GOV. VANCE'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of North

tion at your hands. That nothing in this act shall be construed to gard as proper subjects for exemption.

taxed by these regulations; yet the State of North | a resolution to that effect. Carolina, importing almost the same articles for the same purpose, is compelled to submit to them. Guard and Militia organizations, I recommend The third is the arrest, and until this takes place I deem it inconsistent with the public interest to that the latter be preserved. I should regret exrefer more particularly to our blockade-running ceedingly to see the militia abolished, and its orbeing, if not denied, and as here only its aid can My opi considered with the farther facts, as I hold it, that of rebellion and repelling of invasion, and though State in the vessels employed in importing her during this war. supplies (this being the terms, to which we are called upon to submit!), or to impose such regula- which has suspended the privilege of habeas cortions as will destroy instead of regulating com- pus has most thoroughly aroused public attention. merce, it becomes your province to demand a re-peal or modification of the act, and I respectfully sudden changes in the currency, nor the conscrip-right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, merce, it becomes your province to demand a re- Neither the losses incurred by the radical and case Congress should decline to repeal or modify tension of it to such an age, and upon such terms the act, I respectfully ask for directions as to what as to place the industrial pursuits of the country I shall do with the ships and supplies on hand. A at the feet of the President, nor the heavy bur- the operation of a suspension of its privileges will be detailed statement of these supplies, together with thens of taxation-none of these, nor all of them | seen by supposing that it had no existence here. In an account as accurate as it can be, without vouch- together, have so awakened the public feeling as such case no provision would have been foundfor its ers for expenditures abroad not yet received, is the withdrawal of this time honored and bloodto be made on oath and warrant to describe the perherewith submitted, together with the report of bought guard of personal freedom from the people son to be seized would have been not only very proper, Mr John White, our special Commissioner to Eu- in times when it is most needed for their protec- but the more necessary to be inserted. Thee could rope. In reference to this gentleman, it is due to tion. It is true that our foresathers assumed, and not have been legally disturbed by Congress, and any him that I should say, that I have every reason to this generation has conceded, that in cases of re- legislation dispensing with them had been mere usurbe pleased with the skill and fidelity with which bellion and invasion, the public safety may some pation and void. be pleased with the skill and fidelity with which bellion and invasion, the public safety may some-be pleased with the skill and fidelity with which bellion and invasion, the public safety may some-such is the general view I have taken of the act as it is supposed to relate to crimes. But the staute is A report of our other Commissioner, Col. D. K. have conferred on Congress the power of suspenSion in such cases, when the public safety may relegal or moral; and though there is some difference of and will I believe be found equally satisfactory, quire it. Nor can it be doubted that the power opinion upon the question whether paragraph 5of sec. and creditable to him as Commissioner. In this authorized to suspend is the sole power entitled to | 1 embraces the case of a citizen not liable to military connection, I respectfully ask for the appointment judge of the necessity for the act, and if the late or tries to appeal to the constitutional repositors of of a committee to investigate all matters apportain- statute had merely prohibited out and out the use the law for a decision upon his rights; yet there is too ing to the blockade running of the State, to be ap- of the writ for the time specified, there could be much reason to believe that the language is succeptipointed at an early day, so as to report to your no complaint against its constitutionality, however ble of the interpretation that it does include such perpresent session if possible. No appropriation has ill-timed and unnecessary may have been the exerbeen made by your honorable body to pay the cur- cise of a rigor so great. But I have been as unrent expenses of the vessels engaged in running able to see in the times any necessity for denying drawn to suit him, and his exposition carries he inthe blockade and none will be necessary, for these | the writ, as I am to recognize in the law the conexpenses can be paid by selling bills, drawn on stitutional exercise of the favor that is granted. our agent in England, as being incurred in Wil- Concurring in the doctrine that the protection mington chiefly for the expenses connected with against the abuse of the constitution of the Conthe loading and unloading vessels, compressing federate States, either by usurpation of powers or cotton, &c. And they can be discharged in cur- oppressive use of such as are granted, is to be military service that is due, but which merely asks rency. I would suggest that you authorize the found in the responsibility of Congress to the peo- when honest opinions differ to have the point settled Treasurer to purchase these bills out of any money ple, ensured by their short tenure of office, and by those tribunals which settle all maters of controin the Treasury, and thus keep the sterling exchange in the Treasury-which otherwise would powers delegated to the Confederate government, vice to the government, he has as much right to refuse

