

WILLIAM W. HOLDEN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

TERMS OF THE STANDARD. The terms of the Standard are as follows: Semi-Weekly, six months, \$7

RALEIGH, FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1864.

We give elsewhere to day the latest news from the armies in Virginia and Georgia. Gen. Lee, it will be seen, was at Taylorsville, within fifteen miles of Richmond, on the 25th; and Gen. Johnston was supposed to be in a secure position west of Atlanta to meet Sherman. It is not known whether Gen. Lee will give battle where he is, or fall back to the fortifications near Richmond.

All was quiet on the 24th between Petersburg and Richmond. The federals are behind their fortifications near Bermuda Hundred.

We may expect soon great battles near Richmond and Atlanta. The armies on both sides have been reinforced, and the conflicts will be prolonged and terrible. The whole country looks with the deepest anxiety to the result, and every Southern man hopes that, in the end, our banners may be crowned with success.

Both houses of the General Assembly of this State have resolved to adjourn on Monday morning next.

HABEAS CORPUS IN THE LEGISLATURE.—On Wednesday, after some debate, the House of Commons passed the resolutions reported by the majority of the committee, as published in our paper of to-day, protesting against the suspension of habeas corpus and calling for the repeal of the act, by a vote of 64 to 32.

Similar resolutions were discussed in the Senate on the same day, by Messrs. Warren, Brown, Boyden, Hall and others. We have heard the speeches of Messrs. Warren, Brown, and Boyden referred to as very able, eloquent, and conclusive on the whole subject.

Political Agitation in the Legislature. Early in the present session Mr. Smith, of Macon, an intimate friend of Gov. Vance, introduced a resolution in the Senate endorsing his administration, and the resolution was passed and sent to the Commons.

While our heroic soldiers are fighting and falling in the "deadly breach" and defending every inch of their native land, I want to see a grand council of sovereign States, in a spirit worthy of the civilization and Christianity of the age, receiving, proposing and calmly considering propositions for an honorable peace.

A strong peace party at the South, sustained by the action of sovereign States, would greatly increase the power of the peace men at the North and enable them to overturn the hateful Black Republican dynasty at Washington.

While the above was written we have received the Conservatives of Wednesday, containing a communication from which we make the following extract: "But the important fact stated by Gov. Vance, was that Mr. Holden declared to two or three members of the Legislature that he advocated a Convention of the State, for the purpose of carrying the State out of the Southern Confederacy."

Who is Responsible for Agitation?—While the capital of the Confederacy is threatened by hundreds of thousands of the enemy, and while the vast forces of Lincoln are attempting to close in upon us and subjugate us, the Governor of this State is absent from his post, haranguing for votes, neglecting his business, and stirring up strife among the people; and his friends in the Legislature are wasting precious time and thousands of dollars in a controversy as to whether they will endorse him and President Davis in the same, or in a separate series of resolutions.

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RALEIGH, N. C., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1864.

WHOLE NUMBER 1515.

Another Falsehood Exposed. A friend writing us from Smithfield, under date May 23d, says: "In Gov. Vance's speech in this place to-day, he said he could prove, by two or three respectable members as there are in the Legislature, that you had made propositions to them to introduce resolutions calling for a Convention for the purpose of seceding from the Confederacy; and that if you had any friends present, which he knew you had, they were at liberty to communicate his statement to you. Please let me hear from you on this particular point—not that I believe the statement, but to meet it when used against you."

The above is from a gentleman whose word may be implicitly relied on. This charge against us appeared in the Confederate of Tuesday last, which was printed Monday night, the day on which the Governor spoke at Smithfield.

We now say to our correspondent and to the public that there is no shadow of foundation for Gov. Vance's statement. We have never supposed nor stated that a Convention would be called for the purpose of seceding from the Confederate government. We have made no propositions to members of the Legislature to introduce resolutions or bills calling for a Convention for any such purpose; nor have we any recollection of having suggested to any member the propriety of such a bill or resolution for any purpose.

