sufficient to hold them, whatever they might wish.

"It is said, again, they would revolt. Nothing could be more impossible. No scheme could be kept from the non-commissioned officers constantly at hand. Even if a regiment were to succeed sufficiently to come to an outbreak, others could not act in concert, and would be brought to crush the refractory ones at once. Besides the cavalry and artillery (white) would be ever at hand to destroy any that might attempt it. Mutiny is scarcely known where discipline is maintained. In the great Sepoy attempt discipline had been relaxed, and many of the English officers withdrawn. Yet, with organizations perfect, and with great superiority of numbers, they had to yield. Without officers of even the lowest grade, how manifestly futile any effort of this sort would prove!"

"* * * Can we spare them? By employing a part, those that remain could be more conveniently used. We would send back whites to properly superintend their labor; and the result would be a positive gain rather than a loss.

"My proposition, then, is to let the slavery question remain just where it is—put into service as many negroes as we can provide with arms and equipments—organize them strictly as heavy infantry, to be held for the day of battle—convert the white troops into cavalry, artillery and *elite* infantry—take all officers and non-commissioned officers from the most gallant and meritorious of our present armies, and introduce the strictest possible system of discipline—all with the greatest rapidity. The time required to accomplish this would be less than at first thought. The greatest obstacle in making troops is to teach and give experience to the officers. In this case we would have them, in great part, already made. The soldier is taught everything so far as the drill goes when he knows the school of the company. All drill beyond that depends upon the officer almost entirely, so that the time required would be that necessary for experienced officers to drill one company. Thus an army would spring into existence in a remarkably short time."

Mr. Gilmer's Plan.—In the House last Monday Mr. Gilmer moved to amend some resolutions reported from a committee by adding the following:

Resolved, further, That, notwithstanding this, we believe the Confederate States would consent and agree to the following:

"1st. That there be a separation between the United States of America and the Confederate States of America, each one perfectly free and independent of the other, the rights of navigation, trade, transit, &c., properly and fairly agreed on and settled.

"2d. That an American Diet be created, to which each party shall be at liberty to send delegates, each being its own judge as to the number and manner of election, and each party paying its own expenses.

"3d. The privileges of this Diet to be clearly and definitely defined and settled.

"4th. In this Diet there shall be but two votes, one by the delegates of the United States of America and one by the delegates of the Confederate States of America; and the acts of this body to be binding on the parties only when ratified by the House, Senate, and President of each.

"5th. In settling the boundary, let the States of Kentucky and Missouri determine for themselves, by a free and fair vote of the people, *bona fide* residents in these respective States at the commencement of hostilities."

Maj. Venable, of Gen. Wade Hampton's staff, has arrived in Virginia, having made his escape by leaping from the cars near Philadelphia.

TO OUR ARMY.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

Permit one, my brave countrymen, who from age and other causes is prevented from sharing your toils, sacrifices and privations, to note a few words of encouragement to you from the reminiscences of the past. Your country owes you an everlasting debt of gratitude; and I am one who has watched your endurance and patriotism, with deep solicitude and an unbounded admiration of your manly actions, amidst the perils through which you have passed. You are engaged in sustaining a holy, just and righteous cause; and without success we are *all* doomed to the most degraded condition that white men ever were placed in—*the slaves of slaves!* We are not yet reduced to the extremity to which our ancestors were subjected in their struggle for liberty; and out of this *they* were delivered and blessed with independence. "History is repeating itself," and although we may confidently hope that our distresses will not be equal to theirs, who of you would not be willing to endure the same, to obtain the priceless boon for which they were, and you now are, contending? I give, by extracts, a picture of the American army in 1777 and 1778, drawn by Gen. Washington himself and his compeers.