Being convinced from experience that the legit-imate business of my office, now four-fold greater organs, to make known to that government her fully claimed of him; and if in both cases he stands fairly up and submits to an investigation of the question before those tribunals learned in such matters and than formerly, is sufficient to tax all my energies complaints and to insist upon a redress of her appointed because of their fitness and skill, it would be just as reasonable to suspend the writ in the alleged the interest of the State in a business so complica- rit of regard for the government of our adoption, debt of money as in the case of the alleged debt of ted, as many of the transactions of which is carried I deem it incumbent to present my objections service. This course might, and likely would, hasten on at such a distance, I respectfully recommend against the late act. that a commission of one or more gentlemen, skilled in such business, be appointed to conduct the dent has asked for the suspension, and informed future operations of the State, in importing sup-

ments is herewith submitted.

cers and agents of the Confederate Government, the Trans-Mississippi military department." harsh enough in itself, has become doubly so, by the statute proceeds to classify under thirteen the constant disregard of the provision of the law heads a very great number of acts, of which, if a writ to "persons taken in the act of high treason, com-

every possible efforts to do so myself. But it seems shall be dismissed from office." commend such action on your part as you may improperly detained, unless they can be speedily of the Confederate Government. Where lies the relief hausted the patience of our suffering people that many of think best calculated to aid me in remediating the tried in due course of law." think best calculated to sid me in remedying the tried in duc course of law." evil. My correspondence with the War Depart- And, finally, it is enacted that "no military or alone! His officers alone can give the discharge-President, and all to be under his command.

In addition to the great injury to be apprehen- cease.'

State from importing any farther supplies for the exemption of all civil and military officers of the

from, importing any of the articles herein enume. State officers from conscription into the Confede- 15, in the most emphatic terms, declared that "No danger of liberty, to familiarize the people with a milirated on their own account,"-yet this is so con- rate service is not by favor of Congress, but is a warrant shall issue but upon probable cause supstrued by the Government, as to compel the States matter of right inherent in a sovereign State and ported by oath or affirmation, and particularly deto submit to the same terms as are imposed on pri- that for the same reason the State has an indispu- scribing the person to be seized." And by paravate parties; and clearances are refused and the table right to the services of laborers and other graph 16, that "no person shall be deprived of his the law, has not yet spoken. When it does speak, we gand of the fortifications brought to bear upon our vessels to compel a compliance.

Private parties importing supplies for the gov-Private parties importing supplies for the gov-ernment, by contract, for enormous profits, are not this opinion, I would be happy to be sustained by

fer on both ships and supplies now on hand, if honored military institution of the State, her main be sought for the first time; so here for the first these regulation continue in force. When this is dependence, in ordinary times, for the suppression the general government has no right to seize one- shorn of its many short-comings, it has been of half, or any part of, the interest of a sovereign great service both to the State and Confederacy

have to be put on the general market, and be lost whenever in her judgm at they are perverted to to render it, when wrongfully claimed of him, as he the injury or oppression of the people, I deem it a has to refuse to pay a debt to the government wrong-

It is declared in the preamble that "the Presi-

regulating seizures. In addition to this, the fla- man be accused, he shall be deprived of the benegrant outrages committed, in every part of the fit of the writ; and among them the act of atcountry, by straggling soldiers, and other persons tempting to "avoid military service." To prevent in the Confederate service, having no shadow of the outrage which may be perpetrated on an innoauthority to impress property, has become a griev- cent man not subject to military service for mereance almost intolerable. A recital of many in- ly attempting "to avoid military service, unlawful- They are of the same character as those before, and stances of such, which have been brought to my ly demanded, it is provided that "in case of pala- affected those only who were charged with conspiring knowledge, would shock the moral ense of the ble wrong and oppression by any subordinate officer upon any party who does not legally owe mili-I have urged in vain upon the authorities of tary service, his superior shall grant prompt relief the Confederacy to check this evil, and have used to the oppressed party," and "the subordinate crimes or misdemeanor, endangering the peace, safety

to grow worse, and as the supplies of our people And as a general protection of the citizens become more scant they feel more sensibly this against abuses, under the act, it is provided, that unjust deprivation of their property, which re- "the President shall cause proper officers to invesduces them almost to the verge of starvation. It tigate the cases of all persons so arrested or dein order to fill the army with soldiers. If such a powmust be stopped, if possible, and I earnestly retained, in order that they may be discharged if