In the Standard of February 24, 1864, we published a letter from Robert P. Dick, Esq., in relation to the Greensborough meeting, which letter met, as it still meets our warm approval. Among other things Mr. Dick said: "I am opposed to the secession of North-Carolina from the government of the Confederate States."

I further desire a State Convention to inaugurate negotiations for peace. I do not propose that this State shall treat with the Lincoln government. An honorable peace can never be obtained from that source. I scorn any proposition which Lincoln has made, and I feel assured that the fanatical hatred of his friends will never allow us any honorable terms of adjustment.

I desire that this State in Convention shall invite a conference, through commissioners, with her sister States of the South to see if some plan can be devised to stop the war by negotiation. I am opposed to any separate State action, and if the other States will not heed the voice of North-Carolina for peace, then she will have done her duty to God and her people, and be free from any of the responsibilities of the future.

Time again have we announced similar views in the Standard, from the moment the Convention question was first discussed up to the present. The charge of Gov. Vance falls to the ground. There is no truth in it. Since the above was written we have received the Conservatives of Wednesday, containing a communication from which we make the following extract: "But the important fact stated by Gov. Vance, was that Mr. Holden declared to two or three members of the Legislature that he advocated a Convention of the State, for the purpose of carrying the State out of the Southern Confederacy."

Holden so badly in Johnston county that the Georgia soldiers would not know him." We repeat our denial of this charge in the most emphatic terms. When we see the certificates referred to we shall be prepared either to pronounce them unqualifiedly and willfully false, or the result of some unaccountable misunderstanding or perversion of our views.

And now, a word or two in relation to Messrs. Sanders, Woodall, and Avera. Mr. Sanders has not left us, for he has not been with us since the meetings held in Johnston to promote the cause of peace. He refused to attend those meetings, and thus forfeited to a considerable extent the confidence of the party; but he has lost all of that confidence by announcing himself a candidate on the Staffeders or Destructive ticket.

Mr. Sanders has remained unsettled eight months. During this period, up to the time he became Editor of the Confederate, he has been saved from conscription by Gov. Vance; and he, a Destructive, supports Vance, a professed Conservative, for Governor.

On Monday last the resolution of Mr. Foote, in favor of repealing the act suspending the writ of habeas corpus, was laid upon the table by a vote of 57 to 24—the yeas and nays called for by Dr. J. T. Leach.

Our readers will observe that the Conservative, the mercenary organ of Gov. Vance, sneers at us in connection with the Georgia mob. Let this be remembered. The Governor and his minions are amused when they recur to the fact that our office was mobbed and our life put in jeopardy by an armed band of Confederate soldiers, acting under orders, because we had boldly advocated negotiations for an honorable peace.

Col. McRae's Accounts. In the latter part of the year 1863, Gov. Vance appointed Col. Duncan K. McRae a Commissioner to proceed to Europe with George N. Sanders, Esq., to inspect certain goods to be purchased by the latter for this State in exchange for naval stores, and to verify the bonds of the State to be delivered in accordance with such contracts as Mr. Sanders might make. It seems that the contract for this business was solemnly made by Gov. Vance with Mr. Sanders; but the sequel shows that Gov. Vance abrogated the contract with Mr. Sanders, and Col. McRae did the business, returned home, and left Mr. Sanders to "meditate on the mutability of human glory, and sigh over the miseries of ungrateful man."

But this is somewhat by the way. Col. McRae returned from Europe just in time to run for Congress in the 3d District. He was beaten, as a matter of course. He always is. So brilliant, and yet so unappreciated. But this is also somewhat by the way. He stated, on the stump, that he would be a conscript as soon as his accounts as State Commissioner should be settled; and he kept on stating and acting this up to the time the Confederate was established by the "patriots and property holders" to "save the State from disgrace," when he suddenly became the Editor of that interesting journal—jumped the ropes into the charmed circle of exemptions, and commenced to lead Gov. Vance as the best Governor, the greatest orator, and most versatile genius of the age.

