

Western Democrat.

CHARLOTTE, N. C. Tuesday, February 25, 1862.

BATTLE OF FORT DONELSON.

When our paper went to press last week the news from Fort Donelson was cheering. Up to Saturday night, the Confederates had successfully resisted the attacks of the Federals. But after our paper was published, news was received that the Fort had surrendered on Sunday, and various were the reports concerning our defeat. At first it was stated that the enemy captured 15,000 prisoners, together with Gen. Pillow, Buckner, Floyd and Johnston, and that the city of Nashville was also in possession of the enemy. The next news contradicted all this except the fall of Fort Donelson and the loss of fifteen hundred men—Gen. Pillow, Buckner and Floyd escaping with most of their men, and it was stated they would make a stand at Nashville. Gen. A. Sydney Johnston was not in the fight. Matters stood in this way until Friday morning, when it was again reported that Nashville had been captured, and again contradicted.

The following account of the fight is published on the authority of a Lieutenant of a Mississippi Regiment who says he was in the battle:

"When the enemy opened fire on the Fort, our force numbered 13 to 15,000, embracing one or two Regiments of cavalry and four field batteries equipped with snappers (10th) the enemy's sharpshooters opened fire in connection with their artillery and continued through the day. Thursday and Friday they continued to fire, but there was little loss on either side. On Friday the gun boats opened a tremendous fire and the Fort replied, but without much effect. The Confederates were ordered out at 3 o'clock and formed in line of battle. A great battle ensued, and we took 7 or 8 cannon and two or three hundred prisoners. The latter were not recaptured. Our success continued uninterrupted through the day. One of the prisoners reported that the Federals were 50,000 strong, and that they had been reinforced with 30,000. On the strength of this report, Gen. Buckner raised a white flag and proposed to capitulate, but as the fighting was resumed it was rejected. The Federals were cut off on Sunday, and killed in estimated at from three to five hundred, wounded 12 to 1500, who were removed from the Fort. The reported capture by the enemy of 15,000 prisoners is not believed, as many escaped from the Fort during Saturday night under cover of the darkness. In this way nearly a third of Floyd's brigade escaped. The enemy fought very desparately. During the battle there was a heavy fall of snow and sleet."

The latest Northern accounts of the battle at Fort Donelson admit that the Federal army was terribly cut to pieces. The dead lay in heaps, and the scene of battle beggars description. It was a dearly-bought victory. Companies were deprived of their officers and officers of their companies. The dead were thickly strewn across the field. The Confederates fought with fearful effort.

Augusta, Feb. 20.—The Atlanta Confederacy, of this morning, says that despatches from reliable sources state that Generals Johnston, Buckner, Pillow and Floyd are in Nashville, making preparations to meet the enemy. Buckner's forces were cut off on Sunday, but nearly all fought their way out, and made their way through the hills to Nashville. The enemy are in possession of Fort Donelson.

The total Confederate loss in the fort was 2,500. The Federal loss was about 6,000.

The latest news from Tennessee justifies a statement of the affair in this way: Fort Donelson capitulated on Sunday morning the 16th; Gen. Floyd and Pillow with some two or three thousand men escaped; Gen. Buckner and ten or twelve thousand men surrendered. Our loss in killed and wounded is stated at 1,600; the enemy lost in killed and wounded 4,000. After the fall of Fort Donelson, the city of Nashville was evacuated by soldiers and most of the citizens; government stores were removed, the Legislature removed to Memphis, merchants closed their stores, and the city was left to be taken by the enemy whenever they chose to do so. The Confederate army has been concentrated in the neighborhood of Nashville somewhere. At the latest advices the Federals had not entered Nashville, but it was thought they would take possession yesterday.

THE NEWS.

Gen. Price has had a battle with the Federals on the Arkansas frontier and defeated them. This news is from Gen. Albert Pike, and is reliable.

The yankees have taken possession of Winton, in the eastern part of this State, and burnt the town. It is thought they are making for the Seaboard Railroad, running to Norfolk. Our troops are preparing to meet them.

The reported capture of Elizabeth City by the Confederates has not been confirmed.