ment on this subject is submitted for your consid- other officer shall be compelled in answer to any Confederate officers chosen without even the consent eration. I desire to call your attention specially writ of habeas corpus to appear in person or to re- of the Senate, and removed at will. The appropriate to certain enactments of the last . Congress of the turn the body of any person detained by the au-Confederate States. Among them is one extend- thorty of the President, Secretary of War" &c; thrust aside without ceremony, and even the Confederate States. Among them is one extend- thorty of the President, Secretary of War" &c; erate Judge, who holds his office during good behavior, ing the age of conscription from 18 to 17 and "but upon the crtificate, under oath, of the officer is ignored and in their room is placed an officer who from 45 to 50 years, which force is to be organ- having charge of any one so detained that such lives on the breath of the Confederate Executive. If ized as a State reserve -- their company officers to person is detained by him for any of the causes the State officers are not put into the army under such be elected, and the field officers appointed by the specified in the act under said authority, further power in the Executive, it is because the incumbent

ded to the agricultural interests of the country. In order to ascertain, whether the enactment is son for displacing the civil tribunals already establish-should these men be ordered into actual service, I within the powers delegated, it is proper to keep ed. and substituting others so dependent upon the Exhave to femind you that it will absorb the entire in mind what are the privileges of the writ of ha. ecutive for their existence. The assurance of public militia force of the State, and would leave the Ex. beas corpus, and we shall be sure to know what move the fears of freemen, who rely only upon written ccutive with no force whatsoever except State offican be affected constitutionally, by a suspension of Constitutions to protect their liberties. History is too cers—a condition dangerous at once to the peace it. This writ is the offspring of the love of liber- fall of wrong to allow them to forget for a moment great was the weariness of the people and so gloomy were and order of the State, and to its sovereignty and ty, and has been in use for ages by our ancestors that "eternal vigilance is the price of freedom." dignity. There can scarcely be a doubt of the in- and ourselves, as the hand-maid of freedom. Its it is manifest that the act contemplates that the expediency of this act as to this State: since the use is to have enquiry made according to the rules military shall be invested with full powers to arrest same men with the exception of boys from 17 to of law of the causes why persons are restrained of any person who may be suspected of any of the vague 18 are now very thoroughly organized as Home their civil freedom. If upon enquiry by the pro-Guards under State authority, and have been per authority, there be no cause for detention, the tant General Cooper, thus suspending the civil authoriheretofore and would be again promptly turned person is set at liberty. If there be cause he is re- lies throughout the land, and it is equally clear that out in cases of great public danger. Grave doubts manded for further detention or allowed to go at are also entertained of its Constitutionality; the large upon bail. Now, these are all the privileges forces raised under it being to all intents and pur of the writ of habeus corpus. The writ finds no forces raised under it being to all intents and purposes militia, the control of which cannot be legally taken from the Executive of the State GovernSo that if there be any privileges or securities to may be deputed for that purpose will be invested with a ment-at least so far as the appointment and com. the person attending the mode of arrest, these are perfect discretion over the liberty of every citizen in missioning of officers is concerned. Should you, not the privileges of the writ of habeas corpus, however, in the absence of a judicial decision as but exist independently of them. And it is thereto the Constitutionality of the act, decline to take fore clear that a power to suspend the privileges out warrant or oath of probable cause, under a general the responsibility of refusing assent to it, there of the writ is not a power to suspend the privileg- warrant from the President to arrest all suspected perwill be an indispensable necessity of your consti- es secured in forms attending the mode of arrest. tuting some militia, for the preservation of law and They are too distinct to be confounded by any and order in the State-by extending the age of species of sophistry; and this distinction is plainly century pass

