

We have received a letter from a subscriber in Franklin county, of which the following is an extract:

"As the adherents of the Standard are trying, for effect, to blend the present friends of Southern liberty with the original constitutional secessionists, and also assert the converse, viz: that the Standard's party is composed of those who denied the constitutional right of secession; and as, to this end, they deny your charge that the Standard ever advocated and taught the doctrine of secession. I request that you publish such extracts from your files of that paper as prove its advocacy of that doctrine—not to satisfy me, or any intelligent reader of the Standard, but to silence unscrupulous demagogues, and enlighten the credulous ignorant."

It is probable that these Franklin county followers of the Standard have been misled by that paper of the 8th ult. in which it is said:

"Nor is it true that we 'educated the people in the doctrine of secession,' and then 'voted them into the present war.' We never maintained the doctrine of secession as practiced by the cotton States, and we resisted secession to the last moment."

In reply to this a contemporary very pertinently asks, "if the Standard did not maintain the doctrine as practiced by the cotton States, what sort of doctrine of secession was it that it did maintain? To this of course the Standard has not ventured to reply, for it is not easy to conceive of more than two kinds of secession, viz: peaceable secession, and secession with war as a consequence.—The cotton States, as is well known, always contended for the right of peaceable secession; and we think the Standard will hardly pretend that it went for the other sort of secession."

But we intend to comply with our correspondent's request, by showing that the Standard did maintain "the right of secession," without any qualification about the cotton States or anything else. And what is very remarkable, it maintained this doctrine for eleven years, viz: from 1850 to 1861—how much earlier than 1850 we are not at present prepared to say. It is not its habit to stick to any one thing long, but this doctrine of secession appears to have been an exception—persisted in for at least eleven years, long enough, as we have said, to "educate the people" in it.

In the Standard of December 4th, 1850, is a long editorial article on the appointment of a joint select committee on Federal Relations by the Legislature. Our readers will remember the great struggle of that year in relation to the admission of California, the imperfect execution of the fugitive slave law, and the threats of its repeal. These were the matters referred to that joint committee, and on them the Standard dwelt at length. It said that the people should "assert and maintain" their rights, and that their Representatives should "declare what those rights are." And the Standard proceeded to declare them for that body. The following is the close and material part of its long article:

"We have heard the idea recently expressed that a State has no right to secede from the Union—that there is no help from oppression except by revolution; in other words that the States are the creatures and dependents of the Federal Government, and of course subject to its physical coercion. Such an assumption, we humbly submit, is unsupported by testimony derived from the Constitution itself, or from any single circumstance attending its formation or adoption. It is, moreover, at war with all regular ideas of free republican government, and of the undoubted independence of the States, as that independence has been practically displayed in their separate organizations since 1787. We hold that as no State could originally have been forced into the Union, none can be forced to remain in, or rather be prevented from going out. Heaven forbid that such an extreme resort should be presented to us as the only alternative against aggressions upon our rights! We trust it may not, but the bare possibility of the contingency should nerve our public men to look the danger boldly in the face. Let them declare that while we acquiesce in the late action of Congress on the slavery question, we are at the same time determined that agitation shall cease, and that the fugitive slave law shall be enforced in its letter and spirit, and that if the free States do not yield to this, our reasonable and Constitutional request, we will leave them and leave them forever."

"This is no time to dispute about terms. If gentlemen do not like the word secede, and if we cannot consent to use the word revolution, let dissolution be the substitute for either or both. The people understand that, and they will demand it if the fugitive slave law be repealed, or if these wicked assaults upon the rights of the slave States be continued in two halls of the common Congress."

Now if this be not maintaining the right of secession—of secession as contradistinguished from revolution—of peaceable secession, and without qualification, we would like to know what would be?

