

Western Democrat. CHARLOTTE, N. C. Tuesday, March 11, 1862.

THE NEWS. The news is decidedly cheering from Norfolk and the neighborhood. The Confederate naval victory at the mouth of James River is an offset to the late triumph of the enemy in Tennessee. In fact, the loss of men at Fort Donelson on both sides is about equal, according to the enemy's own showing. The Federals had killed and wounded, and we lost only 6,000 in prisoners.

In addition to the news in another column, we received the following dispatch from a friend at Weldon on Sunday evening: March 9th, 1862. The Confederate Steamer Merrimac has sunk two forty-four gun frigates and one gun-boat of the enemy, and is now firing into the Minnesota.

The loss of the enemy in the engagement must be heavy, as a few could escape from the sinking vessels. Gen. Price, in Missouri, is again warning the Lincolnites pretty freely, and they are expressing the fear that he will over-run the country. We hope he will. It was reported that Pensacola had been evacuated by the Confederates, but we have seen nothing confirming the rumor.

THE PROSPECT.—Since the late reverses to our arms, the people of the Confederate States seem to have been aroused to a sense of duty never before manifested. Such determination to repel the enemy was not manifested even at the commencement of the war, our exchanges from all directions bring us the gratifying intelligence of the formation of new companies and new recruits. Some are not waiting to be equipped by the Government, but are furnishing their own arms. And no State is doing more than North Carolina in this respect. We have no doubt that the late defeats will prove a blessing to us in the end, if our people will continue the work of preparation to meet the enemy.

Although the late foreign news shows us that we need not expect early aid or comfort from England and France, yet we are not discouraged. Providence helps those who help themselves, and England and France will soon find it to their advantage to help, by recognition at least, those who are helping themselves and successfully resisting their enemies. But let us quit thinking about aid from England and France, and push the war forward by our own exertions, and it will not be long before the tide of battle sets in our favor. "Courage, men! courage!"

PUBLIC MEETING.—The proceedings of a public meeting of the citizens of this county will be found in another column. The resolutions passed are in accordance with the spirit of our people, who are determined to act as well as speak. The meeting was composed of many of the oldest and most respected citizens of Mecklenburg. Judge Osborne made an encouraging, eloquent and forcible speech on the occasion.

WILL ENGLAND BUY STOLEN PROPERTY?—The Lincoln authorities have assured the English Government that in a short time they will supply Liverpool and Manchester with plenty of Cotton from the Southern States, and it is said that this assurance keeps England from interfering and raising the blockade. Now, it is certain if the Yankees get cotton they must steal it—get it by robbing honest men—and the question is a legitimate one, will England buy stolen cotton? If she does, and encourages robbery, then she is equally guilty, and ought to be held to a strict account by the Confederate Government. If the British Government aids us in our property, countenances piracy, and purchases stolen property, or allows her citizens to do so, she does not see herself in the eyes of the honest portion of the world, and deserves condemnation and severe chastisement. The day will come when the Southern Confederacy will have the power to retaliate upon England if she engages in a wicked and dishonest traffic to the injury of our people. Our Government ought to warn Queen Victoria and Lord John Russell of the consequences now in time. Those who buy stolen goods, knowing them to be such, are no better than the rogues.

SEQUESTRATION.—We are requested to say that Mr. Schenck, the Receiver for this county and others, will be in Charlotte the last of this week, and remain about two days. It is the duty of all persons owing Northern debts to return a list to Mr. Schenck, sworn to before some Justice of the Peace, and also to inform him of any other property belonging to an alien enemy.

Congress made some changes in the law since it was first passed. We will publish them hereafter.

MARTIAL LAW.—We view with renewed hope the act of the President of the Confederate States in declaring Martial Law in the cities of Richmond, Norfolk, and other places. If our people and authorities are in earnest about the war, and we have no doubt of that, it is time to act more promptly and decisively and put down treason and traitors in our midst. He that is not for us is against us, and should be dealt with vigorously in order to avert injury to the southern cause.

The arrest of the Hon. John M. Botts, in Richmond, is a good beginning, and it is to be hoped that other suspicious characters will be immediately arrested, no matter who they are or where they are, if found in the limits of the Confederacy. If every man who utters sentiments inimical to our cause had been arrested long ago and confined or transported, we would have had better success in prosecuting the war and a great deal more peace and security throughout the country.

The citizens of Petersburg, Va., held a public meeting and appointed a committee to wait on the President and request him to extend martial law over Petersburg, which he consented to do.

HOME-MADE POTASH.—Dr. E. Nye Hutchison has sent us a specimen of Potash made in the vicinity of this place by Dr. Holland, who is preparing to put it up on a large scale. It is as good, if not superior to any article ever brought from Yankee-land. We are gratified to know that the people of the South, in every section, are learning to live without northern truck.

