

CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

SALISBURY, N. C.

MONDAY EVENING, OCT. 3, 1864.

It remained for these Confederate States of America to present to the world the imposing spectacle of five millions of free born whites contending successfully, against the united and combined armies of twenty millions, continually reinforced by the convicts, criminals, and wandering vagrants of every land. This devoted people, imbibing the spirit of their sires, and despising the proud array of numbers, though scattered over a broad expanse of territory, sallied forth with a purpose and unanimity unparalleled in the annals of history to meet in solid phalanx the haughty armies of the North, which came seeking their overthrow, to rifle them of their property, to deprive them of liberty. Liberty, which elevates man above the beast, was involved in the momentous issue. No stronger inducement was necessary to fix a purpose in the hearts of freemen, to die rather than see this priceless heritage subverted. They counted not the cost in blood and treasure—the question of time was not brought into the estimate—the object imperiled was beyond computation.

Thus our people went into the contest. Thus they resolved, with out regard to the dangers of life, limb, or property, to defend their just claims against the insidious encroachments of their Northern neighbors. For nearly half a century they had submitted with mere verbal protest. Longer submission was sheer folly. They claimed the right of revolution, the very bulwark of self-government. The old Constitution had become a by-word and reproach among both peoples; and the bond of union that of oppression. The repeated violation of the one, and the perversion of the other by the people of the North had rendered these sacred ties odious in the eyes of many Southern patriots, and their further supremacy over them intolerable, if not impracticable.—The armies of the North were already marshaling for the enforcement of usurped authorities: and added to a long train of grievances and premeditated wrongs, there was nothing left Southerners but insult and prospective vassalage. They were compelled to accept the issue. Between liberty and slavery there was no alternative but an interminable civil war. Reluctantly they yielded up the quiet pursuits of peace and happiness and appealed to the arbitrament of the sword: yet heedless of sacrifice, or the terrible consequences incident to war, they assumed the fearful responsibility, and for more than three long years they have shown to an admiring world that the blood of freemen is the most precious oblation on the altar of liberty, and their graves monuments of pride in comparison with the chains of slavery.

The most powerful and magnificently equipped armies the world ever saw have been met and hurled back, broken and discomfited; the most adroitly planned campaigns ever set on foot by a rich and ingenious people, have been foiled of their object and rendered disastrous by the strong arms and brave hearts of the Confederates; and through a long series of the fiercest and bloodiest battles of this or any other age, they have not only preserved their organization but their spirit of resistance. Why not! with the light of three years experience before them, they can no longer doubt the real nature of the struggle, and the woeful consequences of defeat. The object of the cruel war prosecuted by the northern minions is now well understood. The baseness and inhumanity of the fanatical and destitute Yankee nation have been fully developed, we are thus enabled to

comprehend our duty and our danger. Defeat is absolute ruin. We cannot entertain the idea for a moment. Better see the extremity of human suffering, cities and towns in ashes, and our country devastated and ruined, than that one shall survive a doom more oppressive than death. But should we relax our purpose of independence, and thus secure our conquest by the unmerciful and unscrupulous people of the north, we shall have procured for ourselves and posterity all the degradation, misery, and contempt that it is possible for any people to entail upon themselves and country. The best that the past, present, or future will permit us to expect is social and political vassalage. We shall be heavers of wood and drawers of water to the lusty North man—the dishonored servants of those who have murdered our brothers, fathers and husbands—the servants of servants. Who can imagine fully our wretched condition? Behold the people of the South stripped of their property, their fair women placed upon an equality with the negro and made the house servants and washerwomen for the hated yankee—their towns garrisoned by negro troops and their men kept in subjugation by the bayonet. Our condition as a people would be more oppressive and intolerable than the serfdom of England. To those who have been actually engaged in the war and those who have been crippled by wounds, death would be a sweet exchange to a life of misery, insult, and persecution. They would be the objects of the most bitter persecution and espionage that it is possible for the devilish ingenuity of a vindictive enemy to devise. It is then, a sacred duty we owe ourselves and posterity, rendered obligatory under Providence by the will of Heaven, to fight on and fight ever for the independence of this great people, and to avoid the degradation and ruin of our country and the destruction of civil liberty in America. God's power and mercy were specially bestowed upon the children of Israel, his favorite people, in their flight from Egypt to the Land of Canaan, and his special providences have not been less potential, and probably not less conspicuous in our struggle. But as the children of Israel were required to undergo many hardships, endure much suffering, and submit to many sacrifices in their weary wandering through the wilderness before they reached the promise land, so must we expect to suffer much and submit to many sacrifices before we achieve the security of our liberties. Every thing depends upon the strong arms and united hearts of the Southern people. The only hope of an early or permanent peace is in the power of the sword. Our experience has shown us the utter impossibility of securing anything like an honorable or fair settlement with the enemy by negotiations.