The law of the State provides that all accounts and claims against the State shall be audited and adjusted by the State Auditor; but the report in Raleigh is that Gov. Vance, disregarding this law, which is a highly important and useful one, some months since appointed a couple of gentlemen of this City as a sort of private committee to examine and adjust Col. McRae's accounts; that the committee met and acted under this appointment; that Col. McRae claimed eleven thousand dollars in gold for his services, in addition to his pay as Colonel; that the committee allowed him five thousand dollars in gold, but that Col. McRae indignantly refused this amount, and appealed to the Governor for relief, like "Oliver asking for more."

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injury to the public interests, they would fully have approved the exercise of the power of suspending the writ, which was entrusted to Congress by the Constitution. All trusts impose duties. The power was entrusted expressly with the intent that it should be used when necessary to the public safety in case of invasion.

Richmond, Va., May 20, 1864. The Latest News from Virginia and Georgia. Richmond, May 24.—Official information has been received that Sheridan's raiders crossed the Pamunkey at White Post yesterday and moved up between the Pamunkey and Mattaponi, probably to rejoin Grant.

Richmond, May 24.—The following dispatch has just been received here. HANOVER JUNCTION, 10 p. m.—About noon today the enemy approached the bridge over the North Anna. In the afternoon he attacked the guard at the bridge and drove it to its place. About the same time the 5th corps (Warren's) at Jericho Ford on our left, was attacked by A. P. Hill, and his advance checked.

On Monday last, in the House of Representatives, Dr. J. T. Leach introduced the following resolutions: "Whereas, The unconstitutional enactment of laws by the Congress of the United States from time to time upon subjects of vital importance to the harmony and independence of the States, the happiness and prosperity of the people, the preservation and perpetuation of the Union, against the demands of justice, the appeals and admonitions of her best and wisest statesmen, made it our painful duty to fall back upon the rights for which the colonies maintained the war of the revolution and which our forefathers asserted and maintained to be clear and inalienable. Therefore,

Resolved, That should the peace-making power of the Federal government accede to the proposition for an armistice of ninety days, the President be requested to convene the Congress of the Confederate States for the purpose of appointing Commissioners, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; and that he also be requested to notify the Executive of the several States of the fact, and ask their co-operation by appointing commissioners, either by the Legislature or Convention, to co-operate with the Commissioners appointed by the President to negotiate with Commissioners appointed by the Federal government upon such terms of peace as will be consistent with the honor, dignity, and independence of the States, and compatible with the safety of our social and political rights.

Resolved, That in maintaining the rights guaranteed to us by the blood and treasure of our Revolutionary fathers, and dearest at all times to free men, we desire to be last also—we ask no man's property—we fight not for conquest, but for our rights: the independence of the States, our equality, our civil and religious liberties.

Resolved, That such terms of peace as are agreed to by the Commissioners ought to be endorsed by the President and Senate, and submitted to the people for their ratification or rejection." On motion of Heiskell, these resolutions were laid on the table by the following vote: Yeas—Messrs. Anderson, Atkins, Ayer, Baldwin, Barkdale, Blandford, Boyce, Bradley, Branch, E. M. Bruce, H. W. Bruce, Chambers, Ohlson, Chrisman, Clopton, Colyar, Conrad, Dejarrette, Dickinson, Dupre, Echols, Foster, Funston, Galtier, A. H. Garland, Hanly, Hartridge, Heiskell, Hilton, Holliday, Johnston, Keeble, Lyon, Macheson, McCallum, McMillin, Manceos, Miles, Miller, Montague, Morgan, Murray, Orr, Perkins, Pugh, Read, Rogers, Rives, Russell, Sexton, Shawmake, Simpson, Singleton, J. M. Smith, Staples, Swan, Villers, Welch, Whitefield, Witherspoon, Mr. Speaker.—23.

stantially, the approval of the Legislature of Georgia, to wit, co-operation between the common government and the sovereign States in the effort to procure an armistice—then a treaty of peace, and then a vote of the people on the treaty, after its endorsement by the President and Senate. We are gratified at the introduction of these resolutions by our friend, Dr. Leach, and we regard the vote against laying them on the table as a happy indication of the growing peace feeling in Congress. It will be seen that Mr. Gaither voted by himself to table, and that Messrs. Fuller, Gilmer, J. M. Leach, J. T. Leach, Logan, Ramsey, Smith, and Turner voted against laying on the table.