But hear the Standard again, nearly a year after the above:

"We hold, as we have uniformly held, that no State can secede without just cause; that, in other words, the Constitution must be palpably violated and the compact broken, before any State can be released. We hold, as we have uniformly held, that if this compact should be broken, the act will be an act of revolution on the part of the sectional majority which perpetrates it, for the simple reason that it will work a radical change in the Constitution of government; that this sectional majority will nevertheless, as a matter of course, hold on to the government and proclaim the Union still in being; that the only alternative left to the minority of the States will be to withdraw or secede from such a government and provide new guards for their future security; and that, in so doing, they

The same number of the Standard quoted the following language of Mr. Jefferson, 'as containing the true doctrine on the subject,' so it said:

"Are we, then, to stand to our arms? No. That must be the last resource, not to be thought of until much longer and greater sufferings. We must have patience and longer endurance with our brethren while under delusion—give them time for reflection and experience of consequences—keep ourselves in a situation to profit by the chapter of accidents; and separate from our companions (not revolt from our rulers) only when the sole alternatives left are the dissolution of our Union with them or a submission to a government without limitation of powers."

In the above, the Standard itself plainly pressed the doctrine of secession, and it introduced Mr. Jefferson as its authority for the distinction between secession and revolution. Revolution nobody denies the right of, when evils become intolerable. Mr. Jefferson and the Standard were careful to have it understood that it was not revolution ("not revolt from our rulers") that they meant—it was something else. What else? Mr. Jefferson calls it "separation from our companions." He lived at a period when the people had not been "educated" in the doctrine of secession, and therefore approached it cautiously, gingerly. Fifty years afterwards the Standard calls it the right to "withdraw or secede."

Well, this was in 1851. Ten years later in October 1861, (see Standard, Oct. 30, 1861,) the Standard says that "North Carolina seceded in May"—not revolted, but seceded.—The Editor of the Standard was a member of the Convention which thus "seceded," and he voted for the Ordinance of secession. Did he not believe in the right of secession—did he not "maintain" that right, when he so voted? If we may believe the Standard of the 8th ult., he did not. But the act and his previous declarations make it perfectly plain that he did.

But this is not all. In the same article of the same paper (Oct. 30th, 1861,) the Standard said:

"As soon as Lincoln called for troops to make war on the South, we denounced him as a usurper, and turned our back on the old Union without end. We did this, too, with the most entire consistency, for we have ALWAYS HELD THAT THE STATES HAD A RIGHT TO SECEDE FOR CAUSE."

"A right to secede for cause," was the identical doctrine taught by the "Cotton State" politicians. And it was that very "right to secede for cause" which the Cotton States exercised in 1860. The "cause," which they assigned (an insufficient one we thought for destroying the Union,) was the election of a Black Republican sectional ticket to the chief office of the Union. It was the identical cause repeatedly assigned by the Standard as sufficient to justify—to make necessary—their exercise of the "right of secession." We do not think the Standard will have the hardihood to deny this. But if it be denied why we have before us another search thro' its files in 1856 when Fremont and Dayton were candidates.

"We have made these extracts from the Standard's more cautious leading articles—they were written when secessionists and secession were under a cloud, its advocates having been forced by the people to 'acquiesce' (such was the cant language of that day and used by the Standard itself above) in the compromise measures of 1850. We have not taken a single extract from the more violent and unguarded declarations of the Standard in the hot political campaigns between 1849 and 1860, in which it was the leading spirit of the secession party of North Carolina, and denounced as unsound or traitorous every distinguished man of the old wing and anti-secession party. We think we have given the information desired by our correspondent and established our own opinion that 'the Standard had educated the people in the doctrine of secession.' But if any one should pretend that the above is not sufficient evidence, there is plenty more to be had."

From the Rich. Examiner Feb. 9. Latest from General Lee's Lines—The Fight at the Fords of the Rapid Ann.

The following dispatch was received at the War Department last night:

"ORANGE C. H., Feb. 8. Gen. S. Cooper, Adj. General:

"The forces of the enemy which crossed at Morton's Ford on Saturday, were driven to the river under cover of their guns. That evening, or during the night, they recrossed to the north bank, but remained in position yesterday. This morning they have disappeared. They left seventeen dead and forty-six prisoners in our hands. Our loss was four killed and twenty wounded. The guard at the ford, a lieutenant and twenty-five men, while bravely resisting the passage of the enemy, were captured. The enemy's cavalry, which appeared at Barnett's on Saturday, retired across Robinson river on Sunday evening."

R. E. LEE, General. The movement of the enemy appears to have been no more important than a feint of reconnaissance. Recent Northern papers mention that Meade is still in Philadelphia; and it is altogether improbable that the enemy's force in Northern Virginia contemplate any serious advance in the absence of their commander.