ANOTHER DIFFICULTY.—The prospect is that the Lincoln government will have another difficulty with the British, and that the former will have another opportunity to back out and beg pardon of their foreign masters. The U. S. sloop-of-war Portsmouth, on the 3d ult., seized a British vessel at Matanzas while she was being loaded with Cotton, and sent her off in charge of a prize crew. The British consul at Matanzas protested against the seizure and demanded to know why it was done. The only reply made was that the U. S. government did not intend to allow any cotton to be shipped from Matanzas. The English consul has reported the affair to his Government.

Matanzas is a Mexican port, and it was clearly a violation to seize a British vessel while loading there. Of course the miserable creature at Washington will apologize and beg off, but it is evident that it cannot be long before they will reach that point where apologies must fail to save their rotten carcasses from chastisement.

ENVELOPE MANUFACTURE.—We had no idea, until the other day, of the extent the manufacture of Envelopes was carried on in this place. J. B. Stevens & Co. employ sixteen hands in their manufactory, and they inform us that they are unable to supply the demand for letter Envelopes. They recently filed a government order for 250,000.

We return thanks to Mr. P. Plyler for a list of subscribers at Amity Hill, Irondell county.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.—This body, for the past week, was considering the bill authorizing the officers of the army to destroy cotton and tobacco where there is any danger of it falling into the hands of the enemy. One party favored the destruction and paying the owners for it; another party advocated destruction without compensation, because owners ought not to put it or allow it to remain at a point where the enemy could get it; and another party contended that the government should buy the whole crop and then destroy it. Finally the bill passed, yeas 71, nays 11, in the following shape:

The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, That it shall be the duty of all military commanders in the service of the Confederate States, to destroy all cotton, tobacco, or other property that may be destroyed by the military or by themselves, to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy. The resolution was agreed to—yeas 61, nays 19.

Mr. Miles, from the Committee on Military Affairs, offered a resolution instructing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill for the compensation of all loyal citizens whose property by the military or by themselves, is destroyed, whenever, in the judgment, the said cotton, tobacco and other property is about to fall into the hands of the enemy.

In the Senate, on the 6th inst., Mr. Barnwell, of South Carolina, from the Committee on Finance, reported a bill fixing the pay of Senators and Representatives at \$2,500 per annum, and mileage at 20 cents per mile; the President pro tem. of the Senate, when acting as such, to receive the pay of the Vice President; and the Speaker of the House to receive double the pay of any other member of that body. The bill was amended, on motion of Mr. Oliphant, of Texas, by striking out \$2,500 and inserting \$3,000; and further amended by providing for the absence without leave, and passed.

The pay of the officers of the Senate was fixed as follows: Secretary \$2,500 per annum; Assistant Secretary, \$2,000; two Clerks, \$1,500 each; Sergeant-at-Arms, \$1,000; Doorkeeper, \$1,500; Assistant Doorkeeper, \$1,200—each payable quarterly, in advance, and Page \$2 per diem.

A bill creating the office of Commanding General of the Army and Navy was passed. The President has the power to make the appointment. The Commanding General is to receive a salary of \$400 per month.

Resolutions declaring the determination of the government to prosecute the war until independence is achieved, and declaring that under no circumstances can the old Union be re-established, were unanimously passed by both Houses.

Gen. Sterling Price of Missouri, has been confirmed by the Senate as a Major-General. Col Ransom of N. C. has been appointed Brigadier General.

For some days last week this community was excited by rumors of a difficulty in certain counties in the central portion of the State. We have no positive or definite information about the matter, but have no doubt that reports have greatly exaggerated the affair. It is well, however, to prepare for such occurrences, and be prompt in meeting out punishment. The sooner we do so the better. It is not worth while to deny the fact that there are traitors in the State who deserve hanging, and there is and was good reasons why the State Convention should have passed Mr. Rayner's bill to define and punish sedition. Action, action, action! is what we need now.

P. S.—We learn that Capt. Ross, last week, arrested some 40 men in Davidson county, who were holding a meeting under suspicious circumstances.

We make this statement because of the magnified stories which have obtained currency among the people.

When the Yankee prisoners who passed through here week before last, arrived at Petersburg and commenced ransacking through the city, the authorities stopped it and ordered the prisoners to be conveyed to the Richmond Depot and guarded there until the train was ready to start. Gen. Cooper was found in one of the stores of that city engaged in close conversation with some persons—Corcoran was ordered to the Depot, and the persons who had the conversation with him were arrested and carried before the Mayor, who pleaded as an excuse, old acquaintance with the Yankee Colonel, and protested that they had been guilty of nothing treasonable. But when the prisoners arrived in Richmond they were searched (so the Richmond papers state) and maps and plans of southern cities and fortifications found upon their persons. It is not known whether they were furnished these things in Petersburg or in the towns through which they passed on their journey from Columbia. The prisoners having these papers in possession are considered as having violated their privileges, and consequently their transfer to the North was indefinitely postponed.