Gen. Washington writes to Congress: "I am now convinced beyond a doubt, that unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place in that line, (the commissary and quartermaster,) this army must inevitably be reduced to one or other of three things: to starve, dissolve, or disperse in order to obtain subsistence. Notwithstanding it is a standing order, (and often repeated,) that the troops shall always have two days' provisions by them, that they might be ready at any sudden call, yet scarcely any opportunity has ever offered of taking advantage of the enemy, that has not been totally obstructed or greatly impeded on this account; and this, the great and crying evil, is not all—soap, vinegar, and other articles allowed by Congress, we see none of—nor have we seen them since the battle of Brandywine. The first, indeed, we have now very little occasion for—few men having more than one shirt, many only the moiety of one, and some none at all. By a field return, this day made, we have no less than 2,898 men now in camp unfit for duty, because they are barefooted and otherwise naked. Our whole strength, in continental troops, amounts to no more than 8,200 in camp, fit for duty, and since the 4th inst., our number fit for duty, from the hardships and exposures they have undergone, particularly from the want of blankets, have decreased near 2000 men. * * * I sincerely feel for the unhappy condition of our poor fellows in the hospitals, and wish my powers to relieve were equal to my inclination. It is but too melancholy a truth, that our hospital stores of every kind are lamentably scanty and deficient. I fear there is no prospect of their being soon in a better condition. Our difficulties and distresses are certainly great and such as wound the feelings of humanity—our sick, naked! our well, naked! our unfortunate men in captivity, naked!! * * * For some days past there has been little else than a famine in camp—a part of the army has been a week without any kind of flesh, and the rest three or four days. Naked and starving, as they are, we cannot enough admire the incomparable patience and fidelity of the soldiers."

Gen. Huntingdon writes: "The camp is in a melancholy condition for want of provisions, and there is great danger that the famine will break up the army."

Lord Stirling says: "The complaints of the want of provisions and forage have become universal and violent. Every officer speaks of it with the dread of the probable consequences."

Gen. Varnum writes: "the situation of the camp is such, that in all human probability the army must soon dissolve. Many of the troops are destitute of meat, and are several days in arrear. The horses are dying for want of forage. The country in the vicinity of the camp is exhausted."

The historian says: "The returns of 1st Feb'y exhibit the astounding number of 3,989 men in camp unfit for duty for want of clothes. Of this number scarcely a man had a pair of shoes. Although the total of the army exceeded 17,000 men, the present effective rank and file amounted to only 5,012. The depreciation of the paper bills had now become so considerable, and the real difficulties under which commerce labored had so enhanced the price of all imported articles, that the pay of an officer was not only no compensation for devoting his whole time to the service of the public, but could not even furnish him with those absolute necessaries which might give him a decent appearance, or cover his person from the extremes of heat and cold to which he was exposed. Those who possessed small patrimonial estates found them melting away, and others were absolutely unable to appear in the character of gentlemen."

The record concludes by informing us, that in a few days, by extraordinary exertions, supplies of food were obtained and this glorious revolutionary army of "incomparable patience and fidelity" ultimately obtained liberty and independence which they bequeathed to us. Are we degenerate sons of these noble sires? I hope not, I believe not! Do not, my countrymen, be discouraged to hear that we have tories at home, who encourage desertion from your ranks. A page from the same history, in another article, will inform you, that that difficulty was more serious in 1776 than now. There is therefore no well grounded cause for despondency, or reasonable danger of defeat, if we are united. May God unite you, as a band of brothers, and rekindle the patriot fires of 1861, and our insolent foes will be compelled to retire from this carnival of blood. PUBLICUS.

True.—Renewed exertion, and increased resolution, are the lessons which misfortunes teach the brave. Fortunately, the horrors which the success of the enemy would entail upon us, if duly considered, make all sacrifice comparatively light, and all suffering easy to be endured. We can apply to ourselves, as a people, the argument addressed to men to persuade them to avoid the terrors that await the wicked in another world. It is better for a man to cut off his right hand, or to pluck out his right eye, rather than having two hands and two eyes to be cast into the outer darkness, so is it better for us, as a people, to endure any suffering rather than fall into the torments of submission or subjugation. We can take comfort in the midst of the worst calamity that yet leaves us free, by the reflection that subjugation or submission would be still worse.

Richmond Sentinel.

Arrival of Exchanged Prisoners.—We congratulate the friends of the returned Confederate prisoners, and the gallant men themselves, upon the arrival of 2500 more at the landing in James River. Over 1000 were brought up to the city yesterday, and the remainder are expected to-day. A large number of Federal prisoners will be sent down to-day in exchange. We understand Col. Hatch has been sent to Wilmington to facilitate the sending off a large number from that point. The authorities of both governments are heartily engaged in the good work, and will receive the heartfelt thanks of the poor fellows, both friends and foes, who are thus permitted to visit home and friends again. It is the earnest wish of every good man, that nothing may occur to stop so humane a measure. Gen. Grant is proving by his acts that the charges of Butler against him were not true.—*Richmond Sentinel, 22d.*

A NEW WAR IN INDIA.