We learn that a white woman was killed at or near Teach's Depot, on the Wilmington and Weldon road, a few days ago. While passing from one coach to another she fell between the platforms and was crushed by the wheels.—Progress.

SALISBURY, N. C. MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 8, 1864.

The Hon. NATHANIEL BOYDEN will be voted for by the Conservatives of Rowan and Davie to fill the unexpired term of Dr. J. G. Ramsay resigned, in State Senate. MANY CITIZENS. Feb. 8th, 1864. 273.

Rowan Artillery.—Capt J. A. RAMBAY, Commandant of the Rowan artillery, arrived here last Saturday, on a short furlough. This is one of the best army corps in the service; and one in which our county feels a very lively interest.

What is it For?—Some one at Newton, sent us last Tuesday, \$2 10 in an envelope without a word to signify what it was for—no letter—no name—no any thing but the money. We have no objection to such remittances, as they only cost the trouble of putting the money into our pocket-book.

DISCONTENT IN THE ARMY.

The chief cause of discontent in the army hitherto, has been almost entirely with the substitute law, under the operation of which, many able bodied young men were left undisturbed at home to carry on private business on their own account—to speculate, or spend their time as idle spectators of the great events of this stupendous struggle of the Country for independence. A week spent in the army during the month of December last, afforded us a pretty good opportunity to discover the feelings and hear the sentiments of soldiers in regard to this and other subjects of public interest, and we therefore know what we say when we declare that much, very much depends on the rigid execution of the anti-substitute law recently passed by Congress, as to what will be the moral condition of the army in the Spring. The soldiers in the field regard it as a gross wrong that any young men should be left at home to accumulate fortunes by speculation whilst they are bearing the enormous burdens of this war, almost at their own expense, the pay of the soldier being insufficient for his indispensable wants; and we verily believe that unless they are appeased on this subject by the faithful execution of the law bearing upon it, we shall witness in the Spring more fearful demoralization in the army than ever before. "What comparison," say they; "is there between the price they paid for a substitute—a worthless one it may be—and the service we have to undergo and the dangers we have to meet? There is not a man in the army, who, if he were to consult only his personal comfort, interest or security, but would willingly pay twice the sum these men paid for substitutes to obtain a discharge from the war. But what, then, would become of the Country! No, it is a case of necessity that we should defend our homes and our country, no less binding on one than another; and we cannot and will not submit to the wrong of doing the work in the field and then go home to find our property swept away by extortioners and speculators, who have remained at home through cowardice or from motives of selfishness or greed of gain."

We subjoin an extract from the Richmond Whig bearing on this subject which confirms our own convictions expressed above.

Extending the Operation of the Conscription Law.

We learn from officers just from Lee's army that the policy of extending the conscript law to men over forty-five is entirely disapproved by the great mass of our forces in Lee's command. The objection to this policy is founded on the probability of short supplies in the coming year, as a result of a serious diversion from productive labor of so large a class as are embraced between forty-five and fifty. The discontent of our army heretofore has had reference solely to the substitute policy, which guaranteed exemption to speculators, while the equivalent service contemplated by the furnishing of a substitute was seldom rendered. This condition of exemption was tantamount to an unequalled guarantee against conscription, otherwise than by the payment of the substitute bounty; for, in a majority of cases, substitutes deserted, while such as remained were found generally inefficient. A privilege such as the substitute law afforded was well calculated to excite jealousy and discontent in the minds of the gallant men who bore the brunt of this conflict. The reflection that hale and healthy men were permitted, for a small consideration, to remain at home and amass fortunes by speculation, could but produce that result.

This cause of discontent being now removed, a spirit of reconciliation pervades the army, and, looking to the question of future supplies, they regard the policy of extending the operations of the conscript law beyond the age of forty-five as calculated seriously to embarrass production to the extent necessary for the support of the army.

