

### BATTLE OF THE WHITE TAVERN

On the Charles City road, six miles from the city and just beyond our outer works, is a point known as the White Tavern. This point, on Sunday and Monday, was the extreme left of our line. The enemy's dismounted cavalry on Monday moved up this road in heavy force. Our cavalry met them below the White Tavern, and, about ten o'clock, A. M., a fight began, which lasted until late in the evening. In the course of the day we drove the enemy back about two miles in the direction of Deep Bottom and Curles' Neck. Late in the evening, as we were pressing the enemy's cavalry, we came upon his infantry, who in turn forced us back about half a mile, when night put an end to the fight.

Early yesterday morning the enemy again advanced up the New Market road, this time with cavalry, artillery and infantry. His cavalry force was heavier than on the previous day, and his infantry, so far as ascertained, consisted of the Second, Ninth and Tenth corps, numbering together not less than forty thousand men. About seven o'clock, A. M., this immense force struck our cavalry and drove them back into our earthworks. Here our cavalry and a small force of our infantry held them in check for a considerable length of time, during which the enemy made several fierce assaults in heavy columns, the devoted negro troops of Burnside leading in every charge. The slaughter of the negroes in these assaults exceeded anything that occurred at Petersburg on the memorable 30th of July.

This was an unequal contest. The enemy's line overlapped us on the left while they still engaged all of our attention by hurling heavy masses on our front. We were at length flanked on our left, and the enemy drove us from our position, taking, it is said, about a mile of our works. The fight was, however, kept up by our retiring forces until the arrival of reinforcements, when, after a desperate and bloody fight, we drove the enemy from our entire line. The battle proper began about eight o'clock, A. M., and was waged with varying fury until four o'clock in the evening.

The enemy's loss in this battle was very great, as we learn from a number of sources. We have heard no estimate of our loss. Brigadier General Chamberlain is reported to have been wounded and taken prisoner in the first onslaught of the enemy. There was also a report that General Wade Hampton had been killed, but this is more than doubtful.

This was a serious and determined effort of Grant to turn our left and force at once the abandonment of New Market Hill, and, perhaps, Otis's Bluff. Its result is highly satisfactory to us.—*Richmond Examiner*.

From the *Richmond Examiner*, Aug. 18.

We have little to add to our yesterday's account of the battle of White's Tavern, or Darbytown, by one of which names it will be known in history. The particulars come in slowly.

It will be recalled that the official despatch from the battle field, which we published yesterday, and which was written just after the repulse of the enemy, stated that "the enemy made a determined attack on our line between the Darbytown and Charles City roads, and at one time broke through, but he was repulsed and our original position re-occupied." The enemy made a determined attack. We call attention to this phraseology with a purpose. The phraseology was weighed and considered when the despatch was being penned. A "determined attack" by a great army like Grant's is a most serious, a tremendous thing. That determined attack we repulsed, and great cause have we to be thankful to the God of battles, who, through the means of our ever gallant soldiers, gave us the victory.

A portion of the Yankee press, that portion calling themselves the knowing and scientific, have been insisting, since Grant's failure to take Petersburg, that the true and only military route to Richmond was by these Darbytown and Charles City roads. Egged on by this learned clamor, Grant determined to try these roads. After much maneuvering and demonstrating upon New Market Hill and Dutch Gap, he sent the main body of his forces, all that could be spared from the garrisoning of his long line of entrenchments, from Curles' Neck north to these two roads, and on Sunday, turning their faces west, made his grand advance upon our lines at White's Tavern and Darbytown. We received him in a hastily and recently constructed line of breastworks. By sheer force of overwhelming numbers he for a time gained a decided advantage. He broke through our line and took possession of a considerable extent of our works. He had only a few moments to enjoy his brief time of triumph, however, before he was forced by the persistent and determined forces of our army to retreat down upon him and drove him out.

We attempted him to renew the attack, but he did not. We learn from an official despatch received from the White Tavern, a late hour of the day, that the enemy's main body, after a short rest, crossed White Oak Swamp, and moved on to the White Tavern, where they were met by our forces.

The main body of the enemy on the Charles City road, as we have advanced, made some progress, but the main body, as we have advanced, made some progress, but the main body, as we have advanced, made some progress.

what they, with a horrible fascination, chose to turn the post of honor, which simply means the place in which the unfortunate Africans are sure to be slaughtered. The Yankees know the negro can only be brought into action when he finds himself in pretty much the situation of the famous Light brigade, with bayonets to the right of him, bayonets to the left of him, and about double as many right in his rear.