service in the militia, and by some new organiza- and notably observed in the bill to suspend the occurred and many of them require legislative ac- gress has again conferred upon me, without re- ing the mode of arrest were left untouched and fence to the Legislature, the power to claim the unimpaired. It may be then regarded as settled The late act of Congress conferring power on exemption of such State officers as I may deem truth, that the suspension of the writ is no suspenthe President of the Confederate States, to impose necessarry for the due administration of the laws. sion of the constitutional forms prescribed for arrest, regulations and restrictions on commerce has given Not wishing to take so important a responsibility and that Congress has no power, express or imrise to such a system, on the part of the Confede- upon my shoulders without consulting the Repre- plied, to suspend any other guarantee of civil librate authorities, as will effectually exclude this sentatives of the people, I have so far claimed the erty provided in the Constitution besides those secured by the writ alone. Notwithstanding this. army or people. The port of Wilmington is now State, together with the indispensible employees the late act has strode over some of the most immore effectually blockaded from within than with- of the different departments of the State Govern- portant guards of civil liberty, as if any express The terms imposed upon ship owners, being ment as enumerated by your body at its late extra power had been conferred on Congress to suspend such that a heavy loss is incurred by every voy- session. And I now respectfully ask that you in- them likewise. Thus, while by paragraph 3, sec. age—and notwithstanding the said act provides: dicate to me by resolution, what persons you re- 9, it is allowed Congress to suspend the privileges case to the decision of the War Department in derogaprohibit the Confederate States, or any of them I have taken the ground that exemption of mentioned, it is by the same section, paragraph ent character of the judiciary, and tends to the great strengthen the army and place it upon a substantial foot-Should you conclude to combine the Home is the warrant describing the person to be seized. time can its privilege be derived. Yet the act involves with its suspension a suspension of the distinct and independent provisions which guard the citizens against In my judgment Congress had the same power to suspend every other guard of civil liberty to be found in the constitution-the same to deprive the chizen of the guaranty that he should not be held to answer for a capital crime, unless on presentment or indicment of a grand jury-that he should not be compelled to be and earnestly recommend that you do so. And in tion of the principals of substitutes, nor the ex- and a trial in the district in which the crine shall

The writ of habeas corpus is peculiar to the Inglish people and ourselves. And a complete illustration of

duty, who neither flies nor resists, but simply appeals military authorities. And as the suspension was asked tended meaning of the paragraph.

I am unable to see any reason consistent with the principles of a free and civilized government, privided with a judiciary as a great and independent brench of its composition, for suspending the habeas comus in cases which involve no evasion or attempt to evade the payment of a debt just or unjust, and so it may serve to put men in the army exempt by the laws of

plies, whether for the purpose of continuing the render a suspension of the writ a measure proper difference between them, for any other cause, either in operations or winding up the business.

A report of the Adjutant General covering re
for the public defence against invasion and insurlege of the writ occurred in England between the pasrection." Therefore it is enacted that the writ ports of his subordinates in the different depart- shall be suspended as to "the cases of persons ar- ning through a period of almost a century, and they all rested or detained by order of the President, Sec. empowered the King either to apprehend and detain, The impressment of property of citizens by offiretary of War, or the General Officer commanding or to secure and detain without bail, such persons as are suspected of conspiracy against the King and his

the act of piracy, or who were charged with or suspec-

The other suspensions in England after our revolutill 1802 during the storms of the French Bevolution. against the King and his government. The suspension during Shay's rebellion extended to crime or suspected crime. The attempted suspension in 1807 was confined to persons charged "with treason or other high be entertained for a moment that the power of suspending the writ was granted for any such purpose as that of depriving a citizen of the privilege of a legal enquiry into his obligation to perform military service, cers? By this act it is deposited with the President | without duly considering what the would be, or proceedings under the writ shall immediately does not will it; and when the rights of the shall immediately exist by such a courtesy, they will cease to have any

it also contemplates that the order of the President for stresting or detaining citizens shall be a general order to arrest and detain all such as may come within the

the land. In substance and effect the President is intended to be empowered with authority to fill the land with military deputies who may seize any citizen withsons. Such a warrant is without a precedent in England for the last bundred years and during the entire

In my judgment the President is vested by the Con- certainly founded in principles of the most wicked, diation of the remnants of the Militia and Home Guard organizations; otherwise I shall have on my hands the officers of two distinct organizations, both as to numbers and constitution, is powerless for the want of men. In this canner. Since your last adjournment, various and imporsince your last adjournment, various and important changes in the situation of our affairs have the Confederate States, he may make it returnable and examinable before himself, and order a discharge or require a bail. It is certain that the mere suspension of the writ of habeas corpus does not invest the President with the powers of a civil judicial magistrate, and if it could have that effect it could not give him an authority while discharging his judicial jurisdiction to lay aside the restraints imposed upon the other judges.

