

J. J. BRUNER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Price of the Paper.

We find it absolutely necessary to ensure ourselves against loss in publishing the paper, to advance the rates of subscription. The price will, therefore, be, from the 7th instant, THREE DOLLARS for Six months. For the present, subscriptions will not be received for a longer time. December 7, 1863.

For the Watchman.

ON SLANDER.

Slander is that conduct, which injuriously lessens or destroys another's reputation. In most cases, words are made the vehicle of slander, &c.

In writing on this subject, the reader may regard it as plagiarism, which to a certain extent, I admit, for I am nothing, nor have nothing, that I can claim as my own; all is borrowed or given without merit.

But what I have seen, heard, and felt; liberty to tell in the spirit of forbearance, that with the blessing of God it may do good.

God and all good men, have abhorred evil speaking. God said to Israel of old, Thou shalt not go up and down as a tale bearer; thou shalt not raise a false report. David said he would cut off the man who slandered his neighbor privily. But one and another will say, I say nothing but what is true; another will say, if I am called on, the truth will have to come. How many rumors are afloat about this and that one. We may tell the truth and yet be guilty of evil speaking; for it is hard to tell a tale just as we heard it, and equally hard to make a tale, and always tell it precisely the same way, and we may say at times and in places what we should not say, and thus our neighbor is injured—loved in the estimation of the hearer. Public rumor says so and so, and away it flies! Such a one knows a good deal about it (no obscure character) but for prudential reasons says that that one knows a heap about the case but when called on, the information given are very unsatisfactory. Some persons perpetrate this iniquity with direct malicious design; others from a busy, meddling disposition, unsatisfied unless interfering in the concerns of others; and some from a wish to be thought extensively acquainted with private history.

The first of these perhaps enjoyed the confidence of his neighbor when in process of time a trade was proposed, which was on certain conditions accepted, when the time arrived to complete the matter the proposer wishing the best end of the bargain, would not accept it upon equal terms; when all efforts was wasted for an equal brotherly trade, the disappointed one resorted to every source, even to force and slander. So long as persons of reputation will either repeat the false stories of others invented for the purpose of lowering or destroying neighbors character, or publishing malignant news concerning others, the peace, the good name, and comfort of mankind will be invaded and destroyed. For it is evident beyond debate, that he who tells a mischievous story, and he who by declaring his belief of mischievous stories told by others lends, it the credit and sanction of his own authority, and are essentially and alike guilty of slander; and in their conduct both are without excuse. He who listens to a malicious story without expressing his disapprobation, declares by his conduct (the strongest of all attestations) that he considers it as meriting his approbation and belief.

The inventor of slander derives all his injurious consequences and all his encouragement from the countenance lent to him by others. By listening to the slanderer, we give life and activity to his mischievous fabrications and lend to them most of their power to do evil, and by doing this the spirit of slander is kept alive in the breast of the slanderer and makes him feel secure of the consequences he hopes to gain by this course of conduct; the consequences which is his principal motive to this sin. And this contributes to the existence of future slanderers, and aids the diffusion of calumny through the world.

Al! you think (if you have not said it,) that such an one is not fit to be in the church, &c. But if you have aided to spread the report (true or false) you are

liable to censure as a slanderer of your brother. You may profess to have meant no harm by the remarks; and if you did say so and so, it was when in conversation with the slanderer, and that you meant no harm by it, and that you repeat it, and such and such! but that only makes your case worse as the slanderous report thus honeyed is more readily believed. But often the report is so plausible that you think it is impossible, but what is true (is this the object of both parties,) but in most cases there is no real truth in it; and when properly sounded, (without religious prejudice) not even the appearance of truth. Then, beware of the slanderer; lest in turn you fall under his lash, and then as he spoke of others he will speak of you. Believe not all you hear; nor tell all you know. Beware to whom you speak, what you say, when and where. Brother, sister, ah! tell it not in Gath! publish it not in Askelon. A wife too! why are ye so ready to believe evil reports rather than good ones!

