

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN CHARLESTON, S. C.

From the Charleston Mercury of Thursday, Dec. 12th. About 9 o'clock last evening the alarm rang out, calling the citizens to quell the beginning of a fire, which, in the subsequent extent and rapidity of its ruinous sweep, will compare with the most terrible conflagrations which have ever visited the American continent.

Before 10 o'clock the fire had begun raging in several different points in the lower part of the city. The buildings in the stricken neighborhoods were mostly of wood, and closely built and surrounded by small out-buildings of an exceedingly inflammable character.

Towards midnight the fire had assumed proportion of appalling magnitude. The circumference which it embraced was such as to render the most desperate efforts of our entire fire brigade of comparative insignificance.

The fire began in Russell & Co's Sash and Blind Factory, at the foot of Howell Street, and the report through a vague one-is, that it appeared in three places at the same time.

A splendid effort was made by the fire companies to save the house of L. W. Spratt, Esq., on East Bay street, which was successful; and with it was saved the fine line of buildings on Hasell st., the fate of which depended upon that result.

In the lower part of the city, the fire has done its work in thorough style. Nothing now remains to mark where it has passed, save smouldering piles of cinders and burnt and smoking walls and chimneys.

Great, indeed, has been the calamity which has fallen upon our noble old city. But let us, with unflinching hope and courage, bestir ourselves at once to amend the losses we have sustained, and to relieve each one according to his means, the great sufferings which the fire must entail upon its poor victims.

Our planters in that neighborhood have vindicated most patriotically our cause. Scattered as they were in every direction, it was found impossible to act in combination. But an opportunity was now been offered, and they have cheerfully consigned to the flames the labors of the year.

WAR ITEMS.

ANOTHER CALL ON MISSISSIPPI.—We learn that, in accordance with a special message of Gov. Pettus, the Legislature of Mississippi has unanimously passed a bill to raise ten thousand troops for sixty days' service, to be received as individuals, squads, companies, or otherwise, to repair to Columbus, Kentucky, or elsewhere, as they may be needed.

CONFEDERATE WAR VESSELS.—The Secretary of the Navy has invited proposals for the construction of four sea-going, iron-clad and half-proof steam ram ships, to carry at least four heavy guns each.

THE EAST TENNESSEE TORIES.—It appears that the government has decided to offer amnesty to the traitors of East Tennessee who may give up their arms, excepting the bridge-burners. The latter, according to the proclamation of Col. Leadbetter, who had gone to subdue the rebellion, are to be tried by drum-head court-martial, and be hung on the spot.

JEFF THOMPSON TURNS UP AGAIN.—He captures another steamer.—From the Confederate News, of Columbus, Ky., Dec. 4, we take the following paragraph:

A few days since Gen. Thompson, by a stratagem, captured the steamer Empress, on her trip from St. Louis to Cairo. Jeff. took 400 cavalry horses and some other valuables, took the crew prisoners, and set fire to and burned the boat.

FROM THE INDIAN COUNTRY.—An express arrived from Fort Gibson, bringing despatches from Major Quesbury, Quartermaster, to Major Clark, of this post, from which we obtained the following extract:

Col. Cooper has had a fight with Opatheyo's forces and Kansas Jayhawkers, and killed some sixty of them. Four of Col. Cooper's command were killed. The fight took place on Red Fork. It commenced at dark; the prairie was on fire. On the next day about sixty Indians and Jayhawkers were found killed. The body of a brother of John W. Taylor, merchant of the Creek Nation, was found among them.

THE Mobile Advertiser says that a deserter from Fort Pickens who came over to the Confederates reports that the losses of the Lincolnites was heavy during the late bombardment—sixty-two were killed in the fort and a great many wounded, Col. Brown being among the latter.

It is stated in Richmond on good authority, that Col. Henry Heath, of Virginia, has been placed in command of the department of Missouri and Arkansas, leaving Generals Price and McCulloch in their present positions.

It is stated confidently that a jealousy and bad feeling which has sprung up between Generals Ben. McCulloch and Sterling Price is the cause of appointing a new commander in chief in Missouri. For the first time, Missouri is a part of the Confederacy, and the military appointments there are under the control of the Confederate Government, and if Price were preferred to McCulloch or McCulloch to Price, the effect would be injurious in the extreme.

