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The Standard.

RALEIGH: SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1862.

The Latest News. Our "War News" column today will be found quite interesting, though no great battle has been fought.

Dispatches from Western Virginia affirm that Gens. Heth and Marshall attacked the Yankee General, Cox, near New River, and have driven him from that section, routing him with great loss in prisoners, equipage, baggage, &c.

In New Mexico our forces had attacked Col. Canby's reinforcements, killing and capturing over 100 of the enemy. Our forces are now in possession of Santa Fe.

A strong reaction in the public feeling of Kentucky is taking place, which it is thought will revolutionize the State. Abolitionism and Lincolnism are working out their legitimate fruits there.

Col. Morgan has recently made a dash upon the Nashville and Louisville Railroad, and destroyed 53 loaded cars. The Atlanta Confederacy says, he captured \$350,000 from the Yankees.

The Yankees are approaching Charleston by slow stages. Five Federal vessels shelled Coles, Goat and Kiawah Islands, about 15 miles from Charleston, on the 20th, and our forces retired, burning their quarters, &c.

But little can be gathered from the Richmond and Petersburg papers as to the condition of matters around Richmond. What McClellan is doing seems not to be known, except that he is rebuilding the bridge across Chickahominy.

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It is reported that the first N. C. Cavalry, late Col. Ransom's, had a skirmish on Sunday or Monday last with the enemy, in which it is said the enemy lost 75 men. Our loss reported small.

The infamous proclamation of the infamous Butler, at New Orleans, excites universal disgust and the most bitter resentment.

NEWARK.—Just before going to press we received from an intelligent and highly respectable gentleman of Craven County, who recently left Newbern, a melancholy account of the condition of our people in that place and of the vandalism practised there by the Yankees.

Suffolk is believed to be occupied by Yankee troops. The impression appears to prevail in Virginia that Burnside will move his troops to that point and join the forces from Old Point to move upon Petersburg and Richmond.

Our Fourteenth Regiment. As we have seen no mention made in the papers of the part taken by the 14th regiment of North-Carolina Troops, in the recent battle near Williamsburg, it gives us pleasure to learn the following facts: They were ordered to their position about 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and remained exposed to the fire of the enemy until night.

The following officers are now in command of the regiment: Colonel, P. W. Roberts, formerly Captain of the Rough and Ready Guards; Lt-Colonel, R. T. Bennett, Commissary of the regiment; Major, E. Dixon, former Captain of the Cleveland Blues.

List of the killed and wounded in the 14th N. C. Troops, on the 5th of May, near Williamsburg. Company A, Roanoke Minute Men—Private Peter Boswell, slightly wounded.

Company I, Lexington Wild Cats—Private R. A. Peary, killed; private Monroe Peninger, slightly wounded.

Company G, Anson Guards—Private James M. Smith, very slightly wounded.

Company H, Stanley Marksmen—Private Ebin Lowder, mortally wounded.

Company E, Oak City Guards—Private E. Holmes, killed; Bailey M. Yarborough, slightly wounded; private L. H. Parris, killed; Sergeant W. H. Hamilton, mortally wounded.

Company K, Raleigh Rifles—Private John Lassiter, killed.

Company G, Reid Guards—Private J. D. Badgett, killed; private Cornelius Hobbs, killed; private G. W. Taylor, mortally wounded; Corporal J. M. Lea, slightly wounded.

The Yankees are said to have two regiments of negroes formed and drilled in Washington City, and one at Charlestown, Va. Similar attempts are said to have been made at Port Royal and other places, but failed.

Weekly Standard.

VOL. XXVIII.—No. 22. RA LEIGH, N. C., WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1862. WHOLE NUMBER 1417.

A Word to the Conservatives.

It is of the utmost importance that the government should be reformed. We have good Constitutions, both State and Confederate, and the framework of the government is all we could desire; but the administration of government must be reformed, and that speedily, or ruin will overtake us all.

The Conscription Act.

We publish to-day the list of exemptions under the Conscription Law, by the Secretary of War—"Anxious inquirers" on the subject, can see for themselves who are and who are not exempt.

Edwards Staley.

A week or two ago we expressed a disbelief of the rumor, that Edward Staley, of California, had been appointed by Lincoln Provisional Governor of North-Carolina, and that he had accepted the appointment.

Personal Controversy.

When we inserted the short article signed "A Conscrip," a week or two ago, we had no idea of opening the door to a bitter personal controversy in our columns.

William T. Smithson.

The Washington City banker, whom the Yankees threatened to hang in retaliation for the punishment of Webster, the spy, has been released from Fort Lafayette.

Yankee Gun Boats.

One of the most humiliating and damaging events of this war to the South, is the fright and alarm produced both upon the government and the people by Yankee gun-boats.