And mark it brethren as a truth; that we hate those we injure, and love those we benefit; and seldom, if ever, do we hate one unless we have first injured him in thought, word or deed. Hence, the sinner hates God, because he wishes to injure his cause. The slanderer hates those they defame. A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and the Bible says, and it is an awful truth, whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer! The slanderer does not pray for his brother; and perhaps not for himself! Such are sinners. They eat up, saith the prophet, the sin of my people, and set their heart upon their iniquity and have left off to take heed to the Lord. I once read the remark of a good man, when writing on the subject of slander, "That the one that would raise or circulate a slanderous report to lower his neighbor, should be hung by the tongue; and he that would listen to such reports, with applause, should be hung by the ears." The evils of slander are both personal and public to a greater extent than most men are aware of. Then, slanderer, beware of whom you speak evil.

A Friend of Humanity.

North Carolina Presbyterian please copy.

From the Correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch. Review of the Year's Movements in General Lee's Army.

ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA, } Dec. 30, 1863. }

I may be permitted, I trust, to speak a few words in reference to the doings of this army for the past twelve months. My connection with it began when Burnside's force appeared in front of Fredericksburg on the Stafford heights. And well do I remember how Col. Ball of the 15th Va. cavalry, kept the whole of that immense army with one regiment of cavalry, one battalion of infantry, and one battery of artillery. Then came the first battle of Fredericksburg, with the sad scenes attendant upon the evacuation of the town by our people in mid winter, and its sacking by a brutal and infuriated soldiery, under the eye of that ingrate of a Gen. Burnside.

Of the battle of Fredericksburg I will speak briefly. The enemy felt fully assured in their vainglorious sufficiency of their ability to disperse Lee's army and march unopposed to Richmond. They crossed the Rappahannock—ah, fatal crossing to them—and essay to carry the heights. But Jackson was on the right, Longstreet protected the left, and Lee was in the centre. The result was as might have been readily foreseen by every man of common sense.—The Federal army suffered a signal repulse. The corpses of their dead and the bodies of their mangled and groaning dying ones covered the area in front of our lines at the Stone-wall and on the lower end of the battle-field near Hamilton's Crossing whilst the good old town of Fredericksburg became for the nonce a dead hospital and a charnel house. The Federal cause, for the first time in the war, suffered a most humiliating defeat. The hopes of conquest were crushed, and their vaunted boastings were turned into wailings over their great calamity. Many have criticised Gen. Lee very freely for not pushing the enemy on Saturday night. I was present at that battle, and I myself know full well

that the engagement of Saturday was regarded on all hands as a mere prelude to the general engagement which was expected to bear on Sunday. No one in our lines that any one of the Federal cause had sustained. It has never, I think, been mentioned in print, but it is nevertheless a fact, that a council of war was held on Saturday night. Jackson urged a midnight attack, but was overruled in council by Longstreet and Gen. Lee, and I must say I think it well for our cause and for Jackson's fame that it was overruled; for unless we could have had some unerring badge or mark upon our men, all the horrors of a night attack might have resulted without any corresponding benefit; and as for a day attack upon the enemy's lines, it were an impossibility, or rather it would have been certain destruction to our troops to have advanced over the plateau in front of the river which was readily and thoroughly swept by the enemy's batteries on the Stafford heights.—My conclusion is, that the best interests of the country were served by not pressing the enemy in the first Fredericksburg fight.