The latest news from all points will be found in another column.

Our late reverses is having the good effect of arousing the southern people everywhere to action. If our people will do their duty, we will establish independence before this year closes. If they don't turn out and fight now, the war will be prolonged for several years. One thing is certain, the war must be continued by the South until her independence is acknowledged by the Lincoln Government. It will be worse than death to give up now. We must and will conquer.

We are glad to learn that Capt E. A. Ross of this town (late of the Bethel Regiment) has succeeded in raising a company for the war. Keep the ball moving.

The Fayetteville Observer says that 200 men have volunteered in Cumberland county within the last two weeks. That's the way to sustain the cause.

FAST DAY.—President Davis has issued a Proclamation appointing Friday next, the 28th inst., as a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, in the Confederate States. Let the day be sacredly observed. The Proclamation will be found in another column.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of the Mecklenburg Agricultural Society was held in this place on Saturday last, for the purpose of keeping up the organization of the Society. A Constitution for the government of the Society was adopted.

The following officers were elected to serve until the next exhibition, or until their successors are chosen: A. B. Davidson, President; J. A. Young and Thos. I. Grier of Mecklenburg, T. B. Chambers of Iredeil, S. H. Walkup of Union, R. S. Young and E. R. Harris of Cabarrus, C. L. Hunter of Lincoln, W. R. Holt of Davidson, C. W. Hoyle of Gaston, A. B. Springs of York, S. C., and W. P. Crawford and James Miller of Lancaster, S. C., Vice Presidents; Dr. F. Scarr, Secretary; T. J. Lowrie, Treasurer.

Executive Committee.—R. F. Davidson, J. M. Strong, Dr. J. M. Miller, W. S. Stewart, J. B. Robinson and S. A. Cohen.

No other business of importance was transacted.

ARMORY.—The citizens of Charlotte and Mecklenburg county have taken initiatory steps towards establishing an Armory at this place for the manufacture of small arms and cannon.

NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS.—We are indebted to Dr. J. M. Strong, delegate from this county, for a copy of an Ordinance passed by the Convention to raise North Carolina's quota of troops for the Confederate service. We publish the Ordinance in full in another column.

Our subscribers at Mill Hill complain that their papers do not reach that Office regularly. Why it is we cannot tell. We start them from here regularly and at the right time. If our subscribers in that direction can find out the cause of the difficulty, we hope they will inform us.

BE OF GOOD COURAGE.—We do not know that there are many in the South who are inclined to feel discouraged in view of the late reverses to our arms, but it is natural for some to look on the dark side and feel weak in the faith. To all such we would say, cheer up, and remember the reverses the Revolutionary heroes sustained before they achieved their independence. The Richmond Enquirer enumerates some of them as follows:

"In January, 1776, Norfolk was bombarded by a British war vessel, and nine-tenths of the town was burned. In January, 1781, the British forces, led by the traitor Arnold, captured Richmond. They totally destroyed our cannon foundry. They seized and destroyed all our military stores, including a large quantity of powder. They burned public and private buildings and a large quantity of tobacco. Petersburg was taken twice in May, 1781. The Legislature, during the same month, on the approach of Cornwallis from the South, adjourned to Charlottesville. They were followed there, in June, by Tarleton's cavalry, seven of them captured, and the rest forced to retreat to Staunton. Gov. Jefferson escaped capture by only ten minutes.

These successes of the enemy were marked by cruel plunderings and rapine. Our people, except a few, did not, however, sit down and whine, and denounce Gen. Washington! They maintained their fortitude, endured their hardships, and put forth their courage; and in four months thereafter, in October 1781—they had the satisfaction of seeing Lord Cornwallis and his whole army captured at Yorktown, and the war ended in a blaze of glory."

In addition to the loss of several of our cities, we lost two armies—one under Gen. Gates and one under Gen. Lincoln—but our forefathers did not become chicken-hearted and give up, they went to work and determined to conquer or die, and they did conquer and gained a great name throughout the world. Let the men of the present day do likewise, and all be well in the end.