From the New York Post

The English have another Indian war on their hands. It is not a mutiny that is to be suppressed this time, but an independent State, never under British rule, that is to be conquered and "annexed." Bhootan, a poor and isolated State, hitherto exempt from the ravages of foreign wars, has not only turned the cold shoulder to an envoy from England who penetrated its dreary wastes, but actually threatened him, so that he conceived that his life was in danger, and hastily retired. For this and other offences England declares war against Bhootan, and the Bhooteas are to be forced down the hill of adversity.

The history of this country of Bhootan is interesting. The best authorities say that it is about 250 miles in length by 95 in breadth, with an area of 64,000 square miles, and a population of 750,000 souls—having Bengal proper on the south, Assam to the southeast, and Thibet to the north.

Like the highlands of Scotland, it is a place of Mountain fastnesses and wild clans. Its people, whom few white men have seen, are rude barbarians, whose arms are the bow and arrow and the spear, and who are of Tartar blood, with broad triangular faces, small oblique eyes, and yellow skins. Their religion is Buddhist, of a modified type, and the country swarms with mendicant priests. The hills produce good iron; building stone is abundant; dense virgin forests offer inexhaustible supplies of lumber, and a narrow belt of valley land yields tropical fruits. The towns are few but are commanded by castellated strongholds, which are said to be formidable. The rulers are a Deb Rajah—who is the actual sovereign as well as the principal merchant—and a Dharma Rajah, or nominal king, who has no civil power, but is invested with a surprising number of divine attributes.

Such is the country and such the people that the English government has now resolved to add to its possessions in India. The singular exemption from the pains and penalties of war, defeat and vassalage, which the Bhooteas have hitherto enjoyed, is explained by the remoteness of their territory from the centres of British influence; and the sudden desire of possession is probably attributable to the British disinclination to endure a defiance—provided always, that the offender is weak.

The defiance came about in this way: The Bhooteas, being savages, knew no better than to descend from their mountains, like the Scottish reivers of the last century for predatory incursions into the territory of their neighbors, and they gathered spoils and took prisoners. The aggrieved victims, being vassals of England, invoked aid from their rulers, and an envoy was sent up among the hills last summer to recover the booty, release the captives, and remonstrate with the Bhooteas. He was insulted, albeit he was "the scion of a noble English family," as a London journal phrases it; and, his negotiation failing, he was able to save his life only by the compulsory signing of a treaty for the cession of the tea-growing region of Assam to Bhootan. This was too much for the Governor General's patience, and on the 12th of November he issued a proclamation declaring war against the Bhooteas. By the latest reports, it appears that the whole territory is to be annexed to Bengal; that the people are to be reduced and their forts taken (one of these has already fallen;) and that when these things have been accomplished, "there will be a survey of the frontier lands and a determination of the new boundary."

But there is one point to which sagacious journalists in London call attention, in view of the possible results of this new conquest. There is danger of a new mutiny. The London Daily News frankly says:

"The dangers to ourselves arise from three sources. Any demonstration against Bhootan is likely to rouse the hill tribes all along our northeastern frontier, and bring on a repetition of the miserable warfare in the swampy region in which the soil and the waters are the allies of the enemy. On the precarious chance of those tribes remaining quiet depends, probably, the behavior of the new subjects of our empire—the inhabitants of the Bengal Dooars and of the hills—whom the viceroy addresses in the proclamation before us. Next, there is the fearful climate of those forest grown plains through which our troops are now passing. It appears that Brigadier General Mulcaster, Colonel Richardson and other officers are already suffering from the fever of the district. Under such a liability our forces must depend largely on the good will of the inhabitants of the region, who can either assist or injure them to a very serious extent. Again, when the fever districts are passed there is the foe, planted behind his natural defences of rocks, glaciers and snowdrifts. Rumors about the condition of the Bhooteas differ widely. Some alarmists have it that the Nepaul Maharajah has furnished troops against us, and that the Bhootan forces are a worthier enemy than the Government has supposed; while very recent and more probable reports state that there are such quarrels among the chiefs and factions in Bhootan as will make the offenders an easy prey. Some are for propitiating and others for defying the British."

These suggestions give interest to the war in Bhootan; so that the progress of events will be observed with curious attention.