Look at the Facts.

In every instance of failure, it has been clearly shown that our defeat was chargeable to incompetent or negligent engineering, to poor guns, scarcity of powder, inexperienced or undrilled gunners, bad Generalship, or to unnecessary delays in the execution of the work.

What is true of the "Richmond Army" is true of all our forces.

In proof that they will fight, witness their courage and uniform success in skirmishes, when off in detachments with fighting subordinates, or with such men as Price and "Stonewall" Jackson.

But the Enquirer must needs make a dash at croakers and complainers.

Of what do they croak or complain? Is it not for the lack of the very thing which the Enquirer says ought to be done and must be done? We have heard no croaking or complaining from any one against the principles of the government or of the Constitution—none that we hear, utter complaint, decay, or mutter against the Confederacy.

Rev. Wm. B. Wellons.

This gentleman, the excellent Editor of the Christian Sun at Suffolk, Va., is within the enemy's lines. His card in the Petersburg Express announces that he has been compelled to suspend the publication of the Sun, until circumstances will permit him to resume.

The Telegraph.

In the above extract, has advanced nothing more nor less than the Lincoln doctrine! What will the federal government "be worth as a government," says Mr. Lincoln, "unless it can protect itself" against rebellion and insubordination?

The want of forecast.

Which is said rendered this act necessary, is without example in the histories of nations struggling for independence. The dullest man that ever pitched a crop looks more to the future, and makes better provision for it in his particular vocation, than appears to have been done by our common government in a matter gravely, and perhaps vitally affecting our success.

This unconstitutional and oppressive conscription act.

was passed in secret session, and the people do not yet know how their representatives voted on it. Let us have the yea and nays. State secrets on a subject which nearly and vitally concerns every man, woman, and child in the Confederate States, cannot be maintained consistently with the spirit or the principles of liberty.

Lincoln has announced by proclamation that on the 1st of June next, the ports of Beaufort, N. C., Port Royal, S. C., and New Orleans will be open to the commerce of the world.

The Columbia (S. C.) Guardian speaks of wagon loads of bacon and salt passing through the streets of that place, and hopes that it will fall into the hands of those who will supply the community at fair prices.

The Charleston Mercury says that the little ice in that city has been forbidden to be sold by the military authorities, for the purpose of keeping it for the soldiers.

"No War but to fight it out."

So says the Richmond Dispatch, and it is true. All cool, discerning men saw this before the war was brought on,—they have seen nothing else from the time that Lincoln determined to coerce the South.

"We hold the enemy at bay everywhere; now let us drive him! Let General Johnston swiftly strike the blow that is to make him a name and give him his rank among the Generals of this war.

That is sensible talk. Our men will fight, and many of our officers will.

"To show the spirit of our soldiers, and their reluctance in retreat and alacrity in fight, we repeat the statement of an officer in Johnston's army.

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A Brilliant Skirmish.

The following interesting letter from our valued correspondent, gives an account of the latest skirmish with the enemy below Trenton, which will be seen to have been one of the most brilliant affairs of the war.

Our correspondent is not only intelligent and reliable, but being a member of another regiment, the 1st N. C. Cavalry, his account is impartial. This affair confirms fully what we have heretofore said, that the 2d N. C. Cavalry contains some of the best fighting stock in the State, and a different course of treatment from that which it has received from the authorities of the State, would have rendered it as efficient as any regiment of Cavalry in the Confederacy.

The regiment has been organized ten months or more, and to this hour we presume, it is not fully armed and equipped. The 1st N. C. Cavalry being rather a favorite, may have fared better than the 2nd any way, in these respects, but we have reason to know that its early and prompt equipment was mainly owing to the zeal and indomitable perseverance of its Colonel, now General Ransom.

Better or braver troops no State in the Southern Confederacy has furnished, whether infantry, cavalry or artillery, than North Carolina. If at any time they have exhibited inefficiency or ill success, it has been owing to deficiencies in their equipment or means, or in those officers, who were not appointed because of their fitness, but on account of personal or political considerations. It is rumored that the loss of the enemy in killed in the affair named, could not have been less than 25, besides a number of wounded.

OUTPOSTS OF THE ARMY, May 17, 1862.

I have the pleasure of announcing to you a very "handsome" skirmish which occurred on our lines on the 15th, between a portion of the 2nd Cavalry, and an advance column of the enemy. Early in the morning, an advance scouting party of the Yankees attacked our videttes on the road leading to Newbern from Trenton, on the North side of the Trent; the videttes retreating, hotly pursued by the Yankees, who I guess were felicitating themselves upon "dispersing rebels" in such a hasty manner.

