

THEN AND NOW.

From the Richmond Sentinel.

Eighty-four years ago, this Spring, Virginia and the Carolinas were undergoing an ordeal far more trying than that which is, once more, baptizing them in blood.

Let us recall some of the circumstances of that day, and note their analogy to what is passing around us.

Eighty-four years ago, last January, Cornwallis felt confident of stamping out the dying spark by expelling Greene from his position in the Carolinas or crushing him there.

Retreat was so much the custom of the day with the "rebels," that Morgan changed his base the instant he found Tarleton crossing the river.

The Broad river was not fordable in front of him, and there was a hostile army in his rear. His only escape was to the hills on his right, where he risked and won a battle at the famous Cowpens.

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But Cornwallis, having expelled Greene from the Carolinas, set about the re-establishment of the royal government.

Exactly eighty-four years ago, last Tuesday week, a body of submissionists responding to Cornwallis's proclamation, had assembled between the Haw and the Deep.

Overwhelming odds against him were contended with manfully. In this he was very successful.

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foremost in time for battle. They came, however, early enough to learn that Lee and Marion were in possession of Fort Mifflin, with all its supplies and stores, and that Rawdon would have, therefore, to surrender the fruits of his victory, and yield Camden up to the worsted Greene.

Subsequent operations eventuated in the evacuation of Ninety Six by Rawdon. Greene had practically gained all he sought, and from pursued became pursuer.

No campaign was ever fuller of the vicissitudes of war than that of 1781. When it opened, victory appeared to be irremediably attached to the British banner.

Friday next being the day set apart by the President as a day of Humiliation and Prayer, would it not be well that our people—of all parties—should make it a subject of deep meditation?

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FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA SOLDIERS.

CONSPIRACY OF THE PATRIOTIC SOLDIERS.

CAMP MORRIS'S BRIGADE, Near Petersburg, Va., Feb'y 27, 1865.

Messrs. Editors:—Perhaps I may have been regarded as negligent and indifferent as your correspondent for not appearing in your columns for several weeks past.

We have been on the line in front of the enemy several miles southwest of Petersburg during the winter. The weather has often been extremely severe, but the troops have all enjoyed much of comfort and very good health.

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EXTORTIONERS.

In a book of Judge Johnson, of South Carolina, a story is told, intended to illustrate the bargaining and avaricious traits of New England money lovers, which, with some modification, we may apply with equal justice to our own extortioners and speculators.

"I instantly set to work and published the following advertisement: 'Wanted to purchase, immediately, twenty five acres of land, being very anxious to obtain them, and having abundance of money, the purchaser is willing to allow a high price, and to pay the cash down.'

"Expecting, of course, great difficulty in finding out persons willing to sell, I employed some of the day in circulating this notice as widely as possible. Upon returning to my house, however, I found several hundred persons already assembled to treat with me.

"The above may serve as a specimen of my purchases. I soon bought the twenty five acres at prices ranging from two to ten dollars, as the fear of the advance of the seller predominated. To number the last, as the company perceived that my words were nearly made up, great competition was excited, and prices fell exceedingly.

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THE NEGRO SOLDIER BILL.

The injunction of sequestration having been removed, we publish the following bill adopted by the House of Representatives on the 20th ult. "to be entitled An Act to increase the military forces of the Confederate States.

1. That the Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That in order to provide additional forces to repel invasion, maintain the right of possession of the Confederate States, secure their independence and preserve their institutions, the President be and he is hereby authorized to ask for and accept from the owners of slaves the services of such number of able-bodied negro men as he may deem expedient, for and during the war, to perform military service in whatever capacity he may direct.

2. That the General in Chief be authorized to organize the said slaves into companies, battalions, regiments and brigades under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe, and to be commanded by such officers as the President may appoint.

3. That while employed in the service the said troops shall receive the same rations, clothing and compensation as are allowed to other troops in the same branch of the service.

4. That if, under the provisions of this act, the President shall not be able to raise a sufficient number of troops to prosecute the war successfully and maintain the sovereignty of the States and the independence of the Confederate States, then he is hereby authorized to call on each State whenever he thinks it expedient for her quota of three hundred thousand troops in addition to those subject to military service under existing laws, or so many thereof as the President may deem necessary for the purposes herein mentioned, to be raised from such classes irrespective of the color of the population in each State as the proper authorities thereof may determine.

5. That nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize a change in the relation which said slaves shall bear towards their owners as property, except by the consent of the owners and of the States in which they may reside, and in pursuance of the laws thereof.

The bill passed by the following vote: Yeas—Messrs. Aikin, Anderson, Atkins, Barkeley, Baylor, Blanford, Bradley, B. M. Bruce, H. W. Bruce, Clayton, Cluser, Collier, Conrad, Dickinson, Dupre, Elliott, Farrow, Foster, Fox, Gales, Gilchrist, Gooch, Gray, Hamby, Hinton, Johnston, Keable, Lyon, Madsen, McMillin, Mims, Miller, Moore, Pugh, Reed, Russell, Simpson, W. G. Smith, South, Triplett and Vickers—40. Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Batson, Bell, Branch, Bledsoe, Carroll, Christian, Clarke, Conroy, Crutcher, Gaskin, Harbison, Hatcher, Herbert, Hill, Hoggins, J. M. Jones, J. T. Leach, Lucas, McCall, McCallum, Miles, Patton, Ramsey, Rogers, Sexton, J. M. Smith, Smith of N. C., Swan, Wickham, Wilkes, Witherspoon and Mr. Speaker—37.