Some discontent is said to exist in the army at the subterfuges which afford means of escape from service to principals who are now liable to service. Men in the ranks are heard to argue against any policy which assigns to positions of ease young men, who, by age and physical strength, are adapted to the duties of active field service. Any device furnishing an effective means of exemption from such duties, by principals of this class, is held to be a practical nullification of the anti-substitute law, and an injustice to those who have been battling against the foe for three long years. It is intimated, as we learn, that a remonstrance will be sent to the War Department against the assignment of prin-

cipals to physical training for active duty. We are assured that if the anti-substitute law is effectively enforced, and all subterfuges of finding practical exemption promptly removed, no further discontent will exist. While a single man of this class is permitted to remain at home and continue his past profitable avocation, to the detriment of many of the distressed families of those in the field, dissatisfaction will exist. The assignment of men to posts involving no duty other than their appearance, at long intervals, on what may be termed holiday parades, without the sacrifice of a single business interest, will inevitably produce discontent. The prospect of such contingencies is already tending to do so, and any serious diversion from active service of the material designed to be employed in the army, as a result of the passage of the anti-substitute law, will cause widespread discontent where reconciliation and contentment would otherwise prevail.

We are assured that in every instance where a principal rendered liable to service by the late law is ascertained to have evaded that responsibility by connection with some local organization, or any other subterfuge, jealousy and dissatisfaction are at once manifested, and a purpose expressed of bringing the matter to the attention of the War Department through the medium of the representative in Congress from the District where the evasion is permitted. In every instance where the accumulation of money is found to be a result of exemption, particularly of men fitted for active military duty, the discontent is said to amount to indignation. The contemplation of a policy which favors the exemption of men who have made fortunes by this war, and who are, in all respects, equally liable and fitted for the discharge of military duty with those in the field, has always led to feelings of jealous discontent. To afford further means of escape from service to this class, will do more, according to our information, than any thing else to mar that spirit of reconciliation so essential at the approach of the expiration of the terms of service of the gallant veterans now in the field. The subjection of principals to service has done much to allay discontent and stimulate re-enlistments. If the law on this subject is rigidly enforced, and all dodges affording opportunities of escape from duty abolished, a stimulus will be given to the work of re-enlistment which no display of the enemy, however formidable, can thwart.

Let every principal, fitted for active field duty, be at once assigned to his appropriate sphere, and all will be well.—Rich. Whig.

Headquarters C. S. Military Prison, Salisbury, Feb. 7, 1864.

Mr. Bruner—Dear Sir: Please state in your issue of to-morrow (if this does not reach you too late) that the Small-pox Hospital, a half mile out side the limits of the town, has been completed, and that all the cases of small-pox in the Garrison were removed several days ago, except two, very light cases of varioloid, which the Surgeon of the post recommended should remain, as the patients would recover in a very few days, and as no danger of the spread of the disease might be apprehended from them. Such a statement may go far towards quieting the minds of the citizens of Salisbury, and will be much obliged.

Very Respectfully, Your obedient servant, SWIFT GALLOWAY, Capt. Com'g. Post.

The above communication came to hand too late for our last issue, but as it contains gratifying information we give it in this.

The small pox has made its appearance in one or two families in town since it broke out in the Garrison, but how it originated we have not been able to learn with certainty. The municipal authorities, we believe, adopted no precaution against the spread of the disease, until within a few days past, they secured a house for a hospital, beyond the limits of the town. They have become strangely indifferent in regard to small pox. Three years ago, had the disease broken out any where within fifty miles of Salisbury, they would have held a called meeting and passed the most stringent ordinances against the people of the infected locality, and guards would have been placed at all the approaches from it to warn them off or execute the law upon them. Now, it breaks out at the Garrison, at the edge of town, and our authorities pass no ordinances, establish no guards, and make no effort to restrict the intercourse between the people who belong to it, and the citizens of our town. How is this to be accounted for? Surely, not on the ground that our "city fathers" have more public work to do than they can attend to? When have they been known to do any good thing for the public?

SALISBURY, Feb. 11th, 1864.

Mr. Editor:—I desire to call your attention and that of the public to a gross neglect of duty, if indeed, it does not involve a worse feature, on the part of Postmasters between this place and Orange C. H. Va.

Within two months I have had eight letters to miscarry between these points. I have also heard many others complaining of their letters failing to get through. How are these failures to be accounted for? It cannot be that the letters are so badly "backed" as to render it impossible for the Postmasters to decipher the name and destination to which the letters are directed.—I believe that these miscarriages are to be accounted for in another way—that these letters have been broken open and destroyed by some thievish postmaster in search of money. This is the construction put upon it by the army, yet it has submitted to it until submission has ceased to be a virtue. Now it is the duty of the department and its agents to exert their efforts in order to

prevent such a complaint against the Postmasters between this place and the Army of Northern Virginia. We take all possible care in packing and addressing the "Watchman" to subscribers in the army, only to be mortified to learn that it rarely reaches its destination. For sometime past we have been paying the postage on each package, and we learn from a subscriber just in that he had discovered no improvement in the delivery as the result of this sacrifice on our part. Surely, something should be done to correct the abuses practiced in this department.

