

THE SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY.

We hardly think there is a necessity for the hue and cry that we hear, in some quarters, against the Express Company. Much observation and some experience satisfies us that the Railroad Companies never can and never will transport packages and small articles with the same safety, regularity and promptness that the Express Company does; and as to the matter of charges, if that be the real cause of complaint, why do not the companies who have the privilege of the Express Company obligate them to conform to a reasonable scale? But is not the advance made by the Express Company caused, to a large extent, by the frequent increase of the demands of the Railroad Companies on them?—*Raleigh Progress.*

This is one of the "quarters" in which opposition has been made to the Southern Express Company, and we are sure there is necessity for it. We showed, a few days ago, abundant reason, as the people in this section believe, why the Express Company should either be reformed or blown up entirely. We showed that they charged about nine hundred and twenty-five dollars more freight on 20 barrels of flour shipped from this place to Petersburg than the Railroad freight for the same shipment would have been. If this does not show a necessity for reform then there is no occasion to complain of any thing.

Before the war, we could send a barrel of flour to Petersburg for about two dollars; and now, the Railroads only charge \$3.10 from here to Raleigh, and we suppose five or six more from there to Petersburg. But just try it by Express, and you are required to pay fifty dollars and twenty-five cents per bbl., insurance included, but—no war risks taken!

Now, what are the expenses to justify this enormous charge. The Company have no engines, cars, railroad tracks, bridges, depots, or any thing of the sort to keep up. They are at no expense at all, except for the salaries of their local agents, employees, messengers, &c., and the incidental expenses of their offices here and there. We all know that as compared with the Railroads which do their transporting, they are comparatively at no expense. Well, then, here is a company, so far as we know an irresponsible company, which has fastened itself upon our Railroads without becoming a part of them, doing the very work for which those Roads were built, expending nothing among the people and charging them more than five times as much for the work which the Railroads ought to do, and do as well as they.

But it is suggested that the high charges of the Express Company is caused by the increased demands on them by the Railroad Companies.

Does any one suppose that the Railroad Companies charge the Express more than their published rates? Why should they? Any body has a right to send freights on the Railroad at the published rates, and it is hardly probable that so good a customer as the Express would be required to pay more, even if it were lawful to demand it. There is no just support in that suggestion. If the Railroad officials are charging more than the published rates, by what authority is it done, and what becomes of the excess? If by proper authority, does the excess go into the Treasury of the Companies? And if into the Treasury of the Companies, is that not unfair, unjust dealing with the people, for whose benefit these roads were built! The Railroad Companies, in that case, have become corrupt. They profess, by their published rates, to work at a certain price; but in reality make a corrupt bargain with a corrupt Company—enter into a league with it—by which it abstracts from the public more than they profess to charge. And that Company, having secured the whip-hand of the Railroads make use of it with a vengeance, and abstract from the people to their heart's content. They have mastered the railroads—become their masters—subjecting them not only to silence but to submission, and have nothing more to do but just to make as much money as they please. They have monopolized almost all the private freights that pass over the Roads, and also a large part of the Government freight. The Railroad Companies have been virtually farmed out, and are no longer the public institutions they were designed to be. They are the form without the substance. They are only a vast machine through which artful men are extorting and grind-

ing out the wealth of the people. We respectfully suggest to our Representatives and Senators elect to the next Legislature, that this is a fit subject to engage their most searching investigation. We have heard of certain officials on the Railroads who have accumulated large fortunes without any known means, since the war began; and if, upon search, it shall be found that our Railroad Companies have done a legitimate business with the Express, it may not be amiss to enquire further as to the necessity of the latter to increase its rates so enormously. It is in the power of Railroad officials to give preference to freights, and eager speculators may have offered them inducements to do so. It is human to err, and it would not be a strange thing to find that the cupidity of men had instituted a system of erring. At all events, we hope and believe that the Legislature will probe this thing to the bottom. If the Express Company, is utterly without excuse for such enormous charges, it should be blown up, and our Railroad Companies required so to organize their system of transportation as fully to meet the public necessity, and at rates duly proportioned to the service.

**Nomination of McClellan.**—We think this is a wise nomination for the Peace party of the North, although McClellan has been a war man. He is a man of superior grade to old Abe, and capable of withstanding the fanatical rage of the black Republican's and if elected, will display some wisdom in grappling the vital questions on which hang the destiny of both the Northern and Southern States. If he should consent to stand on an unequivocal peace platform, and can be elected, we may reasonably expect an early termination of the war. If it be true that the people of the United States have discovered that their own liberties are endangered by their attempt to deprive us of ours, we may calculate, also on a great revolution in public sentiment there, a recognition of the doctrine of State sovereignty, and of our right to form a separate Republic if we choose to do so. Without this, the war will go on.

**THE EVANGELICAL TRACT SOCIETY,** of the Southern Confederacy, designed chiefly to minister to the spiritual need of our noble defenders, is the representative of all denominations of Christians, who through it, lay their offerings of piety upon the altar of patriotism, and lead the soldiers of the country to become the soldiers of the Cross. Its headquarters are Petersburg, Va., with depositories in other cities, and a numerous corps of Colporteurs, occupied in distributing tracts to our soldiers, in the army and in the hospitals.