SPYES AND TORIES.—There is no doubt but that the cause of the South has suffered greatly from the operations of spies and tories. Our people have not been half vigilant enough. Too many strangers are allowed to pass to Richmond and back again, and prowl through the country, without being questioned or arrested. Besides, it has been asserted more than once that there are northern spies in the Departments at Richmond. Before the capture of Roanoke Island, the New York Herald published a plan of the fortifications there, the number of men and guns, and gave all necessary particulars to guide the enemy in their attack. Of course this information was given by some one familiar with the defenses. The enemy in their attacks on Fort Henry and Fort Donelson, were no doubt aided by information obtained from spies. Until the Government and people learn to be more vigilant, we may expect to suffer.

Inasmuch as the Lincoln Government now holds more prisoners than we do, it would be well to arrest all tories and suspicious characters, and hold them ready for exchange. A few thousand might be got in East Tennessee. This would be in accordance with the practice of the Lincolnites. They have arrested Government men on mere suspicion, and forced our Government to procure their release by exchanging those we captured on the battle field. Therefore, we suggest that all the tories in East Tennessee, and all others who are known to utter seditious language, be arrested immediately and sent to the prisons in Salisbury and Richmond and offered in exchange for the true southern men captured at Roanoke, Fort Henry and elsewhere.

THE PERMANENT GOVERNMENT of the Confederate States went into operation last week. The new Congress assembled on the 18th, and we publish on the 2d page the first day's proceedings in full. On Saturday last, the 22d, Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as President for the term of six years.

On Wednesday, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Foote, of Tenn., submitted a resolution asking for a committee to investigate the causes of the disasters which have befallen our arms in North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee. After some discussion, the resolution was laid upon the table. Mr. Smith, of Va., offered a resolution declaring that in case any officer of the Army or Navy was found in a state of intoxication, whether off or on duty, he should be deprived of his commission. This was also laid on the table. [We hope the resolution will be passed.]

A GOOD MOVE.—The authorities of South Carolina are about to adopt a rather novel mode to supply the deficiency of Gold and Silver. The Governor and Council have ordered

"That the Chiefs of the Treasury be directed to ascertain the amount of gold and silver plate belonging to the citizens of this State, with a view of hereafter taking and melting such portion thereof as may be necessary to constitute the basis of future circulation to provide means for the public defence, if such shall be deemed necessary; and to accomplish the object of this resolution, they are hereby authorized to direct the Tax Collector of each District to execute such duties as they may require, with power to administer the usual oaths in receiving tax returns."

If the Southern people would patriotically melt up their Gold and Silver plate, breast-pins and the beads of canes, there would be no lack of a specie currency in the South.

THE BURNSIDE EXPEDITION.—Various reports have been published about the losses sustained by the Burnside expedition at Hatteras, during the storm some weeks ago. A correspondent of the New York Times makes a statement about the matter which is considered more truthful than any yet published. He says 125 vessels of all descriptions sailed from Fortress Monroe on the 8th of January. They encountered the storm on the 14th and 15th about Hatteras Inlet. The steamer City of New York, with 400 kegs of powder, 1700 Enfield Rifles, bombs, &c., was lost; the Zouave gunboat, armed with a cannon, was lost; the Grapeshot, Pocahontas, Louisiana, and a schooner, were all lost with several horses and some men, the Voltigeur, Eastern Queen, Admiral, and a schooner, went hard ashore—whether they were got off again is not stated, but the probability is they were also lost. Some of the vessels started with pig iron for ballast, which was purchased at \$20 per ton, most of which was thrown overboard to lighten ship—only three overboard 75 tons of iron. The number of men in the expedition is stated at fifteen thousand. According to their own showing they did not find as many Union men about Hatteras as they expected. The correspondent says:

"The pilots, we were told, were all Union; Hatteras Inlet was Union, and New York subscribed \$8,000 for the inhabitants, because they were all Union. Yet one of the pilots hired by us went over to the enemy and informed them of everything; and as for the inhabitants of Hatteras Inlet, they are too ignorant to know the difference between Union and Secession. It is all nonsense; experience teaches us that there are no Union men there; and that the 3000 rifles asked for, if they had been granted, would now be in the hands of the rebels, and that the \$8,000 sent to North Carolina for the benefit of the Union men, was all lost to us. We had to pay \$800 in secret service money to those self-same Union men to know whether Roanoke Island was occupied or not."