The course adopted by the administration of allowing the writ of habeas corpus to issue, and of forthing the writ of habeas corpus to issue, and of forth-with checking the action of the judge and suspending ENCE, however limited, after what has happened, would all his farther proceedings ad libitum, to await the reports of military officers having custody of the petitioner to their superiors, and finally subjecting the of the writ of habeas corpus in the emergencies tion of civil authority, is humiliating to the independ-

It must be remembered, however, that those are merely my opinions. The Supreme Court, which alone has the power to decide upon the constitutionality of cess is first the charge on oath, and the next step repeal the act suspending the privilege of the habeas corpus; or, should you concur in the judgment of Congress, that a suspension is required by the exigencies of the times, that it should at least be modified and

> My opinions on this subject is well known. In the first message I had the honor to send to your body, in 1862, speaking of the then existing act authorizing a suspension of the writ, I used the following language: "I have not seen an official copy of the act, but learn from the newspapers that Congress has conferred upon the President the power to suspend the writ of habeas corpus in all cases of arrests made by Confederate authority. If this be once admitted, no man is safe from he power of one individual. He could at pleasure seize any citizen of the State, with or without excuse. throw him into prison and permit him to languish there without relief-a power that I am unwilling to see entrusted to any living man. To submit to its exercise would, in my opinion, be establishing a precedent dangerous and pernicious in the extreme," &c. There is nothing of this I am desirous of taking way or adding to. My earnest remonstrance against the passage of the present act is herewith transmitted,

together with divers other letters to the Confederate laws, rights of the people &c., and which will convince

would have been easy could I but have had the assistwhen you were last in session, to authorize some one other, while with both hands, and with all our strength many obvious reasons.

Nor have I, amid all the embarrassments and percious blood of their children, if by any possibility an struction of everything; that there comes from the North, duty, for humanity's sake to make the effort and to convince our own suffering people that their government was tender of their lives and property and hanment was tender of their lives and property and hap-

My letter to the President last December and his rely are sent herewith for your information. I respectfully recommend that you, as the representathe Constitution, to neglect no fitting opportunity of under the command of two distinguished sons of North offering such to the enemy. These terms in my judg-ment should be nothing less than the independence of manding the land forces, and Commander Cooke, with

I presume that no honorable man or patriot could think of anything less than independence. Less would | ly welcome back our fellow-citizens of that region, thus be subjugation, ruinous and dishonorable. Nobody at the North thinks of reconstruction, simply because it is impossible. With a constitution torn into shreds, with slavery abolished, with our property confiscated and ourselves and our children reduced to beggary, our slaves put in possession of our lands, and invested with equal rights, social and political, and a great gulf vawning between the North and South, filled with the the debris of our ruined homes, how can there be any reconstruction with the authors of these evils, or how self says it is not possible; so does Mr. Fillmore, a man whom we once respected; and so do nine-tenths of their orators and presses. The only terms ever offered us contained in Mr. Lincoln's infamous proclamation, were alike degrading in matter and insulting in federate or State, of the South, but to individuals, who by the very act of accepting its terms would make I cannot, however, make any specific recommendation for

themselves the vilest of mankind. I cannot too earnestly warn you, gentlemen, and the country, against the great danger of these justidious attempts of the enemy to seduce our people into treating with him for peace individually or by the formation of spurious States or parts of States. Indeed, I might add, and foe. that I look upon any attempts to treat for peace other than through the regular channels provided by our constitution, ly dangerous. It is the real peril of the hour. The long continuance and bloody character of the war have so exhausted the patience of our suffering people that many of EXECUTIVE - DEPARTMENT, how they are to be acquired. An example of this great danger is to be found in the attempt of the British Minis-try in 1778 to seduce the loyalty of our forefathers from the cause of independence, by sending peace commissioners to the Colonies with the propositions contained in Lord North's "conciliating bills." These bills proposed to about ish all taxation whatever upon the colonies, except what might be necessary for the convenience of commerce—the nett proceeds of which were to go to the use of the colonies-to suspend the operations of all obnoxious sta- them. tutes in reference to said colonies passed since 1763; and authorized these commissioners to pardon all such persons as they saw proper, and to treat with "the existing governments or individuals." Here almost all the principal matters of dispute were conceded; but our fathers had an organized government and had set their hearts on inde-pendence. Yet the terms offered were so fair, that but for maining member. the firmness and wisdom of the great and good George Washington, and the unflinching patriotism of Congress, the fate of this continent might have been changed, so the prospects. The danger of allowing commissioners to address themselves to anybody but Congress was so great, as well as such a violation of the laws of war and international courtesy, that that body, after promptly rejecting the propositions and declaring that "the only solid proof" of a disposition on the part of the Crown to make an honorable peace with the colonies "would be an explicit acknowledgement of the independence of these States, or the withdrawal of the fleets and armies," went on solemnly to declare the measure "to be contrary to the law of beretofore had the advantages of education, sufficient ceased. From then until night brisk skirmishing nations, and utterly subversive of that confidence which to qualify them for business, by applying to me, will was kept up. could alone maintain those means which had been layent- have their fuition given them, at my expense, in the ed to alleviate the horrors of war, and that, therefore, the best schools in the county. This offer will not conpersons employed to distribute such papers were not en- flict with the laudable efforts of the Rev Dr. Deems i isled to the protection of a flag."