To fight, and fight to the bitter end is the only alternative left us. As long as there is an able bodied man left in the South, that man should carry a musket—as long as there is a horse left, that horse should carry a cavalryman, or draw artillery. Much of our territory is already devastated, but there is still enough left to raise corn for subsistence; and while there is bread to eat and gun powder and lead to be obtained, we must determine to fight it to the very last. Let no man think it unjust if he is called to the field, and especially if he has not yet taken a hand in this struggle for the defense of his home and freedom. Let very shame bring forth those men who have sought out for themselves easy places at a distance from the conflict, and let them hasten to the camp: the camp, as the President remarked the other day, is now the place for every able bodied man, if he would see his country saved the agonizing humiliations and infamy of Yankee conquest and despotism.

We mention it as a fact at least creditable, that numbers of our subscribers have, of late, either paid or promised to pay, for their papers in produce at old rates, and get the paper at old rates. This, it is true, is but fair and just; but at a time when so many are racing after the highest possible cent for every thing they have to sell, it is praiseworthy in those who restrain these covetous desires.

The surrender of Atlanta and the defeat of Early in the Valley of Virginia, have been the salvation of the Lincoln administration in the North. These unfortunate events for us have, at least, rendered his success in the present political campaign here, more than a mere probability. They have proved a real God-send to his declining fortunes. Disaster after disaster had befallen his powerful armies; his marine interests had been greatly curtailed, and indeed were in daily jeopardy from a few insignificant rebel craft or "pirate cruises": his financial affairs were assuming a dangerous, and threatening attitude—gold was negotiable at two dollars and fifty to sixty cents in the treasury notes, or greenbacks, of a rich and powerful nation, in free and comparatively unobstructed commerce with the whole world—his subjects had begun to show a spirit of restlessness and incredulity despite the lying bulletins of victory and speedy conquest daily heralded forth from the oracle at Washington. They began to disabuse their minds and cast about for a change of rulers. They even went so far as to openly proclaim in the dominions of Lincoln, a desire for peace. But alas for them! the father of his people, Abraham Lincoln, was destined not to be forsaken. The longed-for tidings came of victory, at last for Federal arms. The wires rapidly spread the "glorious news" from the mountains to the lakes, and the people, for the moment, trembling heard with the silence of death.—They knew not whether to rejoice and be glad or mourn and be sorrowful. The fall of a pin, if possible, might have been heard throughout the North. Such men as Wood, Vallandigham, Seymour and others covered their heads in dust and ashes, momentarily expecting to be summoned to the guillotine, or be banished forever from their native land. But soon the oracle spoke, and like a father that pitieth his children, it was made known, that all that was necessary, was to return to Abraham's bosom and join in the grand jubilee and thanksgiving, ostensibly, to God, but really to Abraham for victory: and soon the bonfires rose in every borough and town, and twenty millions of Yankee throats rang forth the jubilee of victory and renewed the fiendish howl for more blood and carnage. So much for the peace party of the North.

But there is another feature in the Yankee victories that deserves the consideration of all concerned. A people so versatile may easily be led into extremes by every little vicissitude of fortune. The astute and ingenious Seward is fully aware of this: Hence every little success is made just cause of great rejoicing. The rich fields and spoils of the South are then held out to excite the cupidities of the foreigner and the lusty yankee. Their early conquest is promised and with some plausibility. Many are induced to volunteer, and others are forced to do so while the whole voice is for war. Thus they make all their victories pay. The South gains a victory, and lulls away into a sort of stupor of indifference, without making an effort to fill the places of those killed: and to this indifference we may attribute our late reverses.

IT SOUNDS BAD to hear an able-bodied man who has studiously shirked duty in his country's defence by every conceivable manner known to the stickler of *habeas corpus* and the Enrolling Office; sitting around the street corners criticizing the generalship of some of our bravest and noblest generals. Such men should lie low, and have as little to say about matters of which they know nothing as possible.

We are glad to see that our government is at last making a move in the right direction. It will appear from the following extract of General Order, No. 73, that one at least of the numerous bomb-proof Departments, is to be subject to a thorough cleansing, and we hope, as the necessities of the country demand, that the good work will be energetically prosecuted until every able man of the proper age shall be sent to the field. The order says:

"As soon as practicable, all officers and men now employed in the enrolling service, whether as enrolling officers, conscript guards, clerks, or otherwise, except such as are retired or assigned to light duty by the Medical Boards, will be relieved by details from the Reserve Forces and sent to the field."

Many of our exchanges are propounding the very important question what shall be done with the militia Officers and Magistrates under 45 years of age? We would like to answer this question—we would like to be able to show that the services of these officers at home are indispensable to the public welfare and that they are needed worse here than they are at the front; but we cannot. We think it a very dangerous, not to say stupid policy, that persists in withholding the services of probably eight or ten thousand much needed soldiers, in this State alone, from the defense of the country. These officers are needed at the front. We are now in the crisis of our fate, and it will be a poor satisfaction after all is lost, to lament over this injudicious sticking of the Legislature upon which may depend the fate of the country.

