

TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Fellow Citizens: The necessities of our country, as represented by our Confederate authorities, demand that you should appeal to your generosity.

You are aware, that in consequence of interruption to our railroad communications by recent movements of the enemy, the subsistence of Gen. Lee's army has become greatly jeopardized. For at least a few months that army will have to rely for subsistence upon North Carolina and Virginia alone. I am informed by the Commissary department, that the usual methods of collecting supplies will be insufficient for the purpose.

In reference to this point, I need only cite the authority of General Lee himself, who writes as follows in regard to a similar appeal to the people of Virginia:

"I cannot permit myself to doubt that the people will respond to it, when they reflect upon the alternative presented to them. They have simply to choose whether they will contribute such necessary supplies to the army as they can possibly spare to support an army which has already borne and done so much in their behalf, or retaining their stores maintain the army of the enemy engaged in their subjugation. I am a warrior, that a general obligation of this nature, rests lightly on most men—each being disposed to leave his discharge to his neighbor—but I am confident that our citizens will appreciate their responsibility in the case, and will not permit an army, which, by God's blessing and their patriotic support, has hitherto resisted the efforts of the enemy, to suffer now through their neglect."

It seems, therefore, that our all depends upon the voluntary action of the people of North Carolina and Virginia; and trusting that whatever you have to spare, will be promptly and patriotically brought forward for the use of our country, in its hour of trial—the following plan is submitted, which is being acted upon in the State of Virginia with the best results. It is understood also, that provisions will be received either as sales, loans or donations.

1. Let every citizen who can, pledge himself to furnish the rations of one soldier for 6 months, without designating any particular soldier as the recipient of the contribution.

2. Let those thus pledging themselves furnish, say 80 pounds of bacon and 180 pounds of flour or their equivalent in beef or meal, to be delivered to the nearest commissary agent.

3. Let the donor bind himself to deliver one-half of the amount above stated, viz: 40 pounds of bacon and 90 pounds of flour (or its equivalent) IMMEDIATELY, and the remainder at the end of three months, unless he prefer to adopt the better plan of advancing the whole amount pledged, at once.

4. Let the pledge of each individual, subsisting and furnishing the rations of one soldier for six months, be made the basis of larger subscriptions. Those whose generosity and whose means will enable them to do so, may obligate themselves to provide the rations of 5, 10, 20 or any number of soldiers for 6 months; while even the poor, who could not afford to supply the rations of one man, may combine, uniting one of their number, to make the designated subscription of, at least, one ration for one man for six months.

To effect this, I earnestly recommend that county and neighborhood meetings be immediately held in every portion of the State, at which subscriptions may be taken up; and that a committee of responsible and reliable gentlemen be appointed by such meetings, to visit on those who do not attend, and ascertain what can be raised at the earliest possible moment.

And rest assured, that no patriot can better serve his country, than in so doing. By this means every possible ounce of provisions which can be secured for the support of our army, may be made available.

Should you not, Fellow Citizens, respond to this call, you may calculate, not only upon seeing your own sons in the army suffer and be defeated in the field for want of those supplies, but you will have the mortification to behold them seized and appropriated to the support of the enemy who comes to destroy us. Advancing as he does, through the interior of the land, without either water or railroad communications in his rear, he is now subsisting by the plunder and the ruin of the people of South Carolina, and must necessarily do so, when he enters our State. Be assured, therefore, that every pound of bacon or beef, and every bushel of meal which you withhold from your own army, is a certain contribution to the maintenance of that of the enemy. You have, therefore, to choose whether you will feed your sons, who are bleeding in our defense, or our ruthless enemy, who arms our slaves and lays waste our country.

To show you, fellow citizens, the earnest impression I have of the necessity of this service, and that I will call upon you to make no sacrifice which I will not share with you, I have tendered to the Commissary Department one-half of my entire year's supply, and expect to put my own family upon the limited rations allowed to our soldiers, regretting that I have so little to offer. That which is left me to sustain upon will be doubly sweet, because it will be the bread of honor and independence.