Passing over Burnside's sticking in the mud at Bank's ford, and the long, dreary winter when our men stood picket on the Rappahannock, we will take a glance en passant at the battle of Chancellorsville. Hooker superseded Burnside on the 27th of January, and after three months of laborious diligence found himself ready to advance on Gen. Lee's lines about the last of April. A short reference to the series of battles which then occurred may not be out of place here. On the 28th April, Hooker threw one corps of his army across the Rappahannock, at Bernard's, just below Fredericksburg, whilst with the rest, having broken up camp, he marched rapidly to Kelly's Ford, a point twenty-two miles above Fredericksburg, on the Rappahannock. At this point he crossed the Rappahannock, and thence marched his forces to Germanna an Elly's fords on the Rapidan river, across which he succeeded in crossing almost unobstructed (for he had only cavalry videttes at these fords) by Thursday, the last day of April. Hooker then turned the head of his column down the river towards Fredericksburg. In front of the Chancellorsville House, Anderson's division, then of Longstreet's corps, which had been guarding the United States Ford, first took up a line of battle on Thursday evening but finding themselves confronting a very largely superior force were compelled to fall back some 4 miles, to a point where the old Mine road intersects the turnpike, 6 miles above Fredericksburg. The character of Hooker's moves became fully unveiled to the commanding General during the day of Thursday. Accordingly, a force of observation under command of General Early, was left guarding the line from Fredericksburg to Hamilton's crossing, and confronting the corps which Hooker had thrown across below Fredericksburg on the preceding Tuesday. The rest of our army with the commanding General moved up to meet Hooker, at the head of the great hulk of the Yankee Army of the Potomac. Gen. Jackson reached Anderson's line of battle, at the intersection of the Mine and Plank roads about daylight of Friday morning. He at once assumed command and ordered an advance, himself leading and moving along with the skirmishers. The enemy who had closed upon us during the night of Thursday, began to give back gradually during the day of Friday before the determined advance of our men. At night of Friday May 1st, McLaws and Anderson's divisions of Longstreet's corps were confronting the enemy in front of Chancellorsville, (Pickett's and Hood's divisions of Longstreet's corps, had not then returned from Suffolk.) On Friday night, after a consultation;

it was determined to attack the enemy on his right flank and endeavor to turn it. For this purpose Gen. Jackson took with him three divisions of his troops, excepting of A. P. Hill's division which was ordered to remain in Wilcox's division and a part of Heth's division; Tremble's old division, now commanded by General Edward Johnson, and D. H. Hill's old division, now as then, commanded by Rhodes, he (R.) having received his promotion from Jackson on the field for his gallant and skillful bearing on Saturday evening, May 2d. Just after day of Saturday morning Jackson started on his flank movement, having first secured a trusty guide. He moved all day long with as much rapidity as the nature of the country through which he passed would allow, Anderson and McLaws in front meantime carrying on heavy skirmishing with the enemy, who were busily fortifying, expecting us to assault them in front. About five o'clock in the evening the fear of Jackson's gains announced that the flank movement was accomplished, and that Stonewall was again thundering in the enemy's rear. Jackson fell upon the enemy's rear, going in upon them with their backs turned to his flanking column. The story of the "Flying Dutchman" and the defeat of Hooker is soon told. In an hour we had driven the enemy at all points and forced them back fully two and a half miles, carrying two of their earthworks of a most formidable character. Night closed with our men masters of the field, and prepared on the coming morning to turn the flight of the preceding evening into a rout. After nightfall Jackson rode out in front of his (our) lines in order to make a reconnaissance, with the view of discovering, if possible, a road leading around to the United States Ford, to the end that he might cut the enemy off from retreat by the fords. The sad catastrophe that ensued is known to the country. Jackson fell whilst returning to our lines, the enemy having attempted in their desperation, to surprise us with a midnight attack. The next morning Gen. J. E. B. Stuart assumed command of Jackson's corps, and fought the battle to a successful termination, driving the enemy back at all points, but failing to secure the fords, as Jackson had intended, for the reason that before he took command the enemy had a sufficiency of time to render a move of this sort impossible.

Let us return for a moment to the vicinity of Fredericksburg and note the operation there transpiring.—On Saturday evening the force of the enemy which crossed to the south bank of the river, recrossed to the north bank and took up the line of march, apparently to reinforce Hooker at Chancellorsville. At the same time a balloon ascended near the Lancy house, on the Stafford side, to observe our movements. Gen. Early seeing the Yankees abandon their lines on his front, and supposing they meant to reach Chancellorsville to aid Hooker, at once ordered his men to move, and stated to join Gen. Lee. The Yankees were then enabled, by means of their balloon, to discover the force with which we were defending the line at Fredericksburg. As soon as they observed our move from the heights of Stafford, with their balloon, they began to counter-march, again threw down their pontoons, and reoccupied their old position about dark of Saturday evening at the Bernard house, just below Fredericksburg. During Saturday night they also crossed opposite to the town, and, for the first time during this move, occupied it.