The reserve of the pickets, commanded by Lieut. Rogers and Graham, and stationed a short distance from the main road, suddenly entered the road, upon the alarm being given, and charged down upon the column of Yankee cavalry moving rapidly up. Then commenced the ball. Our men discharged their fire-arms as promptly as possible—then drew their sabres, and went to work in regular style. The galling fire they had given the enemy on coming up, and their thrilling yells as they bore down upon them, added decidedly to the discouraging effect of the musketry, and they commenced falling back. The platoon which had pursued the fugitive videttes, hearing the fighting in their rear, wheeled, and our men found themselves attacked by this body also, in their rear. Then commenced a conflict which I imagine was proportionately similar to that which Eckmuhl and Cowpens witnessed. The steel of freedom rang vividly against that of his antagonist, and cries of glory (I am told by one who heard) mingled with the shouts of enthusiasm and the sharp cracks of small arms. The Yankees contested well the ground for about half a mile, and until their infantry and cavalry made their appearance on the roadside, and in a small field. Our men having cut through the force attacking them in their rear, on seeing their infantry, immediately withdrew out of range to await further demonstrations.

The Yankees now returned to where the fight was opened—hastily collected their dead and wounded—burned the church and dwellings around which the fight raged, and concluding that it would not be advisable to await further movements on our part, best a retreat to their encampment, consequently failed in their attempts to force a column upon Trenton, which they evidently designed doing. Their loss as reported by citizens who saw, was five ambulances loaded with dead and wounded, and eight prisoners which fell into our hands, together with eight horses and their equipments, several pistols, sabres and other cavalry accoutrements. Their force was 200 cavalry, 2,000 infantry, and a battery of cannon. Our force was between 40 and 50 cavalry, from the companies of Capt. Hays, Capt. Andrews, and Capt. Turner, almost the entire number being from Capt. Hays' company, commanded by Lieut. Rogers. We lost one man killed (Mr. Ray, of Capt. Hays' company), with several slightly wounded, mostly with sabres. We lost two or three horses killed.

It looks decidedly marvelous and improbable that so small a force as ours should effectually check and whip so superior a force as the cavalry they encountered on the 15th—but what I have stated is so, if well sustained reports are to be relied upon. But the 2nd Cavalry that were engaged, are certainly fighting men. I am convinced that the regiment has been better by the experience of this affair. It has undoubtedly some of the best fighting material that the State has in the field,—and if they were efficiently armed, equipped and officered, the regiment would win as high a reputation as any in the service has achieved. The locality of their recent skirmish is on the road mentioned, and about 4 miles below Trenton, near Mr. Foscoe's plantation, and around the White Church. Five companies of our regiment are now on picket here, and I trust you will hear a good account of us in my next.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE CONSCRIPTION LAW.—The Executive Council of this State has adopted and published a resolution, constraining the Conscription Act of Congress as exempting from Conscription all persons at the time legally exempt by the laws of the State, including, in South Carolina, the exemptions made by the Convention, and those made by the Governor and Council by authority of the Convention, and those made by the Legislature and retained by the Council; the Governor and Council holding that the Exemption Act of Congress does not repeal the Conscription Act, but is concurrent with the existing laws of the State.—Charleston Mercury.

The occurrence at Charleston of the stealing of the Steamer Planter in broad daylight, is one of the most shameful events of this war. The truth is that this war has been rather misunderstood. Officers seem to have thought it a misdeed, and the wearing of uniform a "gay old thing, without a regard to the deep responsibility involved. We doubt much judging from the number of officers' uniforms visible about every town, whether as a rule, the officers in any branch of the Confederate service devote themselves sufficiently to giving personal attention to their commands.—Wil. Journal.

The magnanimity of Gen. Beauregard, we hear, prompted him to tender to Gen. Price any position in the coming battle at Corinth which he would indicate. Gen. Price replied to this magnanimous tender from the commander-in-chief, that if left to himself he would take the position of "dancer," whereupon he was assigned the front position and allowed to lead off in the fight. We know not which most to commend—the magnanimity of Gen. Beauregard or the cool and brave daring of Gen. Price. We hope they both will win fame for themselves and victory for their country! None will be more rejoiced than ourself if such should be the result at Corinth.—Memphis Avalanche.

A Mississippian is very much irritated at the "sorcery" he says that the first plume that came upon him was the county scrip, then the railroad scrip, and now, to cap the climax, here comes the conscript. Poor fellow, he might have added a post scrip, and offered some of the county or railroad scrip to get out of the conscript scrape.

THE WHEAT CROP.—We are gratified to see from every quarter encouraging accounts of the promising appearance of the Wheat crop. It appears that a greater quantity of land has been sown than usual, and as said by the Western Carolinian, the oldest inhabitant is ignorant of a more prolific yield.—Hills Record.