FOREIGN ITEMS.—By a late arrival from Europe the following items of foreign news is obtained: Mr. Sidel, Confederate commissioner, has arrived in Paris, and the southerners there think he will soon accomplish his mission. The Paris correspondent of the New York Herald says that the Emperor is ready to recognize the Southern Confederacy, but is inviting England to act first. It is said that the Manchester (English) Chamber of Commerce manifests a great desire for the war to close.

THE DISTILLERY QUESTION.—We were among the first to call for action to prevent the distillation of corn into whiskey. We did so when such a move was thought to be very unpopular—and no doubt it was unpopular at first, for the Convention refused to do anything on the subject. But we are gratified to know that a great change has taken place among the people and among the members of the Convention. We never urged the matter on the grounds of temperance, but because we feared that bread would become scarce and much suffering ensue. The people generally are now beginning to see the danger, and are demanding a remedy. Liquor dealers and even those who are fond of indulging, are calling for a prohibition on the distilleries. We understand that a petition, signed by all classes, was sent from this place to the Convention last week, praying that body to enact a law to stop the distilleries during the war.

It will be seen, by referring to a sketch of the proceedings, that the Convention has passed an ordinance to prevent distillation after the 15th of April. From now until that time, thousands of bushels of corn will be distilled. But "small favors thankfully received," even if the convention didn't have courage enough to do better.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW AGAINST DISTILLERIES.—The Governor and Council of South Carolina have enacted the following law against liquor distilleries:

Whereas, the enormous and rapid consumption, by distillation, of the grain crop of this State is materially lessening the quantity and enhancing the price of those cereals required for the support of our families and sustenance of the people; therefore, be it

Resolved, That from and after the 15th day of March next, the distillation of spirits from Indian corn, rye, wheat, barley or other grain shall be and the same is hereby prohibited, during the continuance of the present war, except upon the terms hereinafter provided.

Resolved, That the Governor and Council may, upon the payment of such sums as they may impose in their discretion, grant a license to distill any person giving bond, with good surety, to be approved by the Clerk of the Court of the District in which he lives, in the penalty of five thousand dollars, conditioned that he will not sell any portion of the spirits distilled by any person other than an authorized agent of the Government of the Confederate States or of this State. And provided further, That the person executing said bond shall endorse on the same an affidavit that he will not, in any case, willfully violate the conditions thereof.

Resolved, That any person distilling without a license as above provided, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars, and imprisonment not exceeding twelve months.

Resolved, That any person licensed to distill, who shall violate the conditions of his license bond, shall, in addition to the forfeiture of the bond, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and subject to the same penalty as above.

Resolved, That in either of the above cases, the distillery itself shall be deemed a nuisance, and subject to be abated.

BAN.—We notice in the Augusta Chronicle & Sentinel that a public meeting was called on a certain evening last week for the purpose of taking measures to defend the city from invasion. But the meeting was not held, or a sufficient number did not attend to transact the business. And what do you suppose is the reason assigned for the non-attendance of the citizens? why it is stated the weather was too inclement! That's too bad. The weather too inclement for people to turn out to adopt measures for their own protection! It is really disgraceful to the city of Augusta. If the yankees should happen to get there with their gun boats they won't regard our weather as too inclement to prevent their driving the citizens from their dwellings. When will the people of the South learn to act promptly and vigorously.

The people of Cleveland county don't seem to like the Convention—they think, like thousands of others, that that body has remained in session too long and done too little work for the expense incurred. A public meeting was held at Shelby week before last and passed resolutions expressing the opinion that the Convention should have adjourned after transacting the business for which it was called, viz: to take the State out of the Union. The delegates from Cleveland county were instructed to move for a final adjournment, and, if not successful, to resign their seats immediately.

The fact is, the Convention has remained in session too long for the amount of business transacted. Too much time has been wasted in useless debates. This has been resisted, we know, by some members, who were anxious to do the business promptly and return home, but they have been over-ruled by the majority, the talking "mated" members!