The Society is now greatly in need of funds to carry on its truly benevolent work, and calls on the friends of the soldier and those who have a heart to labor or to give for their spiritual welfare, to send in their contributions. JULIUS D. McNEELY is agent for the Society in this place, and will gladly receive and transmit the contributions of those who wish to help forward this truly good work.

ABSENTEES FROM THE ARMY.

Since the publication of the General Orders of General LEE and the Proclamation of Gov. VANCE, we are gratified to learn that five have reported to the Enrolling Officer for this county, voluntarily. This is what we like to see, and if there are any more of these misguided men, in this county, we once more appeal to them to come forward and avail themselves of the very humane offer of Gen. LEE and Gov. VANCE. For the future let them wipe out the stain entailed upon their good name by this one false step, and make a record which will be read with pleasure and profit by coming generations.

To the friends of these men, we appeal to call on them in person and persuade them by all that is dear to them, to come in. Better for them and their friends that every man should die an honorable death on the field, than to meet the awful doom of the deserter.

A friend writing to us from Early's headquarters, Charlestown, Va., says—"Early is giving well furloughs regularly. It don't look like he is greatly reduced. This army is as gay as a Christmas party. I'm perfectly rejoiced that I am with it again. We are quartered in town. Our bands serenade every night—we have dinners, cakes, &c., all around—the people half crazy for joy. Ain't we in clover?"

NO ACCOUNTING FOR TASTES

Is an old adage, but whether or not taste had anything to do with the arrangement of the schedule of prices for this State, we know not. In looking over the items which make up the list, and the prices annexed, we find, however, some noticeable things. For instance: Beans, white, or cornfield, are put down at \$10 per bushel. And brandy, apple, at \$20 per gallon. Why, we would ask, such a difference between these articles!

We imagine as to the personelle of the Commissioners of Appraisalment, (both unknown to us,) that their noses, in good times, were of a roseate hue, but now, though slightly enlarged, of a rather pale and subdued appearance, with little blue unexcited veins visible. In those times too, they were of rotund form—what some folks would call "Squires"—whereas now, there is a certain amount of flabbiness and spindle-shankness which makes one think of "banquet hall deserted. That in arranging the prices of these articles, fond memory brought, in a measure, the light of other days around them, when "amites" were plenty and large, greeting them on the right and the left, and fairly satisfying their congenial natures.

Who, under such inspiration could think of cornfield beans, except as wittily perpetrating the ridiculous! Every body knows they are always on hand among the poor and meek, even in war times. They come without inviting—are as common as sun shine though not quite so plenty. But—Brandy!—well, now—it aint just so with it. We must offer a premium for peach and apple Brandy. Its true, a bushel of beans will keep life in the body of a man for a month or more, and fit him for any amount of hard labor on the farm, in the shop, and even such as digging trenches, double-quicking or fighting. But—who can stand any longer the dull monotony of life without the blissful abundance of the gay deceiver!

But this is all mere imagination—the Commissioners may be teetotalers—sons of Temperance of the sternest order—Reclabites—Washingtonians, and what not. But we would just like to know for the fun of the thing why they offered a premium for sparkling Brandy and snubbed the worthy Bean. We hope they will come out in a "Card" and explain themselves. Or if not so, that they will get Billy Holden to write an essay on Brandy and its uses, as against the cornfield Bean.

The Richmond Examiner of the 30th, in an article on the North Carolina election, takes occasion to say some pretty hard things of Governor Vance, whom it is pleased to class with Holden and the Leaches, and characterizes as a "trimmer," whose election, in itself, reflects no honor upon the State, &c.

The Examiner does not know the people of North Carolina as well as he ought to. Its views from the stand point taken, are not without some justice and truth as they relate to Governor Vance. But its error is natural, but an error for all that, and in the main does injustice to the Governor.

Grant has sent word to the people at the North, by Ex-Gov. Ramsey, lately on a visit to his army, to "possess their souls with patience"—that all will come out right—that his success is beyond doubt—that his grand plan is certain to be successful in the end.

The peace prospects as represented by the latest Northern papers received, are not so cheering as they were a few days ago. We shall soon hear from the Chicago Convention, however, and shall then know what to expect.

**PARTY.**—A venerable and eminent citizen, verging we suppose upon fourscore years, and necessarily near the close of a life of distinguished public and private worth, concludes a letter of congratulation on the result of the late election as follows: "One thing more; For Heaven's sake, strive your utmost to repress party in either the Executive or Legislative Departments and in the great body of the people, till this great struggle shall be over. Up to the establishment of our Independence keep us together, as one people. After that men of ambition may vault to their hearts' content, for me."