WITHDRAWN.—We are authorized to announce the withdrawal of LUCAS MITCHELL, as a candidate for Senator from this District.

QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE, SALISBURY.

Mr. Editor—For some time past, I have noticed the great increase of travel,—the influx of population into Salisbury, and the immense business carried on here in a public way, not necessary here to name more particularly, but connected with the Quartermaster's Office at this place. It is really so large that although attempts have been made to establish "Office hours," it has been found utterly impossible to enforce them, without detriment to the public interest. But as soon as the doors can be opened in the morning, the run begins. During the last month, transportation was issued to more than seventeen hundred soldiers, many of whom being disabled, and others on furlough from the Army, were paid off. This of itself, besides the Garrison here, and Post Officers, is sufficient to justify the establishment of a pay Department at this Post, which is now done by Capt. BERGMAN, besides the immense transportation given for freight for grain, &c., on Government account. Then there was also a large business done in giving transportation for provisions sent by friends to our brave soldiers in the army. For the horse employed in the office by Capt. BRUNER, our excellent and industrious Quartermaster, it is really wonderful, and exhibits a spirit of energy and devotion to the public business, by Captain BRUNER and his assistants, that is absolutely refreshing in these times of extravagance and waste, and disposition to make large displays by public officials. There is also connected with the office, the collection of forage from nine counties, which, in fact, should be done by Forage Quartermasters. The Captain has now on hand about 15,000 bushels of hay, and about 20,000 bushels corn, and is sparing no effort to push forward the public business in such way as will most effectually secure the great and glorious prize for which we are now struggling. There is no doubt but that this post is one of the most important in the State, and that it will continue so more than ever, during the war. It certainly requires a man of great energy and industry.

There is now in process of erection some fifteen buildings for hospital purposes, besides store houses and prison buildings, for which the Quartermaster has to furnish all the materials. Also, the large Ordnance Works, the Military Garrison, the Nitre and Mining Bureau, and a large Commissary Department, all calling on the Quartermaster entirely for transportation and means for assistance in pushing forward their respective departments.

All the writer of this desires, is that every man in the public service, would exhibit the same unwavering devotion to our cause, and energy if business, as is done by Capt. BRUNER. Then our success would be placed almost beyond doubt. ROWAN.

CAMP NEAR ORANGE C. H. VA. Jan. 25th, 1864.

THANKS.

Mr. Editor: We wish to return thanks through your paper to a worthy lady, Mrs. G. P. KETSER, for the kind favor bestowed on us in the way of some excellent sausage and fine potatoes which we received last week. Such favors are always most gratefully received, a hint which our friends, we hope, will accept to the joy of the old worn soldiers of Northern Virginia.

Respectfully yours, &c. D. C. F. Co. A. 20th, N. C. T.

Important Decision Expected.—We learn that an important case is now pending before Judge Pearson, upon a writ of habeas corpus contesting the Constitutionality of the net of Congress demanding service of Principals who have furnished substitutes. We are informed that this case will be argued in the Court House at Salisbury on Friday the 19th of this month by able Counsel on both sides, and as the other associate Justice of the Supreme Court are invited and expected to attend, we may confidently expect able and laborious arguments, to be followed with a final decision, now highest known to the law, from a full Bench; which we trust may be cheerfully submitted to and acquiesced in, by all upon this at present much vexed question.—Greensborough Patriot.

Public Lectures.—The Rev. Dr. D. Lacy, formerly of Raleigh, addressed large and respectable audiences, in the Court-House at this place on Sunday and Wednesday evenings last upon the War and State of the Country. His discourse was able and eloquent and replete with sentiments of encouragement in the final success of our cause.

The occasion and theme were admirably appropriate, and the exigencies of the times demand the services of other co-laborers in arousing the people from their lethargy to a sense of their dangers, and in speaking words of encouragement to the desponding, and inspiring hopes to the future. Let the good work go on. Greensborough Patriot.