When we hear of the slaughter of these black wretches it adds an additional zest to our pleasure to know that they are accompanied into action by certain white fiends who act as their officers, and who the Yankee newspapers always say, and say truly, "suffer terribly." After the fact that we best grant on Tuesday, nothing gives us half so much pleasure as to announce that all the prisoners taken by General Ferrero, the drossy dancing master and puppy who commanded the negro brigade at Petersburg and in this last fight, is killed.

We took in this battle about six hundred prisoners, most of whom have reached the Libby. Among the number was one negro who belonged to a gentleman of this city, who gave him a tremendous thrashing on sight.

Of our loss in this battle we have been unable to learn anything beyond the statement of the official despatch quoted above, which says it is "small." We have to mourn the loss of two of our gallant Generals—Brigadier-General John R. Chamberlain, of Virginia, and Brigadier-General V. J. B. Girardeau, of Georgia.

The exact point at which the enemy succeeded in breaking through our lines was Fugate's Mill, between the Charles City and Dutch roads.

There was heavy skirmishing along the lines yesterday, but nothing more.

### CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

SALISBURY, N. C.

MONDAY EVENING, AUGUST 22, 1864.

The Minutes of the Lutheran Synod have been ready for delivery for some days past.

SATURDAY, 4 O'CLOCK, P. M.—We have a rumor this afternoon, of a heavy engagement between Gen. Lee's army and the Yankees around Petersburg. It is asserted that the Weldon and Petersburg Railroad has been cut at Ream's Station, and that a fight was still going on. Also, that the enemy had renewed his attack on the Charles City road. These reports are given as coming from passengers on the train this morning at 3 o'clock, and again at 1 1/2 o'clock, p. m., to-day. They need confirmation. We shall doubtless have telegraphic reports on the subject before our next paper goes to press.

BATTLE OF WHITE TAVERN.—We copy from the *Richmond Examiner* a somewhat particular account of the battle heretofore noticed in our telegraphic column. It will be seen that it was intended by the enemy to be an important affair, and was so in fact, to the troops engaged in it. We hope the telegraph will, before we go to press, relieve the public mind as regards the safety of Gen. Hampton, concerning whom a good deal of anxiety is felt.

DROWNED.—J. L. SMITH, of Gaston county, N. C., having deserted from the army (reported to be the 48th Regiment.) reached the North Yadkin river, near Mrs. Walker's place, in Davidson county, last Monday night, in company with another man named Smith, a cousin, also a deserter, tied together some rails, and attempted to ferry across the river on a float thus constructed. But the raft was broken up before reaching the opposite shore, and J. L. Smith was drowned. His companion sought the nearest house, gave up himself as a prisoner and reported what had happened to his friend. The river was searched but the body was not found until Thursday morning, some distance below, lodged on a fish trap. If these men really belong to Gaston county, they doubtless have friends there who will be gratified to have a report of their fate, though it be a sad one.

AN IMPROBABLE STORY.—The *New York Post* of the 18th inst., says it has received a special from Washington to the effect that the War Department has authorized McClellan to raise one hundred thousand men immediately for special service under his command. The report is considered very doubtful.

What is that which every one can divide but no one can see where it has been divided? Water.

### TENDENCY TO USURPATION.

There is a strong tendency among military men to practice tyranny and to usurp power. This is particularly true of those small bodies scattered over the country on guard duty, and of military men acting as Commissaries, Quarter Masters, Enrolling officers, Boards of Surgeons, &c. We believe ignorance is most generally the cause of either the abuse of rightful powers or the assumption of those which the law does not give them. Whisky some times (soaks through their hat crowns, we suppose) gets into their heads, and reason thereupon, walks out; leaving the official in an emphatic mood for showing off the dignity and importance of the office he has the honor to fill. Add to these causes the natural bad passions, prejudices and indiscretions of men, in their best estate, and it is easy to see that this class of men scattered in the country among a people who are industriously pursuing the avocations of life, on which all their thoughts are bestowed, are apt to become towards them, offensive, dictatorial and oppressive. Daily laborers on the farms and in the workshops, do not, one in a hundred, take the time or the trouble to inform themselves as they should do in regard to the requirements of military laws and orders, and when called on, often need instruction to insure a ready compliance. The military officer, in that case, swelling with the idea of his importance, or steaming with whisky, loses his patience, and forthwith utters words which mean there is power in his hands—that he is at least equal to a Bashaw with three tails—and that if "clod hopper," "snob," or "crook," as the case may be, don't instantaneously melt down and yield the most abject submission and obedience, he will load him with irons, and play the fury with him generally. The habit of tyrannizing grows on him by practice, so that the tendency is constantly to the abuse of those powers held by the official, and to the usurpation of others which minister to his pride or inflate his drunken folly.