On Tuesday last Mr. Graham presented his views at some length to the Senate on the habeas corpus question, opposing its further suspension.

The communication of "A Western Farmer," with others unavoidably crowded out by the pressure of legislative proceedings, shall appear soon.

While many of the soldiers' families throughout the State are reduced to bread and water, we learn that shade officers who surround Gov. Vance receive their supplies from the State storehouse by the wagon load at a time. These things may be denied, but it is generally known in this community that these shade officers—some of them wealthy—who are able to buy—are regularly supplied at government prices.—Progress.

We are glad to see that Mr. Rogers, of Wake, has introduced a resolution of inquiry in the House on this subject.

Soon after Gov. Vance came into office he abolished this Staffeders system. He did so at our earnest suggestion, and the understanding was that the system would not be revived. But the "Rolly Click" was irresistible—the Governor yielded, and now, while the families of our soldiers are crying for bread, pampered shade officers like Col. George Little not only run the blockade and thus procure Yankee and English luxuries, but they draw their supplies of rice, and sugar, and meal, and bacon, and other articles from the State at low prices. Is this to be endured? Will not the Legislature direct Gov. Vance, in the most emphatic terms, to discontinue this system? How can Vance man face their constituents, and ask a renewal of their confidence with this load upon their shoulders?

The Very Latest from the North. The New York Herald, of the 16th, was received Saturday night. It contains very little of interest, not even the closing quotation of gold on the 14th, which we presume was published in Sunday's issue.

The Herald's army correspondent, under date of 14th, gives the following mild statement of the losses in Grant's army to that date: The 3d corps has lost 1100 killed, 7000 wounded, 1400 missing. The 5th corps has lost 1800 killed, 7500 wounded and 1300 missing. The 6th corps has lost 1000 killed, 6000 wounded, and 1500 missing. The total losses of these three corps amount to 27,700. Burnside's losses are nearly in the same proportion, and swell the total to about 85,000. The proportion of slightly wounded is extraordinarily large.

The only allusion to the terrific fight of Thursday, 12th, is contained in the following extract from the same letter: Hancock captured 4000 prisoners, as stated, and my informant counted 18 pieces of cannon taken by him, and believes there were others. The prisoners and guns were mainly from Gen. Maj. Johnson's command. His cannon had been taken from their first position, by order of Lee, to strengthen another point. At Johnson's urgent solicitation, they were turned to him on Wednesday night, and his men were engaged in putting them in position at 1 o'clock on Thursday morning, when Hancock surprised them by a sudden attack, and captured the whole. The fighting was obstinate till night. Our success was uniform along the whole line all day—no reverse any point.

Considerable space is devoted to particulars of Sheridan's movements, but they contain only exaggerated accounts of facts already known here. The Herald's situation summary says: On the 18th the whole command encamped at Bottom's Bridge, after accomplishing the most splendid cavalry movement of the war. At 3 o'clock on Saturday afternoon Sheridan formed a junction with Butler's army at Turkey Bend, on the James river. His whole loss was not over 800 in killed, wounded, and missing. Butler. There is nothing new in this. A telegram dated Fort Monroe, 15th, says: Gen. Sheridan arrived at the James river yesterday afternoon. He had heavy fighting, in which he was very successful. He got inside of the rebel works around Richmond and could have taken the city, but was ignorant of Gen. Butler's position. Our men could see the gas lights in Richmond. They took three hundred prisoners.

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