Nassau.—A gentleman by the last letter from Nassau, dated the 3d instant, speaking of the capture of blockade-runners from Nassau, says:

"Where now is her commercial activity—steamers leaving and arriving daily, and pouring into her lap the more than golden treasures of Dixie? All gone. In the waters of her admirable harbor, at this moment, float more than thirty of her fleet of law defying steam vessels, idle and without employment. There also are here sailing craft, which can be counted by the hundred. Her warehouses are filled with goods, for which there will soon be no market. Her stores, which, under the stimulating influence of the recent trade, have nearly doubled in number, will ere long be seeking tenants where no tenants are to be had. Rents, which have been inflated into fabulous proportions, will collapse. Laborers who have flocked here from the adjoining islands, under the inducements of high wages, will scatter to their former homes.

"The Tallahassee, the rebel war steamer, privateer, or pirate, as she is called, according to the respective views of the persons who are speaking of her, came in this port on Thursday, the 26th ultimo. It is said that her armament has been taken out of her, and that she is to be used hereafter as a blockade-runner. There are two reasons which render this very doubtful: First, she is a full rigged ship, and consequently is too conspicuous an object upon the water to be used for that business; second, the blockade running business is about used up. She arrived laden with coal, and sailed, January 31, with the same cargo. The attention of the Governor was called to her by the United States Consul. She sails now under the name of the Chameleon."

We must have *courage*, and to our courage we must add *faith*—faith in the justice of our cause, and faith in its final triumph because it is just; since the moral government of the world proceeds on fixed and settled principles, which limit the bloody wishes of tyrants, and will not allow the reign of wrong and oppression to be eternal.—*Ral. Confed.*

Sherman's March.—* * To accomplish anything decisive, therefore, Sherman must continue his march through the country, taking *en route* the great railway centres—Charlotte, Greensboro' and Danville. We should not be surprised to hear that, from Columbia he has marched on Charlotte; not that, in a few days, he will have possessed himself of that place. But then dangers begin to thicken around him. The very evacuations which his movements may force will add to the effective strength of our army in the field. Every day's march will weaken his forces and strengthen ours, and he will finally reach a point where he will be compelled to give battle under circumstances altogether adverse to him and favorable to us. His march resembles, in many respects, that of Burgoyne through the State of New York, and it will have, we have strong reason to hope, a similar termination. Gen. Beauregard who commands our forces in that Department is Sherman's master in all the arts of strategy and tactics. He will give battle when he thinks it advisable to fight, or decline it when he thinks that to avoid it is the proper course. And we may depend on it, that what he thinks the proper course, will be the best that could be adopted. We do not pretend to know where or when he purposes to meet Sherman, but we are firmly convinced that the yankee commander, if he prosecute his march towards Richmond, with the audacious purposes now indicated by his movements, will go to his doom. We believe that his army will be met and checked, and in such a position a check will be a defeat, and a defeat will be destruction. We can state, too, with certainty, that the best military authorities concur in this view of the situation.—*Richmond Whig.*

General Butler's Cotton Speculations.—The Norfolk correspondent of the Philadelphia Press gives the following revelations respecting Gen Butler's cotton operations:

A singular circumstance connected with Gen. Butler's cotton speculations has come to light. It seems that the chief of Gen. Shepley's staff, G. H Johnston, resigned several months since, to enter, as Butler's chief agent, into the business of buying cotton from the rebels in North Carolina. He remained at this long enough to make over $250,000 as his share, which he deposited in the First National Bank of Norfolk. A few days ago the Military Commission, instituted by Gen Grant to investigate the proceedings of General Butler relative to cotton, got wind of Mr Johnston. He heard that they would call upon him soon; but not intending to be outdone by them, he drew all his money from the bank and decamped in the Baltimore boat. They telegraphed to the authorities at Baltimore to arrest and send him back to Norfolk; but the shrewd Johnston did not go on the boat farther than Fortress Monroe, where he took the Washington boat, and landed at Annapolis. No one knows his whereabouts, although he is anxiously waited here. The Commission has proven that Butler received two fifths of all cotton brought here, his brother-in-law one fifth, and middle men, of which Johnston was one, two fifths, the Government getting but one half of that which was rightfully due it. You may expect even more astounding revelations than these.

The yankee Commander Below.—Our army before Wilmington, as well as at Newbern and other points of North Carolina, is now under command of Major General Schofield, one of the ablest officers in the Union army. He was associated with Sherman in his advance upon Atlanta, was subsequently with General Thomas in his late glorious campaign in Tennessee, and held the command, also, at the ever memorable victory at Franklin. He has his own splendid and victorious Western corps (the Twenty third) now with him in North Carolina.—*New York Times.*

Yankee Items.—In the United States Court at Trenton, New Jersey, E N. Fuller, editor of the Newark Journal, was fined $100 for publishing articles against the United States enrolling act. He pleaded guilty, and made a statement to the court which mitigated the penalty.