INTERESTING FROM PORT ROYAL. The news from Port Royal continues to be of the most gratifying character. The unanimity of our planters in the destruction of the cotton crops, the laying waste and burning of everything that would afford shelter or subsistence to the enemy where it cannot be otherwise defended, deprives them of the extensive spoils with which they have feasted their imagination, and the attainment of which was one of their chief objects.

Some of these thieving adventurers have lately made several visits to Port Royal, with the hope of securing rich plunder, but they were foiled and disappointed in their object by the timely steps taken to thwart them in their purposes. The prospects of paying the cost of their grand expedition by the sale of our cotton has been nipped in the bud. They had visited various plantations around Port Royal, and already commenced the removal of the seed cotton.

We learn from a friend that on Wednesday night a mounted detachment of the Beaufort artillery, under their Captain, amounting to thirty-two men, passed over to the island, visited Beaufort, whose utter desolation and abandonment was relieved only by the presence of one light and the barking of a dog. There were no signs of the enemy, either on land or on water. Our men then proceeded to the work of destruction. The chief object of the expedition was to destroy the crops of cotton and provisions on Paris Island, which, being near the enemy, was crowded by the negroes, who had flocked there to escape from the control of their owners.

Our planters in that neighborhood have vindicated most patriotically our cause. Scattered as they were in every direction, it was found impossible to act in combination. But an opportunity was now been offered, and they have cheerfully consigned to the flames the labors of the year. Our enemies have received a great check to their ambition. Let them learn from the light of this conflagration, which must have started them from their quiet security on board their ships, the spirit that animates our people, and read our firm resolve to employ every weapon of defence, and when other means fail, to fight them with fire.—Charleston Courier, 9th.

FACT AGAINST PROFESSION.—The price of cotton is still going up in New York. From 28 to 29 cents for middling uplands, buoyant, with an upward tendency, is the last report of the market. This does not look like the Yankees had much faith in the speedy subjugation of the South, and an abundant cotton supply from Port Royal.

NORTH-CAROLINA CONFERENCE.

This body met in Louisville on Wednesday Dec. 4th. Bishop Andrew did not arrive until Thursday. Rev. Dr. Deems was chosen President pro tem. The session was a very harmonious and interesting one, and adjourned on Monday the 9th.

The following action was had in the case of Rev. Marble N. Taylor, whom our readers will recollect to have figured somewhat notoriously after the taking of Fort Hatteras.

On motion of Rev. William E. Pell, seconded by Rev. Dr. Deems, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, without debate:

Resolved, That the name of the said Marble N. Taylor be stricken from the roll of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South.

Resolved, That the action of the Conference in this case be published in all the papers of the State.

The following were elected delegates to the General Conference, to be held next April in New Orleans: C. F. Deems, N. H. D. Wilson, D. B. Nicholson, William Barringer, Peter Doub, and Ira T. Wyeche.

Reserve Delegates—William E. Pell and William H. Bobbitt.

The Bishop presented the annual exhibit of the Southern Methodist Publishing House, from Rev. Dr. McFerrin, which was read by the Secretary.

The report states the assets of the concern to be \$410,408, the liabilities \$90,144, leaving a balance in favor of the concern of \$320,264. The stock of Books on hand is more abundant than ever before. The publication under the patronage of the House have suffered materially by the war. The report, on the whole, is regarded as very cheering under the circumstances.

The place fixed for the meeting of next Conference was Raleigh.

APPOINTMENTS.

Raleigh District.—Wm. Barringer, P. E.—Raleigh, John S. Long; Raleigh mission to be supplied; Raleigh colored mission, Wm. E. Pell; Raleigh circuit, Wm. M. Jordan; Tar River, W. H. Barringer; Louisville, M. C. Thomas; Henderson, L. Shell; Granville, W. S. Chaffin; Person, P. J. Caraway; Hillsboro, S. D. Peeler; Hillsboro circuit, W. M. Walsh; Chapel Hill, J. W. Jenkins; Nashville, James Reid; Leasburg, T. Kingbury.

Greensboro District.—N. F. Reid, P. E.—Greensboro, H. T. Hinson; Guilford, C. H. Phillips; South Guilford, R. S. Webb; Davidson, D. W. Doub; I. K. Kearney, sup.; Forsythe, S. H. Heisebeck; Winston, R. A. Willis; Madison, D. H. Burton; Stokes, Geo. E. Wyeche; Wentworth, C. M. Pepper; Yadonville, T. P. Ricard; Alamance, J. T. Smoot; Transylvania College & High Point, N. H. D. Wilson; Asheboro, J. W. Lewis.