Gen Washington was so astonished and indignant, that on its first appearing, he was induced to regard it as a forgery, and in a letter to the President of Congress he used the following language, remarkable for its severity coming from him: "The enclosed draft of a bill was brought to century past has been forbidden, denounced, and de-clared void.

smallest degree,) which threatens a fatal blow to the independence of America, and of course to her liberties. They are endeavoring to ensuare the people by specious allurements of peace. It is not improbable they have had such the turnpike road, struck the head of their column ments of peace. It is not improbable they have had such as it was passing the pike. Heavy skirmishing abundant cause to be tired of the war, that they may be as it was passing the pike. Heavy skirmishing sincere in the terms which they offer, which, though far at once ensued, and soon the enemy finding them. short of our pretensions, will be extremely flattering to minds that do not penetrate far into political consequences; but whether they are sincere or not, they may be equally destructive, for to discerning men nothing can be more be to the last degree dishonorable and ruinous. * *. It is doubtful whether many of our friends might not incline to an accommodation on the grounds held out, or which may be, rather than persevere in a contest for independence. If this is the case it must surely be the truest policy to ing. This will conduce to inspire the country with confidence; and if a treaty should be deemed expedient, will put it in their power to insist upon better terms than they could otherwise expect.

By such timely counsel did the great Washington sus tain the cause of independence, budying up the hopes of

"It seems to me nothing short of independence can possibly do. The injuries we have received from Britain can never be forgotten, and a peace upon other terms would be the source of perpetual feuds and animosity."

ton. Should we, his countrymen, recipients of the bless-ings of his wisdom and valor, refuse to heed his warning

Strange as it may seem, these "specious allurements of eace," described and denounced by Gen. Washington, have not been presented by our enemy. We are trying to delude ourselves. So great is the hostility, and so furious the fanaticism of the dominant party at the North, that they have not even offered us terms that could be regarded by the most timid and wavering as "alluring." Lincoln's proclamation is so grossly outrageous and so repug-nant to our every idea of liberty, property and honor, as to insure the rejection of the terms it holds out, while it adds weight and gives a tone of authority to the off re-peated assertions of their public men and presses that they want no compromise, but will only be content with our subjugation. If our enemy were really willing, under aby circumstances, to compromise with us upon any terms short of our absolute submission, they would certainly say so, and to those whom they know to be authorized to entertain their propositions. The insidious attempts to invoke separate, individual and State action, proves this authorities in relation to the execution of the civil conclusively, and can have no other intention than to plunge us into civil war and to subjugate us beyond re- fell dead, and Capt Moore fell-severely wounded you, I trust, that I have been equally zealous to guard against the inner as well as the outer dangers which threaten us.

Many recurring dangers of serious conflict with the Confederate seizure of principals of substitutes after discharge by a judge, have been upon me since your session. They were fortunately avoided however; but their solution would have been easy could I but have head the solution. It is the safer and the better one. based on the wisdom and patriotism of Washington, and

to convene that body in cases of great importance, and and hearts and souls we maintain and uphold those who. which admit of no delay I can but repeat it now, for even as I write, are battling and bleeding for the rights and independence of their country. I confess I am not of those who seem to think the greatest danger to our rights plexities of the situation, been unmindful of the great and liberties is from our own people and our own governbject of all our blood and suffering-peace-or neg- ment. Whilst struggling to resist the inevitable tendenlectful of all proper and honorable efforts to obtain it. | cies of revolution to destroy civil freedom at home, I can-Knowing the great desire of our people to save the pre- not forget that the danger from without threatens the deopening might be found for the statesmen to supercede the soldier, I approached the President on the first opportunity presented by the cessation of hostilities last | burning homes, with hordes of armed slaves thirsting to winter, and urged him to appoint commissioners and try what might be done by negotiations. I had little and panting to sowell in the furrows of the plowshare of hope, indeed, of those commissioners being received by the government of our enemy, but I thought it our march forms of law, constitutions, free governments, life, ness, has cast off.