A staff officer of the Ninth corps writes that, as the Confederate Peace Commissioners were being escorted out of the yankee lines, one of them turned to Gen. Grant and said: "General, I am anxious to have peace, and I would be willing to leave the settlement to you and Gen. Lee." "Well," said Grant, "I propose to settle it with Lee this summer."

Two younger sons of the late Duke of Newcastle, who, it will be remembered, accompanied the Prince of Wales during his American tour, had a fight with carving knives recently in a London Club House, when the youngest, 19 years of age, was killed by his brother, Lord Arthur.

Negro Soldiers—Confirmations.—The Senate bill to raise two hundred thousand negro soldiers will, it is understood, be passed to-day in secret session. It is said a similar bill passed the House of Representatives in secret session yesterday.

The Confederate Senate, on yesterday, confirmed a number of military nominations, among them Generals J. L. Rosser and L. Lomax, who were confirmed major generals of cavalry.

Richmond Dispatch, 21st.

Negro Soldiers.—A vote was taken yesterday in Pickett's division on the question of employing negroes in the army, and resulted in a very large majority voting in favor of the measure.

Rich'd Sentinel, 21st.

Receiving Part Pay.—We are glad to learn, that the troops of this army are receiving a portion of the money due them as wages by the Confederate Government. They are being paid up to the first of October, 1864. Though our currency has depreciated largely since this money became due, still it is some source of comfort to the men.—*Pet. Express, 21st.*

Col Lamb.—A letter from Fort Fisher says, Mrs. Lamb, wife of the Rebel Colonel formerly in command of Fort Fisher, was permitted to enter our lines yesterday, and will go to Fort Monroe to attend to her husband, whose wounds are reported to have taken a bad turn, leaving him now in a dangerous condition.—*Yankee Paper.*

The casualties in the Brigade commanded by Col. Hedrick, amount to fifteen men wounded, during yesterday's fighting. The enemy pressed hard on our forces, but there was no one killed. The troops, as would be expected, behaved gallantly, and are now in a position to do good service for their country.—*Wilmington Carolinian, 21st.*

Deserters Captured.—On the 14th of February, fifteen deserters made their appearance in Lunenburg county. They were well armed, and marched boldly along the public road, avowing their determination to fight their way through at all hazards. Capt. Bolling of the 9th Virginia cavalry, and two or three soldiers, whose names we have not learned, determined to arrest them. Collecting some citizens, they made up a party of about a dozen, and taking a circuit, got into position in front of the deserters near Saffold's bridge. After the Captain had in vain summoned them to surrender, a severe fight ensued. Two of the citizens were wounded, and seven of the deserters. The contest terminated in the capture of fourteen deserters. The affair is highly creditable to all parties concerned. The citizens, with their double-barreled guns, stood like veterans.—*Petersburg Express.*

WAR NEWS.

From South Carolina.—CHARLOTTE, Feb. 22.—Passengers from below report that raiding parties have been to Union and Abbeville, S. C., and destroyed much property. This report lacks confirmation. The yankee force left at Columbia is said to be insignificant. A large yankee force reached Chester to-day. They move rapidly. The city is full of the wildest rumors and reliable intelligence is contraband.

Southern and Southwestern News.—CHARLOTTE, Feb'y 24.—The Bulletin is indebted to the Southern Express Company for Augusta papers of the 20th. They contain no important military news.

Gen. Forrest has been placed in command of all the cavalry in the District of Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, West Tennessee, &c. His first General Orders propose re organization, discipline, and the extermination of stragglers, robbers, &c.

The yankee Gen. Thomas's troops are being mounted for the (supposed) march through Alabama. Reinforcements from Northern Mississippi have been sent to Grant. Large bodies of troops are moving in the West and important movements are reported.

The Mississippi Legislature is about to convene in extra session, for the purpose (it is said) of calling a State Convention.

Gov. Brown's message to the Georgia Legislature commences by a defence of the State against attacks by the press for permitting Sherman to march unmolested through Georgia. The State, he says, was abandoned, compelled to rely on her old men and boys, and a golden opportunity lost forever. Had Sherman been resisted from the start, forced to fight and exhaust his munitions, his surrender would have been certain. He recommends the establishment of a military system, in no event to be turned over to the Confederate service, to be retained for home defence, [and then a savage assault upon things in general.]