Salisbury District.—Wm. H. Bobbitt, P. E.—Salisbury, A. W. Mangum; Rowan, J. W. Williams; East Rowan, F. H. Wool; Mocksville, W. C. Gann; Iredell, W. M. Robey; South Iredell, R. T. Stephenson; Alexander, T. L. Trippett; Jonesville, W. D. Meacham; Wilkes, J. M. Gunn; Surry to be supplied; Blue Ridge mission, I. W. Avey.

Washington District.—I. T. Wyeche, P. E.—Washington, Jas. B. Mann; Washington Avenue Chapel to be supplied; Ronoake, L. L. Hendren, N. A. Guddin, sup.; Warren, Joseph H. Wheeler; Warrenton, W. H. Wheeler; Plymouth, B. F. Guthrie; Greensville, Jas. L. Fisher; Columbia, T. P. Cahire; Matamoras, I. H. Hill; Bath, W. H. Moore; New, Wm. F. Clegg; Tarboro, J. P. Simpson; Portsmouth, Ocracoke and Cape Hatteras, C. P. Jones; Tar River colored mission to be supplied.

Newbern District.—Wm. Cross, P. E.—Newbern, L. S. Burkhead; Newbern Chapel, N. A. Hooker; Newbern circuit, T. L. Troy; Snow Hill, G. W. Deems; Wilson, J. A. Cunningham; Johnston mission, J. B. Brooks; Conover, R. S. Moran; Everettsville, J. N. Andrews; Jones, J. H. Hines; Trent, A. Wilson, P. J. Yarell; Beaufort, R. G. Barnes; Furvia Chapel, John Jones; Straits to be supplied; Edenton colored mission to be supplied; Morehead City, A. R. Raven.

Wilmington District.—C. F. Deems, P. E.—Wilmington, front street, T. W. Guthrie; Fifth street, Jos. Wheeler; Topsail, J. B. Bailey; Onslow, W. A. Smith; Duplin, Edwin A. Yates; Bladen, P. H. Scovill; South River mission, W. D. Moore; Elizabeth, D. C. Johnson; Magnolia, D. B. Nicholson; Whiteville, J. C. Bress; Smithville, T. J. Gattis; Cape Fear mission, D. Outbrein; North-east, E. N. Gwynn.

Fayetteville District.—Peter Doub, P. E.—Fayetteville, Joel W. Tucker; colored mission, J. L. Newby; Fayetteville circuit, Jos. C. Thomas; Haw River, S. D. Adams; Fintboro, J. B. Martin; Deep River, M. P. Roper; Rockingham, John Tillit; Uwharrie, T. C. Moore; Robeson, R. P. Bibb; Montgomery, Z. Rush; Cape Fear, J. W. Timm; J. O. Brent, Chaplain in the army.

More Timber Wanted.

Sealed Proposals will be received at the North Carolina Arsenal and Armory, at Fayetteville, N. C., until the 1st day of January 1862, for the delivery of the following described Timber, at the Arsenal and Armory, at the times and on the conditions specified in the preceding advertisement:

Table with columns: No. of pieces, Long. inches, Wide. inches, Thick. inches, Remarks. Includes sections for OAK, WALNUT, and WHITE PINE with various dimensions and quantities.

From the Raleigh Journal.

HARRISBURG, Cabarrus Co., N. C. Mr. Editor: Sir—As the country is so much excited as to procuring that indispensable ingredient, salt, that plays such an important part in the economy of life, I wish to call the attention of all whom it may concern to that in all probability there is an abundance of it in the county of Union, N. C.

The facts are these: About 16 miles from Charlotte, on the Charlotte and Wilmington Railroad, there is a fountain which has poured out enough of the saline material to have salted all the pork that will be slaughtered this year. David Phifer owned this tract of land. The water was so strongly impregnated with the saline matter that the individual that lived upon the place would get and procure some of the water and put it upon her fresh meat which would season it as well as the best Liverpool salt. Mr. Phifer being a man of wealth engaged a man to bore one hundred feet deep, which was done. The hole was four inches in diameter and the water flowed in abundance for years. Whether it is still running or not, the writer does not know. Would it not be well for some of our chemists to pass down that way? I do not know whether Prof. Ennass has ever had any knowledge of the fact, or whether he ever was in that country.

TO THE ASSESSORS OF THE STATE.