PLANS OF THE ENEMY.—The N. Y. Herald speculates on recent and future events of the war, and bases calculations on what it predicts will soon occur. That paper supposes that Manassas will fall into the hands of the Federals, and in view of that event says: "Whether they (the Confederates) evacuate or are expelled from their defensive line at Manassas, they lose Virginia and North Carolina; for the Unionists of these States are waiting only for an opportunity to open upon their Richmond despotism a decisive fire in the rear. With our occupation of Nashville, Memphis will become untenable to the rebels; and so, with the loss of Manassas and Nashville, they will be compelled to move down their northern defensive line within the boundaries of the seven original seceding cotton States—South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Texas."

The Herald will soon find itself very much mistaken in its calculations, and it behooves the people of North Carolina to use every effort within their power to prevent the war being transferred to this State. This can be done by rallying to the support of our armies in Virginia and East Tennessee. And let the Union men in our midst (there are a few) be dealt with immediately by vigilance committees, if the authorities continue to neglect that class of traitors. Let us see to it and prevent the "fire in the rear" which the New York Herald says will take place. It is the duty of the press of the State to arouse the people about the matter.

NORTHERN ITEMS.—Gen. Lander, commander of a portion of the Federal forces in Western Virginia, is dead. He died from the effects of a wound received some time ago, aided no doubt by whiskey.

The Yankee papers announce that Andrew Johnson (the traitor) is to be made Governor of Tennessee.

The War Department refuses to permit the transmission of letters to southern States. We are glad of that. The Confederate government should have stopped it long ago.

According to their own showing, the Yankees did not find as much Unionism in Tennessee as they expected.

A special despatch to the Chicago Times, dated Clarksville, the 23d ult., gives the following gloomy account of the state of feeling among the population there. It says there is but one Union man in the place, and he is sixty years old, or he would have been killed long ago. The Hon. C. A. Johnson, who was a powerful advocate for the Union until the war commenced, is now as powerful an advocate on the other side. He says that the only effect of our success will be to drive the people of Tennessee into the mountains and render them desperate. There is not a spark of Union feeling here, and no one pretends to disguise the fact. The people of Clarksville glory in secession; but, at the same time, they are trembling lest the town should be burned. There was a large quantity of rebel stores, a portion of which was carried off and the remainder destroyed. The rebel leaders shipped a thousand negroes last week from Clarksville.

St. Louis, March 4.—Columbus has been evacuated by the Confederate troops, and the town has been burned by the rebels. They have removed the guns to Fort Randolph.

AN APPEAL FOR RE-ENLISTMENTS.—The following appeal from Col. John F. Hoke, of the 23d Regiment of N. C. Volunteers, is published at the request of the gentleman to whom it is addressed. It will be seen that Col. Hoke feels and explains the importance of the men now in the field remaining there and renewing their term of enlistment!

HEADQUARTERS 23d REGT. N. C. VOLUNTEERS,) Monday, Feb. 19, 1862.)

REV. HENRY ASBURY—My Dear Sir: I am urged by my feelings and the cause in which we are engaged (a holy cause as I view it) to write to you, and through you to our patriotic people of the east end of Gaston county. I cannot address each one separately, and I have chosen you as the means by which to communicate my views to our citizens.

From the reverses we have sustained (not as yet very serious) and from the immense army and preparation that we see gathered by our enemies, the hour of our greatest danger and trial has come. The cause of Southern Liberty needs now all the aid that true braves can give to it. It is in this view that I write to you as forcibly and briefly as I can to your view the need we have of tried soldiers, and those who are by courage and training far above anything like panics or fear. It is almost absolutely certain that to succeed on this line, the only one that has held its own so far against them, we must have the men who have now on it. These are the men who are tried soldiers, well organized, well drilled, fearless and prompt; they have stood the test, and a fearful one; of camp scourges in every shape, and have proved themselves of iron nerve without them, we oppose raw, undisciplined levies to the veterans of the enemy who have been drilling all the time during the winter.

All is at stake. The war has assumed immense proportions. The Yankee nation has a war debt of one billion. The program is to subjugate us, to convert our States into territories, and force us to pay the expenses of the war. This, in addition to our own debt, would annihilate our whole people in a few years, and confiscate our whole property—this has already been announced in their Congress. The only way to avoid it is to fill up the ranks of our armies to stand guard and watch over a conquered people. Is it not then a loud appeal to every man and woman in the whole South to stand to their arms. The young men will only say "I will fight it out if their home people will only say "I will fight it out." They say now that they will return soon. But they will go home at the very time when they will be most needed. They will get a furlough of one month, that is sure—the time may be delayed because of the exigencies of the service. Can our people admit to the expense of the war. 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