Confidently relying upon the generosity and patriotism of a people to whom I have often appealed and never appeared in vain, I am, fellow citizens,

Your obedient servant,
Z. B. VANOR.

By the GOVERNOR:
A. M. McPHERSON, Private Secretary.

Special Exchanges.—The telegraph reported last week the passage of a bill by the Senate authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury "to receive specie from the several States and use it for their benefit." The bill was introduced some weeks ago by Mr. Orr of S. C., and is as follows:—

"The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That it shall be lawful for the Secretary of the Treasury, under the direction of the President, to receive specie from any State in the Confederacy on the terms following, to wit: He shall exchange the same at market rates for Treasury notes, and credit the amount of Treasury notes acquired against the taxes to be paid by the citizens of the State, in such manner as may be agreed upon between him and the proper authorities of the State."

The Conscription Business.—In the Senate last week, in reply to a resolution of inquiry, a message was received from the President enclosing a communication from the Secretary of War, which states, says the Whig, the number of conscripts assigned to the army from camps of instruction, 81,998; Deserter returned to the army, 21,056. Assignments under section 8th of the act of February 17th, 1864, 7,735. Approximate estimates of men who have joined the army without raising the camp of instruction, 76,206. Total number of conscripts, 66,586. Agricultural details, 2,217. Detailed on account of public necessity, 5,818. For details, burials and departments, not including drivers and mechanics, 4,012. Detail of contractors to furnish supplies, 717. Detail of artisans and mechanics, 8,960.

Quilfed Taxes.—County tax is the same as that levied by the General Assembly for State purposes, to-wit: One per cent on all articles and subjects taxed ad valorem, and the same taxes on articles specifically taxed.—Greens. Patriot.

FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA SOLDIERS.

CAMP BURNING CAMP, Feb. 27, 1865.

Messrs. Editors: Circumstances have long denied me the pleasure of even an occasional letter to you, but it would be presumption perhaps to attempt an apology. Long since I intended to have told you the particulars of a large Division Convention to renew our pledges of devotion to our country, and determination to resist as long as an enemy attempts to enslave us. Then, I intended to have given you an account of a grand Tournament and Coronation party by my brigade—who were the gallant Knights—who was the successful one—what lady was crowned Queen of Beauty, and such like. But all of these interesting events followed in such quick succession, as circled around them were other stern duties, that it was then impossible and has now become inexpedient.

Our resolutions for war and resistance had been adopted but a few days, when we were called upon by the enemy to endorse them on the field of action. But of all this you have doubtless heard the part taken by the third Regt. and the heavy fighting by our infantry on Hatcher's Run, &c.

The Railroad is again completed to Stony Creek and we are more convenient to our work than that place—still guarding our right flank. The situation about there remains unchanged, so far as I can learn. Indeed, if we can look at the roads and consult reason, all would agree that no move in force by either army will prove practicable for some time to come. Still we have seen enough of this war to convince us that the course which seems most impracticable is the one more commonly pursued. For instance, there comes a very violent spell of weather, rain, hail and snow, and the men snatch a little comfort from the reflection that the enemy cannot move—a night's repose has not been completed before a single sound of "boots and saddles," we change some of the spirit of their dreams; and they are off in mud and mire to meet the foe. Such things are constantly transpiring around us; so much so, that he is considered an almost fool who reasons at all. So, Messrs. Editors, you and your readers must attribute any lack of reason which may appear in my communications to this conviction (charitably).

But all eyes are now turned to the movements of Sherman, as he is making his fearless strides through States, and is now pressing the border of the old North State. We do not like the idea of a fire in our rear and there never was a soldier that did; and we do not intend to stand it. Do you want to know how we will avoid it? If no other way than Sherman we will avoid it. Gen. Lee will have his grand old army to open ranks from the left to the right, flank face his rear rank "about," and at the command "forward," with hearts of steel and

A devotion as pure as that which brings To his the Indian's offering. Yet as proud as that which the priestess feels While she nurses the flame at the shrine where the knells, Trusting in the God of battles, they will move forward against a foe flushed with conquest, and make them bite the dust or in retreat crimson the land they have made desolate. Your correspondent is firmly persuaded that such disaster will sooner or later overtake the enemy that now threatens our rear. God in His Providence will surely provide us means if we will but be true to Him and to ourselves. This struggle is just now becoming sublime, tho' it may all along be terrible. It is now more than ever a "time of the men's souls," and tries the stuff of which men are made. He who passes through this ordeal without flinching may take position alongside the noble few. Such circumstances as those surrounding us give birth to Heroes of whom any nation might and will be proud—Heroes for whose sake the country will be saved.