GENTLEMEN: For the purpose of having a uniformity in the value of the Slaves and other property of the State, I propose that a meeting be held in the town of Goldsboro, on the 20th day of December, and that the Board of Assessors of each county appoint one of their number as a delegate to represent them in said meeting.

Where it is out of the power of the delegate so appointed to attend, if he will address me by letter giving me the average value of Slaves in his county, and also the views of the Board of Assessors for his county in regard to the value of Real Estate as compared with the assessment of 1859, for State purposes, I will lay the same before the meeting, so that a full and free interchange of opinions may be had throughout the State.

A single thought upon the subject will I am sure, convince every mind of the propriety of the course suggested.

Without some such concert of action, there will necessarily be great inequality in the assessment of the property of the State.

I would recommend to the Assistant Tax Collectors in the State to defer making out their Tax Books until after said meeting.

Very Respectfully, yours, &c. WM. K. LANE, Chief Tax Collector for the State of N. C.

THE CONFEDERATE STEAMER NASHVILLE.

We have already published a brief announcement of the arrival of the U. S. steamer Nashville at Southampton, England, the fact having been communicated officially to President Davis. We now have a full confirmation of the news, by the last European steamer. She reached Southampton on the 21st of November, with the "rebel" flag flying. On her voyage out she fell in with the American ship "Harvey Birch," from Havre, bound to New York, and after taking the captain and crew on board the steamer, set fire to the prize and burned her to the water's edge. The "prisoners" were set at liberty on their arrival at Southampton. The Nashville is commanded by Capt. Robert B. Pagan, C. S. N. It is stated that he communicated with Mr. Yancey directly after his arrival at the British port. A leading abolition paper of New York intimates that the Nashville is "fitting out" at Southampton, and may, very possibly, waylay and capture the steamer Arago, making captives of Gen. Scott, Archbishop Hughes, and Thurlow Weed.

Colonel Peyton was on board the Nashville on a mission from North Carolina, and, with Commander Pagan, had gone to London.

EFFECTS OF WAR.—We have heard it stated that slave laborers have been hired for the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad for the ensuing year at \$50 each. We are not at all surprised at this, and even think it under the circumstances a very good price. Many people who do not own slaves and have been heretofore hiring, will to have to deny themselves the luxury the coming year, as many of them will not be able to feed and clothe themselves let alone servants to wait on them. But should the war become a permanent institution, this state of affairs will only last for a year or two, for the culture of cotton and tobacco will be abandoned to a great extent and more grain and provisions will be produced, when capital and labor will again assume their equilibrium.—Newbern Progress.

YANKEE MALICIOUS.—We have a new evidence of the malignity of our late brethren, who are endeavoring to make us love them by robbing and burning our property and by murdering our people, in the attempt to block up the outlets which God has made to our ports, by sinking old hulks loaded with stone in their channels, and with the avowed purpose of never allowing at least one of them to be re-opened. This is a kind of warfare not resorted to, so far as we know, by any civilized nation. It is dastardly, and well nigh impious—an attempt to counteract the great purposes of Providence, in opening harbors for commerce, made by a nation professing to be overwhelmingly strong, against a feeble band of rebels, as they call the South. The act will bring down upon them the scorn of all really great nations, and we may hope that it will be frowned upon and circumvented by the Great Architect of the Universe.—Fayetteville Observer.

Save Your LEATHER or Your MONEY. KARL KAHNWEILER, at Dallas, Gaston county, will pay 124 cents for Dry or Green Hides, or will tan them for one-half of the Leather. His experience in the business, he feels assured, will enable him to give his friends and customers full satisfaction. Mr. K. Lay, an experienced workman, or myself, will always be found on the Yard. Please give me a trial. Dallas, Nov. 26, 1861. KARL KAHNWEILER.

Confederate States of America. DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA. DISTRICT OF CAPE FEAR. At a session of this Court in the town of Wilmington in the above named District, on the 16th day of November, A. D. 1861, it was Ordered, That the next term of the Court be held at the Court House in the town of Salisbury, on the 20th Monday of February, A. D. 1862; and that all cases pending in said Court, be adjourned, and all process be returned to that day. JNO. L. CANTWELL, Clerk. Dec. 3, 1861. WOOD! WOOD! Expected to arrive in a few days, 70,000 LBS. WOOL, which will be sold on accommodating terms. Dec. 3, TRELOAR & BLAIR.