

SOUTHERN EXPRESS CO.—AGAIN.

We have received two letters within the last two or three days touching our opposition to the Southern Express Company.

The first letter from which we quote is the following, dated Augusta, Ga., Aug. 30th, to wit:

Your courteous attention in the editorial column of the 'Watchman,' July 18th, headed 'Good Move,' has been read and is hereby duly acknowledged and appreciated.

We withhold the name, for we presume the author did not intend it for publication. It was only for our private eye. We imagine the author meant to throw considerable significance in the words 'duly acknowledged and appreciated.'

But we quote from another letter, as follows:—premising that the author had no other object in writing beyond the expression of his views on the Express subject alone.

"I read with true satisfaction, your castigation of Express and Railroad Companies, in your issue of the 3d.

"Express Companies are of Northern or Yankee origin, Harnden & Co., firstly, then Adams & Co. of Boston. Their agencies are located at every place of business, on each Railroad.

"I have no doubt our Confederate Express is now, as heretofore, connected with the Yankee Express—Yankees are here managing, with their families North.

"The Express is not confined to legitimate business, but is draining the vitality of our mail system, like the parasite or misletoe. They are daily carrying all possible matter, in Orders, Drafts, Packages and Money, without postage stamps; and the charges upon which are more swarming than upon merchandise.

"It is high time our Postmaster General looked after this matter! It is also of equal import that the Hon. Secretary of War look after the scores of able-bodied detailed clerks and messengers that ought to belong to the Confederate army instead of this questionable organization in the Confederacy!"

There is point in this letter, certain; and it is not at all obscure at that.

ATLANTA.

The fall of this now famed city, all, we doubt not, most seriously regret. But in such cases, regrets avail but little. Nothing but a firm conviction of our just rights, and a settled determination on the part of all never to submit to the domination of the Yankee Government, is the only way to overcome these difficulties and reverses.

Since the opening of the present campaign, our success has been (with a few exceptions) brilliant, and, in many instances, unparalleled. When Grant first assumed command of the army of the Potomac, with an army larger and better equipped than any before it, many had misgivings, but we are gratified to say all these have vanished, and victory on more than one occasion, has gladdened the hearts of the people.

We are indebted to an unknown friend for a copy of the New York Herald, of the 21st of August. It abounds with characteristic Yankee boasts of past and prospective Yankee achievements in the army of the Potomac, at Atlanta, Mobile, &c. It says that Grant is in the very crisis of his grand military combinations, having the rebels hemmed in at Petersburg and Richmond, their main avenues of subsistence and transportation cut off, &c., and that now is the exact time when the government and the people should come up as with one mind and a single will to the support of Gen. Grant. That one hundred thousand men sent to Grant to-day would finish the rebellion in six weeks. That there is plenty of material in the North out of which to mould a splendid army of 500,000, and that one fifth can be easily spared for a short, sharp and victorious campaign, &c. &c. The Herald of this date is all for war, and seems totally unconscious of any reverses having befallen Gen. Grant at any time.

Under the heading "bring down the price of coal," the Herald says: This is the cry coming to us from all quarters, and it must be responded to by the grasping monopolists who manage the fuel market of this city, or they must take the consequences. It then goes on to denounce the coal auctions, which are pronounced bogus, and the fabulous prices all bogus, all for the purpose of humbugging the people, and forcing up the prices.

We also learn from the Herald that Mr. Otis, General Superintendent of the Overland Mail route, has just reached Washington for the purpose of representing the state of Indian affairs in the West. He says the Indians are all hostile, and have perpetrated numerous acts of violence. That they claim the country, and say they will expell all the whites; and that the routes of travel through are unsafe to travellers or emigrants except in large bodies.

LIBERAL.—C. E. PARISH, at Hillsboro', publishes a notice that one hundred dollars will be paid by him, in behalf of a liberal man, of that place, to every deserter who will voluntarily return to his duty in the army, provided his only crime is desertion.

The Progress says "that Gov. VANCE is a candidate for Mr. Dortch's seat in the Senate, and an aspirant for the Presidency at the close of Mr. Davis' term." The Conservative intimates that the Progress has no right to make that announcement, but says—"it is true we have heard the Governor's name mentioned in connection with the Senatorship."

SOLDIERS' ORPHAN FUND.

Dr. DEEMS recently visited Moore and Montgomery Counties for the purpose of soliciting aid for this fund. In Montgomery he secured \$22,000 and in Moore \$10,000. This speaks well for the liberality of the people of those counties.

There are a large number of these unfortunate children who must be cared for, and it must be done by those who are able. Their fathers have been slain in defence of the country, and if no more fitting tribute to their gallantry can be rendered, this ought to be done.

COL. SPEER.—We learn from Wm. H. Reaves, Esq., that Col. Speer, Senator elect from the Yadkin District, that a late dispatch has been received by the Colonel's brother stating that he was badly wounded, and not dead, as heretofore published in the papers of the State.

SALISBURY ARSENAL.—We learn from Gen. Orders, No. 70, of Adj't. and Inspector Gen. S. Cooper, that the Government Foundry, blaksmith shops and Laboratory of the Ordnance Department at this place, will hereafter be known as the "Salisbury Arsenal."