THE TARIFF QUESTION.—Some of the papers are discussing the kind of tariff which the South ought to adopt after independence is established. In view of the course at present pursued by most manufacturers, but few persons are favorable to a tariff for their protection. The great mass of the people are indignant at the conduct of the cotton manufacturers. They formerly bought cotton for 10, 11 and 12 cents per lb., and sold yarn at 90 cents and \$1 per bunch, and the manufactured goods at 10, 12 and 15 cents per yard. But now many of them buy cotton for 7 and 8 cents and charge double former prices for their goods. It may be argued that the increased expense of operating the mills justify this great advance in price of goods. We don't believe it. The decrease in the price of cotton will pay the increased expense of operating.

After the independence of the Confederate States is established, the party favoring a very low tariff will take the ascendancy and keep it.

HANDS WANTED.—Gen. Branch, at Newbern, advertises for 500 Free Negroes to work on the fortifications. He says:

"They will be furnished transportation, quarters, subsistence, and will be paid ten dollars per month. They are absolutely necessary to the public defense, and I appeal to county and city authorities, and to patriotic private citizens to aid me in procuring them. If you intend to aid in defence of the State, now is the time. The soldiers are now at work, and have been for weeks. I wish to take the spade from them and give them their muskets. Citizens now at home must furnish laborers to take the spade. The government will pay for labor; but laborers we must have. They should report without an hour's delay to Major W. B. Thompson at Newbern, or to Capt W. S. G. Andrews, at Washington, N. C."

NORTHERN ITEMS.—A resolution has passed the Senate of the Maine Legislature, in favor of confiscating the property of southern citizens, and arming a certain class of persons in our midst to fight against us.

If the Lincoln Government recognizes Hayti, it is said that a black negro will be sent to Washington as Minister. He will suit yankee taste, and will be a fit companion for Seward and Sumner.

Mr. Pennington, ex-Speaker of the Lincoln House of Representatives, is dead.

Senator Chandler said in the yankee Congress the other day that the removal of Gen. McClellan was imperatively demanded, as he was in the way of closing the rebellion.

The yankees are rejoicing prodigiously at their recent victories. They will have to change their tune sometime.

BANK OF THOMASVILLE.—The Bank of Thomasville, chartered by the last Legislature, will organize on the 26th inst.—the Greensboro Patriot.

N. C. CONVENTION.

The Convention has agreed to adjourn from the 25th (to-day) until the third Monday in April. The following letter gives some insight as to the action of the Convention last week:

RALPHS, Feb. 21st, 1862. The Convention in dragging its slow length along, has this week perfected two very important measures, the Ordinance to raise North Carolina's quota of troops for the war, and an Ordinance to suppress the distillation of grain into spirituous liquors. Whether these Ordinances will answer the purposes designed, remains to be seen, but they are the best that could be got through the Convention. The last named Ordinance, called the Liquor Ordinance, provides as follows: A party in the Convention, headed by Graham, Badger, and others, insisting upon such measures."

The first four days of last week were occupied with the consideration of the military and distillery ordinances. While the distillery question was under consideration, Judge Osborne made some remarks which are reported as follows in the State Journal:

"Judge Osborne took it for granted the Convention had determined to act on this question. Caution and prudence were necessary. Before the commencement of the war, some of our citizens were engaged in distilling as a means of living. By the blockade we were cut off from all markets where most of our medicines had hitherto been purchased. Liquor was needed for many purposes. Medical men require it. It was more necessary now than at former times. Every family and every plantation needs more than formerly. The Convention ought to take large views of this question. To say no more liquor should be distilled would be a great invasion of private rights. He had seen no ordinance as yet introduced, and he would not vote for it. He was willing to see a tax imposed, but would feel reluctant to vote for an entire prohibition."

[Rather a strange argument in favor of distilleries. The probability is, the people will need bread during the war more than they will whiskey for medicine. We are gratified to know that a majority of the convention did not agree with Judge Osborne.]