Then let a noble emulation spring up between citizens and between soldiers as to who can do most, endure most, and sacrifice most for their own and the public good. If property must be sacrificed, lay it upon the altar of your country and pray God to sanctify it. If your life is claimed sell it as dearly as possible, feeling that it is an obligation worthy of such a cause; and if die we all must, we will do so—exulting with the old Roman who "in sweet and glorious to die for one's country." Let North Carolinians arise and emphatically give the lie to the slanderous imputation on their characters that they were disloyal. Let every one do his duty and we will yet bequeath to coming generations a rich blood—and if at last we are overcome, then "Freedom will shriek as we fall." But, my countrymen, in the language of one inspired, "I am persuaded better things of you." So mote it be.

Yours, &c.,
MEMBER.

THE HILLSBORO CADETS.

HILLSBORO, N. C., Feb. 24, 1865.

Messrs. Editors:—"The Cadets" were ordered to Raleigh last Sunday morning (15th) for what purpose we did not know, but we hoped to get equipments and assist in driving Sherman back. It would have cheered the most gloomy to have heard the long, loud shout which seemed to shake the very hills. We took the train and arrived safely in Raleigh, were ordered to march up town, quarter in the "City Hall" and wait for further orders. We found the "City Hall" a large, warm and commodious room and made arrangements for lodging at once. No rations could be drawn on Sunday, so we "wicked Cadets" who obeyed the Governor's orders and violated the Sabbath and to furnish our own rations till Monday. Everything was plenty and we made out very well. On Monday we drew plentiful rations of flour and meat, the Commissary was making up for lost time. You ought to have seen what extensive cooking operations we had under way in a few minutes. After we were quartered in the "Hall" many Cadets found friends among the people of Raleigh, some who were peculiarly fortunate visited the young ladies, and we all had a fine time generally. The people were very kind to us. The Editors of the Standard and Progress seemed to vie with each other in praising our little band, but both seemed to infer that we were "too young too service and ought to be sent home to our mothers; when we get into action we will endeavor to show them that we are gallant sons of noble sires, who are not for hardship, suffering or danger, if in the discharge of our duty to our country and loved ones.

On Tuesday we were ordered to Hillsboro, but some prisoners having arrived we were ordered to remain and guard them. I left the Battalion on Wednesday doing guard duty and under orders to march to Camp Meigs. Capt. Tucker is in command of the Battalion, Maj. Gordon being elsewhere, and the next in command is He is a very fine gentleman. I neglected to state in the first of my letter that all the sick and several small Cadets were left here, but no Cumberland boy was left behind.

Very respectfully,
L'INCOGNU.

A New Rebel Pam.—The statements from abroad are too positive and circumstantial to admit a doubt that a powerful ship, flying the Confederate flag, is on the ocean. She sailed from the coast of France, coasted by a French and armed by an English steamer. She is said to be more powerful than the Merrimack, and her destination was thought in Europe to be Charles. The vessel is called the Olinde.