We regret to learn the death of Capt. A. T. Bost. We were personally acquainted with him and knew his worth. He was a gallant soldier, an honest man, and a devoted friend. He was more, even, than that; but it is better told in our obituary column.

Commissionaries and Quartermasters, whose duty it is to provide for the army, will find some very suggestive thoughts in an article in this paper, written by a soldier and copied from the Richmond Whig. We know it is not always the fault of the Commissionaries in Richmond, that soldiers are imposed on in the quality of the articles provided for their consumption. We know that the Commissionaries about home are sometimes to blame, and there is reason to believe that instances of the basest corruption have occurred, by which soldiers have been deprived of their rights and shamefully wronged whilst the operation endured to the pecuniary advantage of the official. This is a subject of first-rate importance, because on it depends the comfort, the contentment, and the health of the army, which is the very hope of the country. It is quite certain that our Government, however honest have been its efforts to guard this department, have not yet succeeded in doing it so well as to protect the soldier and the interest of the country against heartless and dishonest officers. So much the more reason for increased diligence in efforts to discover and oust those who are unworthy.

Capt. J. A. NEELY's company of Home Guard, out all last week hunting deserters in this county, came into Town Saturday, to get supplies, &c., report that they had found no deserters and could hear of none of the persons whose names were given them as such, being in the woods. Many of those whose names were listed to them as deserters were either at their posts in the army or in hospitals, and some of them killed in battle!

If this statement be true, and we are sure the men who told us of it believe it to be so, it is to be hoped the honored dead may not lose their reward of a good name by the carelessness of officials in not keeping a true record of the men.

We are glad to learn that the North Carolina Central Rail Road Company have put in operation a system of Expressing over their Road on company responsibility, and that their charges are only about double the ordinary Railroad rates. This is a great improvement, and we hope the Company may perfect their system so as fully to meet the public requirement.

NEW COMMANDANT.—We learn that Maj. GEE, of Florida, has been appointed to the Command of the C. S. Prison, in this place, vice Col. Gilmer, removed for inability on account of bad health.

A LIBERAL DONATION. W. P. Reinhardt of Catawba county, has given to indigent soldiers wives and widows 100 bushels of wheat, of the present crop. Who will beat it!

YANKEE LOVE LETTER.

A friend in Early's army, has sent us several Yankee letters, picked up on one of the battle grounds which the enemy had to leave rather too hastily to gather up every thing that belonged to them. One of them may draw a smile from some of our readers.

The "dear George" addressed in the following epistle, doubtless experienced the full assurance of hope as he read how "with the greatest of pleasure" Lydia seated herself to tell how glad she was "to hear from my (her) love once more." But we would readily bet a cent that before he got through he wished that that fellow "Jim," who gave Lydia a locket, last winter, and has lately added to it a nice chain and pin, and is stamping around there, was

at the d—dread front of Grant's army. But each one can make his or her own reflections on the letter, which, by the way, is very like human nature in general:

Springfield Ohio Aug. 17th 1864.

Dear George it is with the greatest of pleasure that I seat myself this evening to answer your kind letter that came to hand a few hours ago and was very glad to hear from my love once more for it is so long since I got a letter from you I thought you had forgotten me for I have written you three letters before this one and I had give up looking for one, your father and Mother was in town to day and brought out your letter, Mary was over all afternoon to day and we are all going to town to morrow that is us girls and I thought I would rite you a letter to night George we have another singing school made up for Mr. otha it commens next saturday night think the shins will be scarce that is what I think about the matter

well George you want to now how bill gets along I cant tell you much about it for he hasent spoke to me for about two months but I guess he gets along very well for he dancd nearly all day last saturday at the picnic I wasent there but I heard so the picnic was on this side of nobleville John help to play for them they had a big time so they say I dont now I think it was a little time

well George you want to know how jim gets along he does very well he has been very busy at work ever since he come home he helps us in harvest he has been here agood many times but I dont pretend to say he comes to see me

George I wish you could see what a nice chain and pin he got fixed to that locket he sent me last winter. I heard he paid ten dollars for it. I think he had better save his money for I dont care any thing about it. they all say we are agoin to get married but that is all they now about it

I told you all about jim and bill in my other letter that I sent to beverly these are where the boys are now we have heard from them several times I must close for this time for I am in a hurry write soon to your true friend

LYDIA TROUT.

For the Watchman. THE EXPRESS COMPANY.

MR. EDITOR: I agree with you that something should be done either by way of destroying or reforming our Express arrangements. I will give you an instance or two of their charges. One lot of Castings were purchased in Spartanburg, S. C., and brought by Express to Hickory Tavern, N. C. The Express charges exceeded the cost of the goods; so that the owner could take choice of selling the ware and then adding to the proceeds a sufficiency to pay the freight, or to keep the goods and pay the freight from other resources!

A small package, weighing about three-fourths of a pound, was recently sent by Express from Columbia, S. C., to Hickory Tavern, and the charge for transportation by Express was eleven dollars and a half! the value of the package being about one hundred and fifty dollars.