Mr. Schenck of Lincoln, said he gave his hearty assent to the provisions of the prohibition ordinance, but it was defective in one point, it allowed too long a time for the destruction of grain. He moved to amend by striking out the 15th of April (the time fixed for prohibiting distillation) and inserting the 1st of March.

Unfortunately, Mr. Schenck's motion was not adopted, and the ordinance was passed prohibiting distillation from and after the 15th of April till the 1st January next.

The military ordinance, as passed, provides for paying each volunteer a bounty of \$50. This, added to the sum paid by the Confederate Government, makes \$100 bounty to volunteers.

An ordinance was passed, on motion of Mr. Schenck, to furnish food and lodging (at the expense of the State) to volunteers necessarily detained at the different railroad connections in the State.

WAR NEWS. BATTLE ON THE N. C. COAST. Norfolk, Feb. 21.—The Federal forces ascended the Chowan River again yesterday to Winton, N. C. There were several gun boats with a large number of troops on board. The Confederates opened a heavy fire upon the yankees, killing and wounding a number. Some of the yankees landed and burnt the town, when the confederates retired. Our loss is said to be two men and two horses killed. C. H. Foster (the yankee who was once driven from Murfreesboro) was among the yankees killed.

[The first attack on Winton by the Federals was successfully resisted by Col. Williams of the 3d N. C. Regiment.]

BATTLE ON THE ARKANSAS LINE. Richmond, Feb. 21.—Official intelligence received here says that Gen. Price fought a battle recently near the village of Benton, in Missouri, with a force of 100,000 men, and losing only 100 confederates.

FROM THE WEST. MEMPHIS, Feb. 20.—Governor Harris has issued a proclamation calling out 10,000 militia. Tennessee has sixty-seven regiments in the field, but the Confederate Government calls for thirty-two more.

The Tennessee Legislature meets here to-day. An attack is expected at Columbus daily. Beauregard will defend it with 10,000 men.

Gun-boats are reported at Clarksville this morning, en route to Nashville. It is reported, but doubtful, that if a sufficient force can be collected in time to defend Nashville, there will be a fight in that vicinity shortly.

Our loss at the Fort Donelson fight of four days was 1,600. The enemy's loss was 4,000. Late Saturday night, a council of war was held, at which it was determined to surrender. Gen. Buckner left to make it known to Gen. Pillow and staff. Gen. Floyd and 800 of his brigade went to Clarksville on Sunday morning. Buckner remained. Our army of 12,000 men capitulated on Sunday. It is believed that Nashville will be evacuated and the army fallen back, but to what point is not known.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 21.—Seven Federal gun-boats went up the Tennessee River to retake Memphis, seven miles from here to-day, and returned this afternoon. Nashville was not occupied by the Federals up to Friday night. It is thought that Bull and a portion of his federal army would reach there on Monday. Johnston is reported at Murfreesboro, where he has been joined by Gen. George B. Crittenden.

MARRIED. In Union county, on the 20th inst., at the residence of the mother, by J. M. Reid, Esq., Mr. E. M. Walker to Miss M. J. Martin.

ATTENTION, Beat No. 1. All persons liable to Militia Duty in this Beat, embracing Wards No. 2 and 3, are hereby ordered to appear at the Court-House on Saturday, March 1st, at 9 o'clock, armed and equipped, for the purpose of being sworn in and returned volunteers are required to perform this duty, and those residing in Beat No. 1 will appear as above. Persons engaged in the service of the State by personal contract, and those employed in the military service, to do so once in three months, and will report for duty as above.

By order J. H. STEVENS, Captain. J. H. WILSON, Jr., O. S. Charlotte, Feb. 25, 1862.

DR. J. M. MILLER, Charlotte, N. C., Has resumed the Practice of Medicine, and can be found at his Office in Brawley's Building, immediately over Drucker and Heilbrun's Store, or at his residence, Feb. 25, 1862.

Town Notice. Ordered by the Board of Commissioners that no accounts shall be rendered made against the Town of Charlotte, except such as are specially authorized by the Board of Commissioners, or upon the written order of the Mayor. And that any person presenting any account against the Town to the Board for payment, not specially authorized by the Board to be made, must produce an order of the Mayor authorizing the contracting of such account.