crowned our arms this spring in all parts of the Confedera- us, especially along Ewell, lines. Indeed Ewell, cy, I have the sincere pleasure to congratulate yen upon the very splendid success of the opening of the campaign ces of the people of Nerth Carolina, should lay down in our State resulting in the re-capture of the towns of what you would consider a fair basis of peace, and call Plymouth and Washington, and the rescue of a considerupon our Representatives in Congress, and those to able portion of our territory from the enemy. This is the whom is committed the power of making treaties, by more gratifying because it was accomplished by troops those States, whose destinies have been fairly united | the steam-ram Albemarle. I doubt not but that you will with the Confederacy by the voice of their people, and see the propriety of rendering suitable thanks to these galthe privilege of a free choice to those which have been lant officers and the brave officers and men under their command for the conspicuous heroism which has been rewarded by such splendid results. We cordially and gladrescued from the enemy, to the embraces of their mother State, and thank them for their steadfast adherence to our cause under the tyranny and oppression of our foe. Indeed, it is gratifying to observe the very great loyalty and patriotism of that whole portion of our State within or contiguous to the enemy's lines which-has been alike subjected to his blandishments and his ravages. May the day speedily come when our jurisdiction shall again exend to the sands of the Atlantic

Several other matters, which I deem it unnecessary to In regard to financial matters, the interesting report of he Public Treasurer is so full and complete that I am content merely to refer you to it, confident that I could not improve upon any of his suggestions, which I, in the

The poor, especially the indigent families of our soldiers. till demand our care. It is justly conceded that when they are not able to support themselves the State should their unther relief, but should any plan occur to your su- and so there was no further fighting on our left perior wisdom, I doubt not but you will promptly act upon It will be very difficult for many of them to struggle through till harvest, especially in some of the counties of the west which have been preyed upon alike by friend

Trusting that harmony will prevail in your counsels and that much good may, under God, result to the country therefrom, I close my message with an expression of readiness to co-operate with you, should it lie in my power, in the execution of the labors devolving upon you. Raleigh, May 17, 1864.

Surgeon General's Office. RALEIGH, N. C., April 27, 1864.

I propose to establish in the city of Raleigh a manu-The object of this enterprise is to supply these useful articles to all soldiers from this State, who have been, or may be, so maimed in the service as to require.

ished gratuitously. Commissioned officers will be charged the actual cost.

Disabled soldiers are requested to correspond with the undersigned, giving name, regiment, rank, locality temporarily of one of its ablest, purest and most

Privates and non-commissioned officers will be fur-

I wish to employ a number of comp for the above named purpose. All such are invited to communicate immediately with this office. EDWARD WARREN,

Surgeon General of North Carolina. May 2, 1864

DISABLED SOLDIERS.

All young men in the county of Mecklenburg, who, rom service in the army, have been rendered physicalflict with the laudable choice sed soldiers.
behalf of the orphans of deceased soldiers.
J. A. FOX. May 9, 1864 Im

Cotton Cards.

As county Agent, I have 300 more pairs Cotton B. W. ALEXANDER,

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

THE BATTLES OF THURSDAY AND FRIDAY MAY 5TH AND 6TH. Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch

On Thursday evening as the enemy were move ing across from Germanna Ford towards the plant road, Gen. Ewell's corps, which was moving down selves much pressed, turned and attacked no Johnson's division occupied the left of the turnpike, and stretching over towards the river, his right resting on the turnpike road; and Rodes on cupying the right with his left, joining Johnson's right on the pike, whilst Early was held in reserve. About one, p. m., the enemy made a furi ous onset upon Brig Gen J. M. Jones' Virginia brigade, who held the advance and the extremity of Johnson's division by Battle's brigade, and the other three brigades of Rodes' division. The fight which ensued was contested with great obstinacy until about three, p. m, when a lul ensued, our men having repulsed the enemy most bandsomely grandest charges of the war, forcing the enemy back at all points. Later in the evening, about o'clock, they again made a desperate assault upon Johnson's lines, but which was most gallantly and handsomely repulsed, our troops remaining masters of the field, and the Yankee killed and wounded being piled up in great numbers before our breastworks! The enemy not knowing that we had any breastworks, charged us, and were terribly cut to