It has been understood that for safety and dispatch it was necessary to patronize the Express Company. Why should this be so! Cannot the Railroad Company make arrangements to transport even small packages promptly and safely! If they cannot, can they not so control the Express Company as to prevent the Road from becoming the medium of financial enormities? REFORM. Lenoir, N. C., Sept. 5, '64.

THE BATTLE OF REAMS' STATION — GEN. HILL'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

"HEADQUARTERS 3D CORPS, August 31, 1864."

"Colonel—I have the honor to report the correct list of results in the fight of the 25th, at Reams' Station. We captured twelve stands of colors, nine pieces of artillery, ten caissons, twenty-one hundred and fifty prisoners, thirty-one hundred stands of small arms and thirty-two horses.

"My own loss in cavalry, artillery and infantry is seven hundred and twenty men killed, wounded and missing.

"Very respectfully, A. P. HILL, Lieutenant-General. Col. W. H. TAYLOR, A. A. G."

The army correspondent of the Augusta, Ga., Constitutionalists thus speaks of the fighting Governor of Tennessee:

Gov. Harris, the only Executive of the South who has smelt powder and who knows the difference between the sound of a minie ball and the song of a Robin, is out along the line of his gallant Tennesseans, in excellent spirits.

About 8 o'clock on the morning of the 25th ult., we left Charlestown, and after an oppressive march of some ten miles, in scorching heat and suffocating dust, we came suddenly on a stumbling block at the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road, four miles from Shepardstown, Va. "Bluecoats" were, apparently, abundant in those parts, and they stoutly resisted our advances. Big "Jubal" didn't seem to consider matters very serious. In the coolest manner possible the troops were brought up in battle line, batteries placed in position, skirmishers sent forward and at noon the fight began in earnest. After an hour's vigorous shelling and skirmishing the enemy fell back in disorder, leaving their dead and wounded and also a considerable lot of prisoners in our hands. We were pushed in pursuit at once, and not until we landed in Shepardstown was I allowed time enough to stop and take a gravel about the size of a partridge egg out of my shoe. In town we had five minutes breathing spell, when again we were marched rapidly one mile down the river, where we formed another "streak of fight" and scoured the woods to the water's edge; found no yankees (no live ones at least) south of the Potomac at this point, and at sunset we lay down for a little rest. Eight o'clock at night found us again moving back towards Shepardstown, which is half mile from the river and three miles above the ford where troops generally cross here. Passing through the town with stirring music at 9 o'clock at night, we were greeted with shouts and yells from all quarters;—even the ladies seemed to have lost all control of themselves and went dancing and clapping their hands and waving handkerchiefs as if an universal matrimonial day (or night) had been proclaimed. Such a joyous welcome is worth six months service at any time. Keeping the road to Martinsburg at midnight we "turned in" three miles from Charlestown. Notwithstanding the men were very tired, yet the arms were scarcely stacked when squads were seen striking out in every direction foraging while a portion of those who remained went to work looking rations, in all probability, for another expedition tomorrow similar to the one we have had to-day. At break of day the next morning the foragers returned, many of them earlier, some later, with their companions relating their marvelous adventures, hair-breadth escapes, &c. Many didn't get further than the apple orchard, others found a cornfield and "oodles" of roast-meats; some happened, by the merest accident in the world, to stumble into a spring house where it was evident milk and butter were to be had for less than schedule prices;—a few bee hives, sheepskins, duck heads, and such like trifling articles might be found half concealed somewhere in the neighborhood of camp; how they got there is a mystery that has puzzled graver and bolder heads than mine.

Since the affair at Shepardstown things have been comparatively quiet, that is, as quiet as it ever gets in '64 Valley, by which we mean a march a "skrimmage" almost every day, but short and easy marches and light fights. The enemy's force, I believe, at various points above Harper's Ferry, consists entirely of cavalry, for whom our boys have the most supreme contempt. Citizens in Shepardstown told us the Yankee force there, on the 25th ult., amounted to 8,000, yet they hardly stood for a showing. The same kind of a fight occurred at Smithfield (six miles below Bunker Hill) on last Monday, and yesterday again our division had a running fight with them from Darksville to some place beyond Martinsburg, in which the enemy lost more than usual in men and horses. Besides these we captured a considerable quantity of Quartermaster and Commissary stores in and around Martinsburg, such as boots, shoes, clothing, pork, crackers &c. An unopened yankee mail was also captured,—nothing of importance, however, was found. Two or three of the letters are enclosed;—if they are fit for publication, extracts, at least will appear. They are fair samples of all yankee letters.

We have no complaints to make. The best of health prevails—plenty to eat and jolly times generally. The weather continues fine, the mornings are cool, almost frosty, but the days are oppressively warm, especially when we are on a march.

NAT.

Another Barn Burnt.—We learn that, on Saturday night last, the barn of Jasper Raper, Esq., was burnt, it being the work of an incendiary.—Salem Press.

Since the war the Federals have lost 51 Generals, of whom 36 were killed in battle and 15 have died of diseases contracted in the service.

Astronomers predict that in November of this year a meteoric display of falling stars, similar to that of November, 1863, will take place