There has been a good deal of complaint, for some time past, by soldiers chiefly, also in part by citizens, of the inability of the Quartermaster at this post to pay off just claims. For months the funds supplied to this post have been largely deficient to meet the demands which must, or should be, paid off here; and these complaints having become very common we called on Captain Goodman to hear his explanation of it, for we knew there must be a cause for it over which he had no control. He states that it is no fault of his; but that he has done every thing required by him by the Department at Richmond—have complied with all the regulations, and given all the necessary estimates. That he has been assured that his requisition will be placed subject to his order, and he believes it will be, but cannot explain the delay.

We make this statement as well for the satisfaction of those concerned as for the relief of Capt. Goodman, who we know has suffered much annoyance if he has not been embarrassed in the business of his post, by the apparent negligence of officials at Richmond, who, in turn, if all the truth was known, may also have a good excuse.

Non Taxable Confederate Bonds.—The sale of these desirable Bonds will close at this place, on the 30th of this month, for the present, at least. It is thought the price will be considerably advanced when offered again.

CHURCH INTELLIGENCER.—The publication of this paper is now made from Charlotte, N. C. We have received the third No. of the new series. The *Intelligencer* is a very neatly gotten up paper, and is ably edited. Price, \$5 for three months, and \$10 for six months.

N. C. Volunteer Navy.—Certificates of stock will soon be issued by the Treasurer of this Company to subscribers in redemption of the receipts they now hold.

There are twenty-one North Carolina regiments in the army under Gen. Early in the Valley.

"We told the people, here, last summer, that the issue was war or peace, and they begin to see it."—*Ral. Progress.*

Here is a mean, low attempt to fix the responsibility of the further prosecution of the war upon Gov. Vance and such men as voted for, and act with him. This voted sheet would have the people believe, the cruel war now waged against us by the enemy for the avowed purpose of the destruction of our liberties and rights of property, or our subjugation, is prolonged solely by our Government for the promotion of mere personal or private ends.—What quibbling, garrulousrodomontade, and unscrupulous mendacity are resorted to, in order to establish this point only visible to the gifted perspicuity and omniscience of this Lemonade vender. His influence and that of those with whom he acts, however, amount to nothing, as shown by the late election. The people, as a whole, understand him perfectly. It is, therefore, utterly useless for us to show the falsity of his conclusions. But lest a few ignorant men be led into trouble by his dialoag teaching, we condescend to notice him.

He says: "The end, which many think not distant, must come by negotiation or subjugation." This simply means that the people of the South should surrender at once all their cherished rights, give up all their leaders above the rank of Colonel in the field and Captain in the Navy to be hanged for treason, turn a deaf ear to the claims of their fallen heroes, and maimed and poverty stricken soldiers—submit to any wrong or disgrace the devilish spirit of a vindictive enemy may inflict upon them, or be "subjugated at no distant" day. Are the people of North Carolina ready to accept this proposition, which is the very best that has been offered us by the hated Yankee Government, or its emissaries who reside among us? We tell this Lemonade Vender, they are not. Despite his misrepresentation of their purpose they are for war rather than submit to such infamy, and war they will wage and suffer, until the vile enemy agrees to negotiate on fair and honorable terms.

Our Government, both State and national want peace. It is as much to their interest to procure it, as it is to the people—the people is the government. They have exhausted every honorable means to procure it. In fact they have been rather lax of dignity in one or two instances, in their eagerness to hear propositions for, and talk of matters looking to, peace with the enemy: what we have already stated, is the best that has been offered them.

But the *Progress* further says: "The time for certain persons and classes to skulk out, and make money by the sufferings and horrors they are making no effort to stop, is about out, and the war must be either stopped by concession and negotiation or every man must take his turn at the trenches." Of course no Southern man is so base as to be willing to accept the disgraceful terms offered us by the enemy, rather than take his turn in the trenches. But what does the *Progress* mean by "concession and negotiation?" this is not the first time it has advocated the policy of concession and negotiation. What have we to concede? All we ask is to be let alone, to manage our own affairs in our own way. We do not want the conquest of the North, and we are fighting it because the people there refuse to allow us to govern ourselves; because they continue to send their armies of invasion among us to devastate our country, to lay waste our towns and cities, destroy crops and farms, and dishonor our women and plunder our property. Will the *Progress* be kind enough to inform the few ignorant men whom it may influence, what it means by concession and negotiation. They will doubtless be glad to know the meaning of these high sounding words. As for intelligent men, they fully understand the reasonable purpose of the vindictive Lemonade vender.