FOREIGN RECOGNITION.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

It is undeniably true that too many of our people, in the early stages of the war, placed too much confidence in early foreign aid to end the struggle, without reflecting that European governments are controlled, in their policy and action, by self-interest; and while we had an, we have no need not expect any favorable action of foreign governments until their interest prompts them. In the Revolution of 1776 this was the case, and it is certainly so now. We only received recognition and aid then, when we had deserved it by endurance, and when the interest of France and Spain, and particularly the former, determined her sovereign to come to our assistance. A recurrence to this interesting part of our history will clearly manifest this; and the circumstances and situation of that period and this will show when and how foreign intervention was then obtained, and the probability of it now. A war between France and England had only terminated in 1763, and France had seriously impaired her finances, and her military and marine establishments were in a state of weakness which could scarcely be imagined. France and Spain stood, in relation to the British Colonies, in nearly the identical situation of France and England now in relation to the Confederate States. We sent Commissioners then to them, under high expectations that they would give us assistance in separating from, and thereby weakening, the British empire—the great rival power in Europe; but we obtained no recognition, aid or assistance for several years. I here note the arguments then employed by Ministers in France against recognition. In 1774 the Count de Vergennes, the minister of foreign affairs under Louis XVI., a young man and who had recently commenced his reign, presented a memorial to the King in relation to the probabilities of maintaining peace with the other powers of Europe, in which he says: "If there is any power in Europe, that we perceive, there is a greater motive for security? We see by our side, an inquiet nation, more jealous of the prosperity of her neighbors than anxious for her own happiness; powerfully armed and ready to strike the instant it may suit her to threaten. Let us not deceive ourselves with respect to her. Whatever parade the British ministers may make of their pacific dispositions, we cannot count on those dispositions longer than their domestic embarrassments may continue. These may cease they may even increase to such a point as to determine the government to give this restlessness of spirit a direction against external objects. It is not without examples for the cry of war with France to be the signal of union to the parties which divide England." In 1776 the Count presented another memorial, in relation to the manner in which France and Spain ought to counteract the coming of the united force of Great Britain and her colonies. Upon this we have the reflections of Mr. Turgot, to show the ideas then entertained by the Cabinet of Versailles on the subject. He says: "In going over with Monsieur De Vergennes the various practical modes which the quarrel between England and her colonies may terminate, it has appeared to me that the event, the most desirable for the interest of the two crowns (France and Spain) would be, that England should conquer the resistance of her colonies and force them to submit to her yoke. The reasons for this opinion are, if the colonies should only be subjected by the ruin of all their resources, England would lose the advantages she has hitherto drawn from them, during peace by the increase of her commerce, and during war by the use she has been able to make of their strength. If on the contrary, the vanquished colonies preserve their riches and their population, they will preserve their courage and their desire of independence, and will force England to employ a part of her forces to prevent another insurrection. The suppression of an insurrection of the colonies from the mother country appears to me infinitely probable. Whenever the independence of the colonies shall be complete, and shall be acknowledged by the English themselves, there will result from thence a total revolution in the political and commercial connexion between Europe and America; and I believe firmly that all the European powers will be compelled to abandon all empire over their colonies, to leave them an entire liberty of commerce with all nations, and to be content with partaking of that liberty in common with others." The courage and determination of these colonies to preserve their independence, they will preserve their courage and their desire of independence, and will force England to employ a part of her forces to prevent another insurrection. The suppression of an insurrection of the colonies from the mother country appears to me infinitely probable. 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France and England to seize this occasion to support Maximilian in Mexico, and to re-assert the colony of Canada? When France declined to act it was said "The smugness of the colonies had proved itself formidable to Britain and their friendship became desirable to France. Having helped themselves they found it less difficult to obtain help from others." And Mr. Girard, one of the King's council of State, said: "We were not so proud that he (the King) could wholly for their sakes, (in making the treaty), since besides his real good will to them, it was manifestly the interest of France that the power of England should be diminished by the separation of the colonies from its government." The treaty first made public was one of friendship and commerce only, without stipulating any peculiar advantages to France; but an eventual treaty of alliance was secretly concluded in case recognition resulted in a war between France and England. War indeed ensued, France gave us her aid, our independence was soon secured and peace was concluded between France and England. The reasonable conclusions from the above are: First, we must unwaveringly and it possible unitedly, prosecute our defense—"help ourselves"—and thereby find it less difficult to obtain help from others. Second, it bring the manifest interest of foreign powers to weaken the United States, physically and commercially, and to maintain securely their power on this continent, we may reasonably expect recognition although it may involve a war with the United States. Let us, however, indulge hope of such result until we further suffer in this sacred cause, and if "the mind remains unshaken"—as I fervently pray it may—our independence is obtained and our highest hopes are realized!