What was saved and lost at Columbia.—The following statements in the Richmond Enquirer seem to be based on official information:—

Up to Tuesday last it was uncertain whether Columbia would come within the immediate range of Sherman's purposes, and consequently the public mind was not prepared for such an early solution of the question. The government had, however, just two weeks ago, taken the precaution to remove its specie, deposited there, amounting to several millions of dollars, and within the past few days all of the dies and plates belonging to the Treasury Department, together with the supplies of Treasury notes on hand, were safely conveyed away.

The enemy being in possession of Branchville, Orangeburg, and Kingsville, precluded movements upon the roads leading to Charleston, and an unfortunate accident upon the Charlotte road, cutting off nearly all the rolling stock of the road from Columbia, prevented the authorities from making use of that avenue to save other valuable materials in the city. A large quantity of medical stores belonging to the government were there, one-half of which were saved, and the rest, for want of time and transportation, destroyed.

The presses and fixtures for printing Treasury notes, in the establishment of Evans & Cogswell and Keating & Ball, were necessarily abandoned, together with the other extensive machinery of those well known firms. The first named establishment alone had 102 printing presses, and was unquestionably the largest and best equipped publishing house in the South.

The enemy's forces operating west of Columbia, reached the banks of the Congaree, opposite the city, on Thursday evening, and threw in a number of shells, to which our batteries responded. A portion of this column moved up the river during the night and crossed the Saluda and Broad rivers—the main tributaries of the Congaree, which meet near Columbia—a few miles above the city. During this movement Gen. Beauregard evacuated the city, and on Friday morning the enemy entered and took possession without opposition. The enemy's forces entering Columbia consisted of Sherman's main army, a large portion of which immediately moved up the Charlotte road, while another portion has moved down in the direction of Charleston.

Beauregard is managing the situation with masterly deliberation.

The Cruelties of War.—One of the most atrocious crimes perpetrated since the beginning of this war, was the shelling of Columbia, S. C, by the enemy, without a moment's warning. We are justified by truth in saying that two batteries were placed at commanding points on the west side of the river, and a bombardment opened upon the city whilst it was filled with women and children. Many of the houses were perforated by the missiles, and the flying of women and children from the terror thus created, is said to have been a most heart-rending sight. No demand had been made for the surrender of the city. On the contrary, the enemy's approach was silently and stealthily conducted. Some eight or ten persons were killed by the fragments of shells thus wantonly thrown into the midst of helpless noncombatants. We are informed, also, that after the surrender of the place, squads of the enemy marched about the city shooting down such citizens as they could find, urging as an excuse that they might be stragglers from Beauregard's army. There is, we hope, a heavy retribution in store for such barbarous conduct, and that it is not far distant.—*Charlotte Bulletin, 23d.*

Charleston.—On Thursday night, the 16th instant, our forces evacuated Charleston. Many guns must have been abandoned by our troops, but it is consoling to know that the Yankees got little else. There was no cotton at Charleston to gladden Lincoln's heart, and the city itself was little better than a deserted ruin. Several telegraph operators, all of them men of Northern birth, did *not* come out with our forces, but remained to receive the Yankees.—*Rich. Dispatch.*

Sherman's Army.—Many different estimates have been made of Sherman's army. Some think he has 60,000 men. We know he has four full army corps and a strong force of cavalry. His corps will not number less than 12,000.—*Ib.*

The Expedition from Knoxville.—We have reason to believe that the designs of the expedition, which was reported yesterday to have certainly moved from Knoxville, are not upon Southwestern Virginia, but that it is intended to penetrate North Carolina, and probably to strike the railroad between Salisbury and Charlotte. This force, consisting of several thousand cavalry, and supposed to be under the command of Averill, was, as we reported yesterday, at Greenville, from which point the main stage road into North Carolina branches off, passing through Warm Springs gap. This appears to be the obvious direction of the expedition. From all we can learn there is nothing to tempt them in Southwestern Virginia, as they have already damaged the Salt Works and railroad there, and plundered the country to such an extent that it is doubtful whether any considerable number of troops could be subsisted there.—*Richmond Examiner, 21st.*

Cotton Burned.—On yesterday Messrs. Holt, Brown & Mook lost by fire, in the suburbs of the town, 125 bales of cotton. It was, as they assert, unquestionably the work of an incendiary.

Salisbury Watchman.