To all of which we utter a hearty amen! As our aim has been heretofore, to ignore party, and to keep our people as one man in their devotion to the great cause of Independence, so will it be still until that Independence is secured. Since April 1861, we have belonged to no party and mean to belong to none till the war is ended. In like manner have the great body of the people of North Carolina acted from the day when the war was first waged against them by Lincoln. At all their elections since the 1st of January, 1861, they have manifested this disregard of parties. Especially and pre-eminently has this been the case in the elections of Governor. Col. Vance, an old Whig, has been twice elected by unheated majorities, in a State which had for ten years previous to the war been largely democratic. And a people who had been for the old Union by an overwhelming majority, have since that time been united overwhelmingly against it. As it has been for the past four years, so it will be till the war's end—till our independence and a final separation from the vile yankee race are fully and certainly secured.—*Fay. Ob.*

We do most heartily endorse these views, and have cherished them ever since this war begun. We have earnestly endeavored to know no party, but have aimed to give our feeble strength to the cause of the country. We have denounced men both of the old Whig and Democratic parties as we have seen them laboring, as we believed, to build up party; and in this, the people, who have no ambitious ends to accomplish, have sustained us. Governor Vance, as has been truly said, owes his elevation to this prevailing sentiment. It was that which elected him at the first election, and has so recently re-elected him. They are vastly mistaken who suppose it was a "Conservative Party," or any party at all, in the sense we have heretofore understood the term, who elected him. Let Governor Vance swerve from the high, patriotic course which has heretofore distinguished him, and you will soon see that he is without supporters. We hope that day is far—very far distant when we shall again have such party organizations in this country as at one time fettered the minds of the people, and reduced them to the condition of beasts in the stables, to be bartered and sold to accomplish the ambition of vile speculators in politics.

**Prophecy.**—Everybody knows that Billy Holden has been a prophet for a long time—often undertaking to tell in advance the result of measures, of elections, &c., &c. But it is not so well known that the Fayetteville Observer has lately made a prediction. That paper says Holden will, within the next two years, join the "Destructives," the very "party" he has been abusing so badly for the last year or two. What do you think of that?

**DESERTER ARRESTED.**—Jesse F. Gilbert, Co. C, 42d regiment, was arrested by Geo. H. Peeler, on Crane Creek, yesterday, and was delivered to Capt. Hoyt. He says he is from Stanly county.

A terrible Powder Mill explosion took place at Augusta, Ga., on the 28th, killing eight persons, and blowing the building into fragments. There were about 6,000 lbs. powder involved in the explosion.

Col. W. H. A. SPEER, of the 28th N. C., was killed in the recent fight on the Weldon road. He was Senator elect from Ashe, Yadkin, Surry and Watauga.

IS THIS SO?

The Confederates of the 31st Aug says:

"We take this opportunity of making note of another thing, a gross unmitigated evil. It is the habit of employment in the local offices of men who are fit for field duty. One sees them every where. In the enrolling offices, to begin with. Does a General want a clerk? He will take the primmest and healthiest young man he can find. Does the Adjutant General need Bureau assistants! The Quartermaster, Commissary and all the various departments! They find them among the young and able bodied far too much. While our army is hard pressed, worn with constant laborious, wearying duties, its force reduced, and the duties of each soldier increased there are everywhere to be found those who are as well fit, exempted all the war, and kept from sharing the onerous and dangerous duties which appertain to the service."

And what the law requires is constantly violated, and evasions are made of its provisions. The Government is not to blame for this, but the individuals who slight its command. And the most lamentable feature of the case, so far as North Carolina is concerned, is that the "sine-offices, as they are called, have been filled during the war by those whose heart were least in the cause, and are now in many instances, by disloyal men—Yankees at heart, who are shielded from the military service by "shad, employment."

This is undoubtedly true, and it is an evil which calls for correction.—The law requires that these young able-bodied men should be conscripted and sent to the army, and their places in Government offices filled by those who are not capable of field service.—Why is it not done. Those who not responsible should be held to a strict accountability, and we doubt not will be. We are quite sure that neither President Davis nor Gov. Vance will fail in their duty in the promises. They owe fidelity to the people whose servants they are and to the laws passed by their representatives and we believe they will not fail intentionally in their duty. Let these able-bodied men be reported to the enrolling officers, and if they fail to do their duty and the work will be done.

The Western Democrat, Charlotte, takes the same view we do of the Southern Express Co., and of the rightful expectation of the people that the work done by this company should be done by the Railroad Companies. In announcing its views, however, that paper disclaims any feeling of displeasure towards the agents of the Express, by whom it has uniformly been treated with kindness, courtesy, &c. &c. We did not deem it necessary to make this disclaimer, because we presumed no such construction would be placed upon our opposition to it, based as it was, upon principle, and the impolicy of the thing. We are a little too old to allow personal matters to control us in questions of public policy, but that may not be known by every body. The agents of the Express have always treated us with respect and liberality, but that is no reason why we should "keep quiet" when we see that Company imposing on the public, as of late it is doing.

The People's Press complains of the calling out of the Home Guard in Forsythe, at this busy time of the year to hunt deserters, and says it thinks it has been through false representations in regard to the loyalty of the county. The Home Guard has been called out in Rowan, Iredell, Stanly, Mecklenburg, Union, and a great many other counties, if not throughout the State. We think the Press must be mistaken in the inference it draws touching the loyalty of the county.

**Can it be Possible.**—The New York Sun says "the number of rebel prisoners now in custody," is "of-ficers four thousand, enlisted men fifty thousand, in round numbers."