Thriving Affairs in Robeson County.—A Lady writes a Reporter with Pensive Effect.—On Tuesday morning, about 1 o'clock, a band of deserters and escaped Yankee prisoners, 15 in number, and led by a Yankee naval officer, attacked the house of Mrs. Dr. McNaair, in Robeson County, and after spending nearly an hour in the attempt, forced an entrance by breaking down the front door. Mrs. Wm. Stanton, of this County, was staying at Mrs. McNaair's on the night in question, and being called by that lady to her assistance, soon after the attack commenced, promptly "reported for duty." An excited contest followed, Mrs. McNaair and Mr. Stanton both being provided with Col's repeaters and a rifle, which they used with fatal effect; one of the attacking party being killed and another wounded in the breast. We regret to learn that Mrs. McNaair was badly burned and her face otherwise injured by fragments of glass and powder. Mr. Stanton was also slightly wounded.

Mrs. McNaair and Mr. Stanton having exhausted their ammunition, the latter, at the urgent solicitation of Mrs. McNaair (who feared the desperadoes would wreak vengeance on him for the death of their comrade), retired, and she remained alone to brave their fury. On approaching her, the Yankee officer in command was so struck with her bold and determined mien, that instead of harrying her, he complimented her warmly on her heroic conduct, stating that she was the first person, man or woman, who had offered any resistance to his band.

They carried off nearly all the valuables they could find, including silverware and jewelry, six thousand dollars in Confederate notes, and a great quantity of other articles. The courage and determination of this noble woman savors more of romance than reality, but the incidents given in this article are literally true. It carries one back to the days of the Revolution, when the fearless women of the Colonies performed so many feats of wonderful daring. The example of Mrs. McNaair is worthy to be imitated by many of the male sex whose names are never to be forgotten in the history of the South.—Pittsburgh Telegraph.

Deserter Shot.—The artful deserter, who has been throughout this community by the name of Dial, accompanied by a young man purporting to be from Raleigh, by the name of Fane or Fant, was arrested in the Northern portion of this county, on Sunday last, and both shot. The circumstances, as we learn, are these: The party was closed upon while in the house of a friend and their surrender demanded, which was at first made, but subsequently, while yet in the house, both the parties sprung forward, one towards the door, the other the stairs case, but instantly Capt. Williams, an officer on recruiting service in the community, who was in command of the guard, fired upon Dial, the ball taking effect in his left hip and penetrating, as it is supposed, around the bone and passing out near the groin. Instantly turning he fired upon the other man, Fane, the ball penetrating his bowels, and is believed to have inflicted a mortal wound.

It has become a common occurrence for the stage coach, on the High Point road, to be attacked, and any deserter that might be on transportation turned loose.—Winston Sentinel, 3d.

LENOIR, N. C.—A private letter to us from Lenoir, Caldwell county, says: "We feel safer than ever in Lenoir. We have soldiers enough to protect this region, and there is, we think, no danger. Occasionally a horse is robbed over near the mountains; but deserters will be hunted out of their fastnesses. We understand also that Wataga will be put right."—Salem Watchman.

Camp Stakes.—The Greensboro Patriot sums up the operations of this camp near that place commanded by Maj. J. R. McClanahan. From Oct. 22, 1864, to Feb. 18, 1865, 17,000 conscripts were enrolled and thus disposed of: Light duty men assigned to various appropriate duties, 397; men sent to the field, 1,199; men discharged by Med. Ex. Board, dropped, or irregularly enrolled, 4,387; deserters received and sent to army, 438.

Bonded Farmers.—Congress has passed the bill to relieve agriculturists exempted and detailed, under the act of February 17, 1864, in certain cases. It provides that when all or any part of the bacon or beef, or animals out of which the meat mentioned in said act is payable, has been, or may be taken or destroyed by the enemy, and not recovered by the owner, the officers collecting the same may remit the payment thereof, in whole or in part, in proportion to the loss of the obligor, upon satisfactory proof thereof.