Yankee Finances.—The principal element of weakness and explosion in the financial system of the Federal government is thus succinctly pointed out in the money article of a recent number of the London Times: "The financial advisers from New York this week show that anxiety has in some quarters been awakened as to the results that must ensue if the government do not immediately desist from the issue of bonds bearing interest in gold.

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THE YANKEES IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

We find in the Charlotte Bulletin the following correspondence between Gen. Sherman and Gen. Hampton, officially furnished by General Secourge's Adjutant General: HQ'S MILITARY DIV. OF THE ARMY. In the Field, Feb 24, 1865.

Lieut. Gen. Wade Hampton, Commanding Cavalry Forces, U. S. A.—General: It is officially reported to me that our foraging parties are plundered after capture, and labelled "Death to all Foragers." One instance of a Lieutenant and seven men near Chesterville, and another of 20 "near a ravine, 80 rods from the main road," about three miles from Reaserville. I have ordered a similar number of prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in like manner.

I hold about 1,000 prisoners captured in various ways, and see stand it as long as you, but I hardly think those numbers are committed with your knowledge; and would suggest that you give notice to the people at large that every life taken by them simply results in the death of one of your Confederates.

Of course you cannot question my right to forage on the country. It is a war right as old as history. The manner of exercising it varies with circumstances, and if the civil authorities will supply my requisitions, I will forbear all foraging. But I find no civil authorities who can respond to calls for forage, or provisions, and therefore must collect directly of the people. I have no doubt this is the occasion of much misbehavior on the part of our men, but I cannot permit an enemy to be punished with whole-sale murder. Personally I regret the bitter feelings engendered by this war, but they were to be expected, and I simply allege that those who struck the first blow, and made war inevitable, ought not in fairness to reproach us for the natural consequences. I merely assert our war right to forage, and my resolve to protect my forager, to the extent of life for life.

I am, with respect, your obedient serv't, W. T. SHERMAN, Maj. Gen. U. S. A. HEAD QUARTERS IN THE FIELD. February 27, 1865. Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, U. S. Army.—General: Your communication of the 24th inst., reached me to-day. In it you state that it has been officially reported that your foraging parties were "murdered" after capture, and you go on to say that you had "ordered a similar number of prisoners in our hands to be disposed of in like manner." That is to say, you have ordered a number of Confederate soldiers to be "murdered." You characterize your order in proper terms, for the public voice even in your own country, where it seldom dares to express itself in vindication of truth, honor or justice, will surely exclaim with you in pronouncing you guilty of murder, if your order is carried out.

Before dismissing this portion of your letter, I beg to assure you that every soldier of mine "murdered" by you, I shall have executed at once 1000 of yours, giving, in all cases, preference to any officers who may be in my hands.

In reference to the statement you make regarding the death of your foragers, I have only to say that I know nothing of it; that no orders given by me authorize the killing of prisoners after capture, and that I do not believe that my men killed any of yours except under circumstances in which it was perfectly legitimate and proper they should kill them.

It is a part of the system of the thieves whom you designate as your foragers, to fire the dwellings of those citizens whom they have robbed. To check this inhuman system, which is justly execrated by every civilized nation, I have directed my men to shoot down all of your men who are caught burning houses. This order shall remain in force, as long as you disgrace the profession of arms by allowing your men to destroy private dwellings.

You say that I cannot, of course, question your right to forage on the country. "It is a right as old as history." I do not, sir, question this right. But there is a right older even than this, and one more inalienable—the right that every man who has a home, and to protect those who are dependent upon him. And from my heart I wish that every old man and boy in my country, who can fire a gun, would shoot down, as he would a wild beast, the men who are desolating their land, burning their houses, and insulting their women.

You are particular in defining and claiming "war rights." May I ask if you enumerate among them the right to fire upon a defenceless citizen without notice; to burn that city to the ground after it had been surrendered by the authorities, who claimed, though in vain, that protection which is always accorded in civilized warfare to non-combatants; to fire the dwelling-houses of citizens, after robbing them, and to perpetrate even darker crimes than these—crimes too black to be mentioned?

You have permitted, if you have not ordered, the commission of these offences against humanity and the rules of war. You fired into the city of Columbia without a word of warning. After its surrender by the Mayor, who demanded protection to private property, you laid the whole city in ashes, leaving amid its ruins thousands of old men and helpless women and children, who are likely to perish of starvation and exposure. Your line of march can be traced by the lurid light of burning houses, and in more than one household there is an agony far more bitter than that of death.

The Indians scalped his victim regardless of sex or age, but with all his barbarity, he always respected the persons of his female captives. Your soldiers, more savage than the Indians, insult those whose natural protectors are absent.

In conclusion, I have only to request that whenever you have any of my men "disposed of" or "murdered," for the terms appear to be synonymous with you, you will let me hear of it, in order that I may know what action to take in the matter. In the meantime I shall hold fifty six of your men as hostages for those whom you have ordered to be executed. I am yours, &c., WADE HAMPTON, Lieut. Gen'l.

Yankee News.—RICHMOND, March 9.—The Baltimore American of the 8d reports the destruction of Columbia by order of Gen. Sherman without giving any particulars. An emissary from Maximilian is reported at City Point endeavoring to get through the Yankee lines for the purpose of visiting the Confederate capital.