In this engagement Brig Gen Pegram was so. verely wounded in the thigh. During the first of these engagements the gallant J M Jones, of Va. was killed under the following circumstances: His brigade it seems, except the 21st Va., under Col Witcher, was faltering and rapidly firing, when Gen J., in nothing daunted; rode to the front and called to his men to rally around him. At the same moment Capt Early, his A. A. G, and Capt Moore, his A. D. C.; rode to his side, and emula ting the courage of their noble leader, were makng ineffectual efforts to rally their men, when they then becoming prominent marks for the enemy's sharpshooters were quickly picked off. Capt Early some splendid fights during the war, that the enemy advanced in heavy forces and very suddenly, and that this brigade afterwards reformed and fought most courageously.

front the enemy in heavy force advanced to attack Heth and Wilcox. A warm and desperate fight ensued, lasting from 3 o'clock until sundown. The result was that the enemy were held in check, and repulsed on this part of the line as well as in front of Ewell. During the night Lane's pickets succceded in surprising the enemy and capturing about 300 prisoners.

Ewell, in the fights on his front during this evening, captured about 1,000 prisoners, including 30 or 40 commissioned officers, besides a good number of Yankee wounded who fell in our hands. Gen Johnson, of Ewell's corps, also captured during this evening's fights, two pieces of artillery, including horses, harness and gear. We also lost about 200 prisoners from Brig. Gen. J. M. Jones' brigade in the first engagement in the early part of this. day. Altogether, the result of the first In addition to the many brilliant victories which have day's engagement was a most decided success to self all over with glory, as did his gallant Major Gen. Johnson, Rodes and Early. Gen Lee, when he heard of their success, said "I always rely upon the second corps for hard fighting. . Give them my thanks."

Whilst the infantry were thus engaged the cavalry were not idle. Rosser with his single brigade fought Wilson's (formerly Kirkpatrick's) cavalry division all day Thursday, and finally succeeded in forcing it to give back. His loss was about 200 as well as I can ascertain.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE FIGHT FRIDAY .- On Thursday night the enemy began to move slightly around to our right, and early on Friday morning they advanced in heavy force on Ewell's front, with six lines of battle, and fought most obstinately. Ewell's boys, and especially Early's, remembering the advice of the sage of Bunker's Hill, watched until they saw the whites of the enemy's eyes, and ther poured into them such a volley of leaden missles as caused them to reel and stagger, and finally to give back, not, however, until the dead on Ewell's front were strewn thick around. One advance upon and reconnoissance of Ewell's position, which was strongly fortified, seemed to satisfy them, and they made no further assault during the day. Gen E. simply held his ground, wing. Simultaneously, with the advance upon Ewell's lines, the enemy also made a move agains? our centre, engaging Heth and Wilcox, for some time without any result, when the enemy, becoming very strong in front of these divisions, began to force them rapidly back. At this opportune moment the gallant Kershaw and his heroic braves, first cheeking their onset upon Heth and Wilcox, then repulsing them, and finally driving the enemy before him.

About 11 o'clock, Lieut Gen Longstreet having planned a most brilliant flank movement, was advancing at the head of his column to the right of the plank road, in order to be certain of its successful consummation, when, by a mistake growing out of the fact that our troops mistook him and his staff for Yankees, he was fired upon. The result was that Lieut Gen Longstreet was wounded painfully, but not dangerously, in the left shoulder, the ball entering obliquely and passing up-

The same fire which thus deprived the country gallant officers, robbed the country, by death, of Brig Gen Jenkins, of South Carolina, who was instantly killed. Gen Fields temporarily took Lieut Gen Longstreet's place and kept up the movement, from which Longstreet very justly expected the happiest results. The enemy began gradually to give way, and by 4 p. m. the enemy had been pressed back some two miles-i. e., our right and centre had swung around, driving the enemy back and in towards the river, our left meantime standing fast. About 4 p. m. the heaviest fighting

Our loss thus far will be fully six thousand, of which a much larger per centage than usual are officers. A very large number are also but slightly wounded, and will soon be able to return to duty. During the entire fights there have not

been over one hundred discharges of artillery. The body of the Yankee General Wadsworth, Headquarters yesterday afternoon by a gentleman who informed me that a large cargo of them had just been sent. Any one having old card backs to spare will please of a General with the initials "II. II. C." supposed was found in front of our lines, and also the body out of Philadelphia. Whether this insidious proceeding is leave them at D H Byerly's store, as I wish to purchase to be the Yankee General Carr. It is also report-Agent for Mecklenburg co. ed that the dead body of the Yankee Gen Hages,