Important to the Reserves.—General Orders No. 8, Richmond, Feb. 25, direct that Generals of reserves will immediately place upon active duty every man belonging to that class who is not specially detailed, or has not been turned over to general commanding armies, departments or districts. They will organize them into convenient bodies, and will employ them rigorously in arresting and returning to the army all deserters and absentees. This service will, for the present, constitute the primary duty of officers of the reserve forces, and they will actively return to the generals of reserves for this duty all the reserve forces in active service that are not indispensably necessary in the field. It is not intended that these orders shall affect the reserves employed in guarding railroad bridges.

CONSCRIPTION EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

The following report of the Superintendent of Conscription has been transmitted to the Confederate Senate by the Secretary of War:—

Report of Conscription, Richmond, Feb. 17. Hon. John C. Breckinridge, Secretary of War. Sir: Your reference of the following resolution was received at this office on the 17th instant: "Resolved, That the Secretary of War be instructed to inform the Senate, with as little delay as possible, the number of conscripts who have been listed in each State of the Confederacy and placed in service; and whether there has been any failure to execute the law of conscription in any State by reason of any cause other than its execution by the enemy; if so, why it has not been executed, with authority to call for the means and the operations of the enemy have been prevented."

The following exhibits the number of conscripts enlisted to the army from camps of instruction at the close of the reports of the commanders of conscripts of the respective States: Virginia, 18,934; North Carolina, 21,448; South Carolina, 9,126; Georgia, 8,998; Alabama, 14,875; exclusive of operations of Gen. Pillow; Mississippi, 8,641, as detailed operations of Gen. Pillow; Florida, 392, since July 1864; East Louisiana, 31, for part only; a grand total of September 1864; East Tennessee, 5,297. Total 81,993.

It is contended that nearly an equal number have come into the service, and been placed in battle, who are not recorded in the camps of instruction. The returns are accurate to the four States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

In the month of June 1863, the matter of conscription in the States of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee was taken into the consideration of the President and placed in the hands of Brig. Gen. Pillow, who continued to administer it until July 1864. This has never been able to obtain any report of the number of conscripts in those States during the period of seven months. It is believed now, that much of the year 1864 was exhausted in the endeavor to get rid of the system of Gen. Pillow and to establish a new uniform and efficient service. It is believed that the returns, since March 1864, from those States are nearly correct.

In the States of Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi there has been "allowances" to execute the law of conscription for the purposes stated above. In the other States it has been treated with less uniformity and vigor as the agents assigned to the duty and the circumstances of the country would allow.

Where there have appeared diversities they have resulted from the difference in the efficiency of officers, the opposition of State authorities, the resistance of communities, and the exercise of the discretion vested in the Executive. In many cases, localities bordering on the lines of the enemy have required different proceedings from those applicable to the interior. In some of these, great leniency was necessary; in some, such rigor as induced the Executive to observe military measures with the service. In some sections the conflict of the respective authorities has been so great, that the military has been obliged to take a course of its own. Since January 1864, in all the States east of the Mississippi, the same general system has prevailed.

Instructions to local officers have been uniform with the special variations indicated. The difference in the returns of the four Eastern States is fully accounted for, thus: In Virginia and South Carolina there has never been exhibited the slightest opposition to the conscription law, and after the passage, large numbers of men raised into the service; in Florida, Georgia and through the camps, thus creating the law on one point to obey it in another way. In North Carolina and Georgia, there was popular and constituted resistance. This opposition was that while in Virginia there were but 14,000 conscripts, there are supposed to be 16,000 quasi volunteers; while in North Carolina there are 11,000 conscripts, and perhaps less than 800 quasi volunteers. In Georgia the case is different, and presents this sad spectacle: What is wanted was the justice against conscription that only about 9,000 have been returned, and yet, the people choosing their own mode of service into itself have sent, it is supposed, about 20,000 quasi volunteers. The contrast and the extent of this service is a sad and a grievous family and partial all inevitable disturbances in the administration of the law.