Ordered that advertisement of this notice be made in one of the public newspapers of the Town of Charlotte, THOS. W. DEWEY, Clerk of the Board of Com. February 25, 1862.

IRON, IRON, Swedes and English. AT AUCTION IN WILMINGTON. By S. M. WAST, Auctioneer. On Wednesday, March 5th, at 11 o'clock A. M., we will sell at Public Auction, at our Store, FIFTY TONS SWEDEN AND ENGLISH IRON, assorted sizes, from one to ten inches wide. Also, Fifty Bags choice Cuba COFFEE. G. F. FARLEY & CO. Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 20, 1862.

AN ATHEIST.—The Religious Herald says that the Rev. A. W. Miller, of Petersburg, in his Fast Day Sermon, stated, that the authority of a distinguished Virginia gentleman, who once resided in the same town with Lincoln, and knew him well, that he is an avowed atheist. This fact (if it be a fact) goes far toward the solution of his course in the inauguration of the present war. Atheism has always been prodigal of blood—if its own were not to be shed.—Petersburg Express.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Of President Davis on the 22d inst. The following synopsis of the Inaugural Address of President Davis is copied from the Columbia Carolinian of Sunday:

RICHMOND, Feb. 22.—The Inaugural was delivered from the Washington Monument. The President said: We have assembled to usher into existence a Permanent Government, which we hope will be perpetual, upon principles inaugurated by our revolutionary fathers, and with mingled feelings of humility and pride, I appear to take, in the presence of these people and before Heaven, the oath prescribed for the exalted station to which the unanimous voice of the people has called me.

He referred to the long course and class of legislation which has been aggrandizing the North and eliminating in a warfare upon the institutions of the South, threatening to destroy State Sovereignty, when six of those States had seceded from the Union, the better to secure the liberties for which that Union was established. Whatever hopes may have been entertained that a returning sense of justice would remove the danger threatening our rights and preserve the Union, have been disappointed by the malignity and barbarities of the North in the prosecution of the existing war. In proof of our sincerity to maintain our ancient institutions, we pointed to the Constitution of the existing war, and the laws enacted; and to back that through all the necessity of an unequal struggle, no set upon our part has impaired personal liberty or freedom of speech, thought, or the press. Every right of peaceful citizens has been maintained as securely as if a war of invasions had never broken out. The people of the United States had fallen into the hands of a sectional majority, which would destroy every right which was pledged to protect them from the Union, the better to secure the liberties for which that Union was established. Whatever hopes may have been entertained that a returning sense of justice would remove the danger threatening our rights and preserve the Union, have been disappointed by the malignity and barbarities of the North in the prosecution of the existing war.

True to our traditions of peace and love of justice, we Commissioners to the United States, to propose a fair and amicable settlement of all questions of public debt or property which might be disputed. The Government at Washington denied the right of self-government, and refused to listen to proposals of peaceful separation. The first year of our history is eventful. A new Government has been established over seven hundred thousand square miles. Our Confederacy has grown from six to eleven States, and Maryland, when able to speak with undivided voice, will unite her destinies with the South. Our people rallied with an unexampled and unanimous support to the great principles of Constitutional Government, and with firm resolve will perpetuate by arms the rights they could not peacefully secure. A million of men, are now standing in hostile array, waging a war along the frontiers for thousands of miles. Battles have been fought and sieges conducted with the greatest gallantry and success. Probably by an ordinance of Providence, we may be taught the value of our liberties by the price incurred, and the recollections of this great contest will be a bond of harmony and endearing affection, producing unity in policy, fraternity in sentiment, and joint effort in war.

Our past sacrifices, in consequence of the blockade of our ports, are developing the resources of a self-supporting, independent people. It affords gratification to know that we have maintained the war by our unaided exertions, and have not needed the aid or assistance from any quarter. In conclusion, he invokes the blessings of Heaven upon our efforts and cause.