The "dawn's early light" of Sunday, May 3d, found Hooker half whipped and his army considerably demoralized, at Chancellorsville.—Whilst at Fredericksburg, Early was lying in the trenches confronting Sedgwick's corps, and awaiting his onward move. Soon after day the enemy opened with their artill-

ery from their position both at Fredericksburg and at the Bernard House. This they kept up until about nine o'clock, when having passed their troops, in front of Marye's Heights, they hurled their columns against the stone-wall—the first time unsuccessfully; for Barksdale, the gallant Mississippian, with his band of heroes, met the shock of battle and nobly hurled it back. The enemy pause and resort to artifice. A flag of truce is exhibited, and in an evil moment the gallant Col. (Griffin, of the 18th Mississippi) receives it. The enemy thus discover that instead of holding the Stone-wall with a line of battle Barksdale's men are so stretched out that they are barely guarding it with a line of skirmishers. A few moments more and another desperate onset of the enemy's force is made. The stone wall is carried and the "star-spangled banner" waves in triumph over the enemy's much-covered achievement, and our forces retire. Meantime a bloody drama has been enacted at Chancellorsville. The result of which is that Hooker has "forced the rebels" to fight, and "he has retired." Just as Gen. Lee was about to follow up his victory, and to press the enemy at Chancellorsville, he is informed that the enemy have carried the heights. Sending his courier to Gen. Early, he tells him to do the best he can until three o'clock, and then "I WILL BE WITH YOU." The enemy meantime begin to press forward on the plank road, expecting to form a junction with Hooker. Delusive hope! At three o'clock Wilcox's division, having fallen back from Bank's Ford, and being sustained by the rest of Anderson's and McLaws' division, engage the enemy at Salem Church and drive them back fully a mile.

Sunday night closes up the fields of carnage, with Sedgwick confronting Anderson, McLaws, and Early, at Fredericksburg, whilst Hooker stood opposed by the three divisions of Jackson's corps at Chancellorsville. Early on Monday morning Gordon's brigade, of Early's corps, by a bold charge repossessed themselves of the heights at Fredericksburg. On Monday evening at two o'clock Gen. Lee had intended to have attacked Sedgwick; but, by some fatality the attack was not made until five o'clock, and then, by the failure of Gen. McLaws (it is said) to swing his column around in time and seize Bank's Ford, the enemy though most gallantly charged and well whipped by Hays's and Hoke's brigades of Early's and—'s divisions, succeeded in escaping under cover of night by way of Bank's Ford back to the Stafford heights.—On Tuesday General Lee returned with the three divisions which had been engaged at Fredericksburg to Chancellorsville. A rain storm, however, set in on Tuesday evening, and on Tuesday night Hooker succeeded in recrossing to Stafford by way of U. S. Ford. Thus ended the Chancellorsville fights, in which the "finest army on the planet" was driven back with a loss of nearly ten thousand prisoners and fifteen thousand more in killed and wounded to the enemy. The great faux pas of these battles was the failure to capture Sedgwick's corps, resulting from our not seizing Bank's Ford. The capture of his whole corps would then have been inevitable, for we held the access to Fredericksburg unguarded.—Our greatest loss was Stonewall Jackson, of whose death I shall have something to say in my next, as well as a few criticisms on that battle. X.

AT NEWBERN.—There is every reason to believe that the enemy is concentrating heavy reinforcements at Newbern, with what view has not yet appeared, though circumstances would indicate an extension of his lines and a probable advance on Kinston, threatening the Wilmington and Weldon Road, and consequently our line of communication. His lines now extend to Trenton on the West and White Oak River on the South. He probably contemplates extending them to Kinston on the one hand and New River on the other. Wk. Journal.