I remain, Sir, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Brig. Genl. and Superintendent.

Blockade Runners.—The Wilmington correspondent of the London Times writes on the 27th December:—"It would be rather a blessing than otherwise to the Confederates if the port of Wilmington were shortly closed. So long as the war continues there will be a demand for muskets, cartridges, medicines, blankets, army clothing and shoes, notwithstanding the abundant introduction of those articles which has already taken place; but it is doubtful whether a sufficient supply could not be sukked in through the numberless creeks and rivers which intersect the three thousand or four thousand miles of seacoast between the Rio Grande and Chesapeake Bay. These rivers are now becoming well known to the blockade runners, and, come what may, whether Wilmington or Charleston fall or not, it is absurd to think that the coast of America can ever be hermetically sealed."

Negotiations Abroad.—The New York Herald's Paris correspondent writes that the Confederate Government has made formal propositions to France and England that slavery would be abolished if recognition would thus be secured. And further, that if France and England would lend us positive aid the Confederate Government was prepared to return the assistance in kind. The correspondent thought the overtures were certain to fail.

The Quarter Master Bill.—In the Senate, last week, the Senate bill to abolish the offices of post quartermasters, post commissaries, etc., with House amendment, was taken up. The House amendment struck out so much of the bill as provided for abolishing post quartermasters and quartermasters engaged in the collection of the tax in kind. The amendment was agreed to and the bill passed.

The Negro Bill in the Senate.—This bill was indefinitely postponed by the Senate on the 21st, by the following vote: Yea.—Messrs. Baker, Barwell, Carpenter, Garland, Graham Hunter, Johnson of Georgia, Johnson of Mississippi, Maxwell, Orr and Wigfall—11. Nays.—Messrs. Bayne, Burned, Evans, Heery, Oldham, Semmes, Sumner, Vest, Walker and Watson—10.

The Virginia Senators, Hunter and Caperton, have since been instructed to vote for the bill, thus reversing the situation.

CONFEDERATE TAX NOTICE,
RICHMOND COUNTY.
THE Collectors with assessors will meet the Tax payers at the following times and places, to-wit: At Laurel Hill, on Monday and Tuesday 12th and 13th March. At Greensville, on Wednesday and Thursday 16th and 17th March. At Williamsport, on Friday 17th March. At Rockingham, Monday and Tuesday 20th and 21st, Superior Court week. At Steele's, Wednesday and Thursday 22d and 23d March. At Mineral Springs, Friday 24th March. To assess and collect the following taxes, now due, Tax on Privileges. Great quarterly rates. Additional tax on profits made by buying and selling between 17th Feb'y and 1st July 1864; Income, salaries and profits for 1864. Additional tax on profits exceeding 25 per cent, made by any corporation or joint stock Co., during the year ending 31st Dec'r. Also, 1 per cent on all agricultural property not heretofore collected.

Persons failing to meet us at the above appointments will have but one opportunity of making returns, &c. on Monday and Tuesday of April Court, after which time the books will be closed. Hereafter, gross amount of quarterly rates must be made promptly on 1st Saturday of April, July, Oct'r and Jan'y, at the Court House in Rockingham, or the penalty will be enforced in every instance. All persons in arrears for tax must meet me and pay soon, or the extreme penalties of the law will be enforced. L. W. McLAURIN, Tax Col. 83d Dist. N. C. Feb'y 26, 1865. 14212Ma

THE NEW TAX LAW.

On the 23d ult., the House of Representatives took up the tax bill, the pending question being upon its passage, the bill was read by sections, being read in section, the bill was read by sections, and rejected, and then Mr. Gilmer, of N. C., offered a new bill reported by the Committee of Ways and Means, with the 2d and 4th sections stricken out, and with two amendments offered by Messrs. Fenner, of Virginia, and Logan of North Carolina, (relative to exempting districts overrun by the enemy and the families of soldiers from the tax in kind) added thereto, as a substitute for the bill of the majority of the committee of thirteen, as before the House.