WAR NEWS. BATTLE ON THE N. C. COAST. Norfolk, Feb. 21.—The Federal forces ascended the Chowan River again yesterday to Winton, N. C. There were several gun boats with a large number of troops on board. The Confederates opened a heavy fire upon the yankees, killing and wounding a number. Some of the yankees landed and burnt the town, when the confederates retired. Our loss is said to be two men and two horses killed. C. H. Foster (the yankee who was once driven from Murfreesboro) was among the yankees killed.

[The first attack on Winton by the Federals was successfully resisted by Col. Williams of the 3d N. C. Regiment.]

BATTLE ON THE ARKANSAS LINE. Richmond, Feb. 21.—Official intelligence received here says that Gen. Price fought a battle recently near the village of Benton, in Missouri, with a force of 100,000 men, and losing only 100 confederates.

FROM THE WEST. MEMPHIS, Feb. 20.—Governor Harris has issued a proclamation calling out 10,000 militia. Tennessee has sixty-seven regiments in the field, but the Confederate Government calls for thirty-two more.

The Tennessee Legislature meets here to-day. An attack is expected at Columbus daily. Beauregard will defend it with 10,000 men.

Gun-boats are reported at Clarksville this morning, en route to Nashville. It is reported, but doubtful, that if a sufficient force can be collected in time to defend Nashville, there will be a fight in that vicinity shortly.

Our loss at the Fort Donelson fight of four days was 1,600. The enemy's loss was 4,000. Late Saturday night, a council of war was held, at which it was determined to surrender. Gen. Buckner left to make it known to Gen. Pillow and staff. Gen. Floyd and 800 of his brigade went to Clarksville on Sunday morning. Buckner remained. Our army of 12,000 men capitulated on Sunday. It is believed that Nashville will be evacuated and the army fallen back, but to what point is not known.

MARRIED. In Union county, on the 20th inst., at the residence of the mother, by J. M. Reid, Esq., Mr. E. M. Walker to Miss M. J. Martin.

ATTENTION, Beat No. 1. All persons liable to Militia Duty in this Beat, embracing Wards No. 2 and 3, are hereby ordered to appear at the Court-House on Saturday, March 1st, at 9 o'clock, armed and equipped, for the purpose of being sworn in and returned volunteers are required to perform this duty, and those residing in Beat No. 1 will appear as above. Persons engaged in the service of the State by personal contract, and those employed in the military service, to do so once in three months, and will report for duty as above.

By order J. H. STEVENS, Captain. J. H. WILSON, Jr., O. S. Charlotte, Feb. 25, 1862.

DR. J. M. MILLER, Charlotte, N. C., Has resumed the Practice of Medicine, and can be found at his Office in Brawley's Building, immediately over Drucker and Heilbrun's Store, or at his residence, Feb. 25, 1862.

Town Notice. Ordered by the Board of Commissioners that no accounts shall be rendered made against the Town of Charlotte, except such as are specially authorized by the Board of Commissioners, or upon the written order of the Mayor. And that any person presenting any account against the Town to the Board for payment, not specially authorized by the Board to be made, must produce an order of the Mayor authorizing the contracting of such account.

Ordered that advertisement of this notice be made in one of the public newspapers of the Town of Charlotte, THOS. W. DEWEY, Clerk of the Board of Com. February 25, 1862.

IRON, IRON, Swedes and English. AT AUCTION IN WILMINGTON. By S. M. WAST, Auctioneer. On Wednesday, March 5th, at 11 o'clock A. M., we will sell at Public Auction, at our Store, FIFTY TONS SWEDEN AND ENGLISH IRON, assorted sizes, from one to ten inches wide. Also, Fifty Bags choice Cuba COFFEE. G. F. FARLEY & CO. Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 20, 1862.

AN ATHEIST.—The Religious Herald says that the Rev. A. W. Miller, of Petersburg, in his Fast Day Sermon, stated, that the authority of a distinguished Virginia gentleman, who once resided in the same town with Lincoln, and knew him well, that he is an avowed atheist. This fact (if it be a fact) goes far toward the solution of his course in the inauguration of the present war. Atheism has always been prodigal of blood—if its own were not to be shed.—Petersburg Express.

Charlotte Market, FEB. 24, 1862.