But we have said enough. We only intended to introduce the following from the *Governor of Louisiana*, which is much better, on pretty much the same subject:

TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA:

As the Chief Magistrate of the State, sworn to maintain the integrity of her laws, I deem it appropriate to renew to her people the assurance that I shall keep that oath, and fulfil that duty. While doing this I have thought proper to add such suggestions as the occasion demands.

The presence of armies in our midst raised by the Confederate Government, commanded by officers of its appointment, governed by the rules and regulations it has adopted, and amenable solely to it in their military capacity, produces inconveniences which are inevitable, and of which, when necessary, a patriotic people will not complain. These inconveniences form a part of the price you must pay for your country's independence, and for the liberties you will hereafter enjoy.

But that Government is of your creation, and has no legal power beyond that which you have conferred upon it. Its duties are strictly defined, and its authority limited by the constitutional charter which your representatives have added in forming, and which you, through your convention, have ratified. The armies of the Confederate States have no authority or power, except what the laws of Congress give them, and that body cannot go beyond the grant emanating from Sovereign States. The authority of military officers is therefore the creation of constitutional laws. They can rightfully do nothing but what Congress has authorized them to do. Properly viewed, an army is only a police force on a large scale, whose sole function is to maintain the laws of the land, and to protect the rights of the nation. Hence the machinery by which it acts ought never to come in collision with the civil laws, or the machinery of local or State governments. Over the citizen, or his property, no military officer has any other authority than what is given him by law. It is the glory of every really great military commander, that the civilian is never aware of the presence of an army as a burden, a nuisance, or a terror. Over

his troops his authority as given by law, is necessarily very great. This is right; but beyond the circle of his army the humblest citizen in the land is his equal.

I therefore earnestly admonish every one whose rights may be violated under the pretence of military authority to appeal promptly to the courts of justice. Let every citizen, having just cause of complaint against the military officers, report the same at once to the grand jury of his parish. If arrested and deprived of your liberty, it is your right to have the cause of your arrest judicially inquired into at once, and to be discharged unless found to be legally detained. This writ of *Habeas Corpus* is always open to every citizen; to invoke it is his hallowed right; and I earnestly request all judges to issue it whenever legally demanded.

Extended authority has been conferred on the Commanding General of this department. He has never used that power against a citizen, and is entirely free from any disposition so to use it. I know it to be his earnest wish, that every abuse of authority by any subordinate officer shall be resisted by citizens under all circumstances, and promptly reported. If there are acts of petty tyranny, annoyance and proscription committed in his department, they will be reprobated by him, being as contrary to his will as they are in contrast with his character. All such acts brought to his knowledge, I doubt not, either have been, or will be punished promptly.

Thus far but one citizen of this State has been illegally and wrongfully exiled, and he shall be returned to his home and family. While I am Governor of the State of Louisiana, the bayonet shall not rule her citizens, but they shall be protected, at every hazard in all their legal and constitutional rights.

HENRY W. ALLEN,  
Governor of Louisiana.  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
Shreveport, La., July 5, 1864.

DESERTERS CAUGHT.—Two deserters, of this county, Shipton and Carlisle, were arrested on Thursday last near this place while in the act of cooking a meal.

The community is indebted to a portion of the Home Guard and Senior Reserves for this service. These deserters have been engaged in numerous depredations since they took to the bushes—robbing milk-houses, dairies, hen-coops, &c. A large lot of chickens, secreted under Shipton's house, and other articles about the premises were found after the arrest, and many of them recognized as the property of neighbors.

BLOCKADE RUNNER.—The *New York Herald* of the 9th inst., says the blockade runner Falcon, having three smoke stacks and one mast forward, left Halifax the 3d inst., for Wilmington direct, with a full cargo.