The vote being taken, the motion to substitute was adopted—yeas 41, nays 35; and the question being ordered on its passage, the vote resulted—yeas 44, nays 50. So the bill (as framed by Mr. Gilmer) passed, and is as follows:

A bill to be entitled "An Act to lay additional taxes for the year 1865, for the use of the government." The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That upon all subjects of taxation under existing tax laws levied for the present year, except as hereinafter otherwise provided, there shall be assessed and levied an additional tax of 100 per cent upon the present tax on the same subjects of and for the year 1865, including the specific taxes and all taxes on sales during the year 1865, whether made before or after the passage of this act, but not expressly excepted or otherwise provided by this act: which tax shall be payable in Confederate Treasury notes of the new issue at par, or in the certificate of indebtedness authorized by "An act to reduce the currency and authorize a new issue of notes and bonds," approved February 17, 1864, at the rate of one hundred and five dollars for every one hundred dollars of interest, but without any allowance for interest, and the same shall be collected at the same time with the other taxes on the same subjects under existing laws. And when any tax for 1865 has been collected prior to the passage of this act, the one hundred per cent additional tax thereon shall be collected as soon as practicable after its passage.

Sec. 2. In the year 1865, and in each succeeding year thereafter during the continuance of the existing war between the United States and the Confederate States, there shall be levied and collected the tax in kind on the products of property employed in agriculture as now provided by law, without deduction or abatement from the assessed tax on the property, so employed: Provided, That the families of soldiers in the army and those soldiers discharged or retired from active service in the field on account of physical disability, whose families are composed entirely of white members, and whose farms are cultivated exclusively by the members of the family, shall not be liable to any tax in kind.

Sec. 3. That upon the failure of any person, partnership, joint stock company, corporation, or any other association of persons, to pay the taxes levied by this act, at such times and places as the collector may prescribe by public notice, such persons, partnerships, joint stock companies, corporations or associations of persons, shall be deemed and held as defaulter, and shall pay a penalty of ten per cent upon the amount of tax due, and be subject to all the provisions of existing laws authorizing the seizure and sale of property for non-payment of taxes.

Sec. 4. If any State shall elect to pay the taxes imposed by this act upon its citizens, notice thereof must be given to the Secretary of the Treasury on or before the 1st of April next, whereupon he shall assume the problem of the tax for the State as applied and paid to the Governor thereof, and upon the payment of not less than three-fourths of the sum so estimated being made on or before the 1st of June, 1865, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the tax collectors in the State so making payment to suspend the collection of the taxes imposed by this act. And when the full returns shall have been received and the true sum of the tax ascertained, then the final settlement with the State shall be made and the sum of the remainder be collected, and when paid the Secretary of the Treasury shall give notice that the said taxes have been fully paid and discharged to the tax collector of the said State.

Sec. 5. That when the property (real or personal) has been injured or destroyed by the enemy, or the owner thereof have been temporarily deprived of the use thereof, or in the case of real estate, of the means of cultivating the same by reason of the presence or proximity of the enemy, the assessment on such property shall be reduced in proportion to the damage sustained by the owner, or the tax thereon may be reduced in the same ratio by the district collector on satisfactory evidence submitted to him by the owner or assessor.

From the South.—We learn from a gentleman who is just returning from the South, that Columbia is now entirely clear of the enemy, and refugees have been returning for three or four days past. About three-fourths of the city was destroyed by fire. Gen. Wade Hampton, with a patriotism and self-sacrificing spirit, eminently characteristic of his name; applied the torch with his own hands to his elegant family mansion, and saw it in ruins before he left the place.

It was reported that Thomas was preparing for a grand raid through Alabama and Georgia. For some time he had assumed command of the force in that direction, and the people were rallying to his standard with an alacrity and enthusiasm worthy the first days of the war. It is generally believed that it will be the roughest march Thomas has ever undertaken.—Pet. Ez., 27th.

East Tennessee and Southeastern Virginia.—