HORRIBLE.—When the Yankees entered Decatur, Georgia, an old gentleman, the Rev. Mr. Holmes, met them with a gun in his hand. The hellish fiends, in order to wreak revenge on the old man for his act, bound him in his house and then fired the building, burning him with it.

The *Carolina Times*.—After a temporary suspension of a few weeks, this sprightly daily has again made its appearance, looking as bright as a new pin. We hope the editor may meet with no interruption hereafter.

Fire.—Mr. John I. Shaver lost a tobacco barn in this vicinity on Tuesday, with a large quantity of tobacco, by accidental fire. Estimated loss five thousand dollars.

DAVENPORT FEMALE COLLEGE.—The advertisement referred to in our Tuesday's paper, for information to those interested in finding a good school, was accidentally omitted in that issue. It will be found in this.

FINE SNOW BALLS.—The finest snow ball potatoes (early) we have seen this year, were sent to our office by Mrs. Wm. H. Crawford, of this vicinity, on Saturday. Six of them weighed over half a pound each.

Deserters and their friends, are warned to regard Gen. Martin's notice in this paper. The public at large are also interested in it, and will do well to read it and talk of it.

We copy from the *Salisbury Watchman* what purports to be an extract from the *New York Times* in relation to the elections in this State. If the extract be genuine, then it is clear that the *Times* has been misled by the destructive papers of this State, for it is well known that no such issues as those mentioned by the *Times* were before the people of the State in the late campaign. There is no truth in the statements of the *Times* as to the views of the opponent of Gov. Vance, and in the event of the election of his opponent there would have been no foundation for the expectation of such a result as that anticipated by that paper. But it appears to be useless to deny an official anything now-a-days. The spirit of defamation and calumny is so general and so predominant that the most monstrous falsehoods on vital subjects are uttered and believed as ordinary truths. War is a great demoralizer. We fear our people are growing worse morally instead of better, notwithstanding the fervent prayers which are constantly ascending from some good people, that God would have mercy upon us, and save us, and build us up as a nation peculiarly devoted to His Word and His will.—*Standard*.

The genuine copy of the *New York Times* from which the article in question was copied is now before us, dated "July 25th, 1864," and can be seen by the Editor of the *Standard* or any one else desirous of taking a peep at it. We assure the *Standard* the *Times* needed no other paper to mislead it or to convince it that VANCE was "an adherent of the Richmond Government, willing to stand by its fortunes to the last. The latter [Holden] is an enemy to that Government, and is pledged, if elected, to call a convention to sever all connection with it."

The columns of the *Standard* for months have teemed with such unmistakable signs of enmity to our government, and apparently courted a collision with it in some way as to convince every good man here that the *Standard* was to all intents and purposes laboring to bring about the very state of affairs depicted in the *Times*. The destructive papers as the *Standard* pleases to call them, had no need of laboring to convince the *Times*; that work was too well done by Mr. Holden himself.

Extract from a letter to the Editor, dated

RANDOLPH Co., Aug. 11, 1864.

"If Dr. Black can have justice be done to the Senate. Two precincts from Randolph were not returned, and his army vote was not returned. The Conservative party of Randolph was shamefully mistreated. There were strong guards of armed men at nearly all the precincts. The details hands and reserves between 45 and 50 took the alarm, and most of them voted for Vance against their previously expressed wishes.—*Lat. Standard*.

What alarmed them? No violence was offered or threatened to them. The guards were there to arrest deserters. Were they alarmed at that?

### GOV. VANCE'S MAJORITY.

There are some ten counties to hear from, and owing to the fact that the army returns are very slow in reaching their destinations, the vote as presented is incomplete in most of the counties. Hence, we are unable to give our readers the exact majority Gov. Vance has received over his competitor.

In adding up the figures as given before, the vote stood as follows:

Vance, 50,674; Holden, 12,174

Majority, 38,500.

The ten counties to hear from and the army vote, not yet received, will increase the above majority to about 45,000. A number of counties where the army will not be sent out for information, as those who made the returns, have not yet ascertained the true returns of the law. Gov. Vance's majority, therefore, may be stated in round numbers, at 50,000.

The aggregate number of votes cast, was in the neighborhood of 75,000.—*Conservative*.

PROMOTION.—Major James Hamilton (son of Col. Daniel Hamilton, formerly the special adjutant of General Hood, has been appointed to the command of all the artillery of Wheeler's corps.—*Charleston Mercury*.