

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

NEW SERIES—VOL. III—NO. 35]

WADESBOROUGH, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1861.

[WHOLE NO. 140.]

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
BY
FENTON & DARLEY.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Single copies, Two Dollars per year, invariably in advance.
No subscription received for less than six months.

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November 13, 1860-97-1y

FROM THE ANSON GUARD.

[Correspondence of the North Carolina Argus.]

RALEIGH, May 8, 1861.

Here we are, all right, well and cheerful, after a rather fatiguing ride from Florence, direct, stopping only a couple of hours each at Wilmington and Goldsboro'.

After parting from our many friends who followed us to the outskirts of town on Tuesday morning last, the boys were soon making rapid progress on the road to Cheraw. Along the road several different squads of friends of members of the company had taken position to see the company pass, and take leave of their friends. At half past one o'clock, we met at the rendezvous near Cheraw, the toll gate, one mile from that town, from which point we were escorted into town and through the principal streets to the depot, by citizens of Cheraw, preceded by life and drum. Previous to our moving, however, W. J. Vereen, on the part of the citizens, welcomed the Guard to Cheraw, and was responded to by Capt. Hall, on the part of the company. Gen. A. J. Dargan, who was present, was called upon at the close of Capt. Hall's response and delivered a few brief and appropriate remarks.

At the Depot, before the citizens left us, we had speaking, in response to calls, from W. M. Hammond and R. T. Bennett, of company, Dr. Harlee, of Anson, and Gen. Harrington, of Richmond.

The evening train having left, we were obliged to remain over to 8 o'clock next morning, and the depot being put to our use, we soon transformed it into a military camp.

Next morning, before going aboard the cars, the horse company and the fire company, (the latter drilled as military,) of Cheraw, tendered us an escort which was accepted; and we were once more paraded through the streets of the town, and returned to the Depot at the hour of starting, where we took a hearty farewell of the friends who accompanied us to Cheraw. We were none too soon for the boys in getting off, for their impatience to be moving manifestly chafed them.

At Florence we saw, while waiting there to take the train at 8 p. m., many representatives of military companies South, who were following or preceding their comrades to the seat of war. On getting on board of the cars at night, we found them much crowded, there being on board a company from Jasper county, Ga., with all their camp equipage, proceeding on to the camp at Richmond, Va. They were a fine looking set of men, and seemed to be anxious for service. Forty miles from Wilmington, several friends, formerly citizens of Anson, joined us. They had just arrived in the up train from Wilmington, and had come up for the purpose of having as much time with us as possible. At Wilmington, we found another company—the Lafayette Light Infantry, from Fayetteville, waiting to come up here on the same train that we were to come in. This was also a fine looking set of men, in full uniform, and having with them their camp equipage and everything necessary to take the field immediately excepting one requisite—drill.

As the company has been quite recently added to by a number of persons who have taken no part in military matters heretofore, they lack drill, which they will soon get under Major Hill, of Charlotte Military Institute, who has charge of the drilling at the camp, located at the Fair Ground. At the camp, I understand there are some two thousand troops, who, under Major Hill, are rapidly becoming well drilled soldiers. We, for the present, are quartered at the Court-House, there being no room for us on the camp ground in the buildings, and not having tents with us; and to-morrow, we anticipate moving on to Weldon, to remain for a few days for drill, and from thence to Richmond, Va. We do not expect to move to the latter point, however, until we are fully equipped and get our tents, &c.

I understand that camps are to be formed at Weldon—at which point there is now but one company—at Newbern, at Charlotte, and perhaps at one other point in the west.

Since we left home we have had several additions to the company—one at Florence—Sibley, formerly of Anson; Robert Lilly, formerly of Stanly, but late, of Robeson, and Mr. Morrison, from Robeson, at Wilmington, and Mr. ———, from Robeson, were waiting for us here. We anticipate several more additions before we leave the State.

I have mentioned that there are about two thousand troops at the Fair Ground. In addition, there are several companies distributed over the town—some five hundred or so. One company of the number, numbering eighty-four men, came in to-day from Davis county, and will move down to-morrow with us to Weldon. An election was held to-day at the camp ground for Colonel of the First Regiment, and the choice fell on Major Hill. But I understand he has declined the office. I understand also that the First Regiment, which has been drilling at the camp ground for some time past, composed of the Orange Light Infantry, Warrenton Guards, Hornets' Nest Riflemen, Enfield Blues, Lumberton Guards, Duplin Rifles, Char-

lotte Grays, Thomasville Rifles, Granville Grays, and Columbus Guards, which, under orders dated the 29th ult., was directed to leave here on Monday next for Richmond, refuse, for some cause or other to go out of the State. They are willing, however, to do any duty required of them in the State.

The general impression here to-night is, that there will be hot work in Virginia and Maryland before long. The Yankees of the Tribune school threaten a war of extermination against the citizens of those two States, and after they have accomplished their bloody work, to divide the land among the executioners. I do not think North Carolina will stand idle and see the work done; if she should, how long would it be before her fate would be theirs. The war should be carried as far from the Southern States as possible. The men of the John Brown class should be kept at home instead of being allowed to follow in the Wake of an army of subjugation.

The Adjutant General's management gives great dissatisfaction. He will shortly be superseded by a Military Board of experienced officers.

If any one thinks that there is not anything serious going on, he should take a trip on the railroads of this State, and see the different styles of uniform represented. There is almost every style that can be imagined, indicating that there is force abroad. Some are constantly coming to and going from this place, others are moving on to the forts, or to Virginia. Among others I saw to-day a Zouave in full dress. I am much pleased with it. Whether there is a full company or not in the neighborhood I have not learned.

Among other arms of the service drilling at the camp ground, is a company of Flying Artillery. Although recently formed, I learn they already show great efficiency. None but picked men are allowed to enter it. Lieut. Ramsour is in command.

There is a great rush for appointments from the Governor to fancy branches of the service—for berths as aids, &c. In the medical department there are over eight hundred applications. I had hoped to have been able to have gone over to-day to see the drilling at the camp ground, but duty has prevented, and, as we have orders to be prepared to leave by six in the morning, I shall not have an opportunity before we leave. I understand the drilling is very perfect.

S. W. Cole, Esq., Col. J. C. Caraway, Dr. W. S. Kendall and Rev. W. C. Power, have accompanied us thus far, and all will probably go on to-morrow to Weldon with us. They have done and are doing much to make us comfortable.

Tell our friends, until otherwise notified, to direct their favors to Weldon, to the care of W. M. Hammond Quartermaster of Anson Guard. D.

May 4, 1861.

Contrary to my expectations when I closed my letter last night, I am still here, on special duty. The company left this morning, as I stated in my last they would, for Weldon, and very glad to get away. Their treatment by the authorities—that be, especially the Adjutant General, has not been what it should be. We were told, you are aware, to make no preparation, other than fatigue dresses and a few days' provisions, as everything would be in readiness here to make us comfortable. When we landed at the Depot here, an order was awaiting us to go on to Weldon. Tired and fatigued as we were, it was unanimously voted by the company that we would not, until morning. During the night a modification of the order came down that we need not go until to-day, if we thought proper,—the Adjutant General finding out that we were still gentlemen, and had yet a voice as to our own welfare. While lying in quarters here, we have had some amusing times, some one or two originals helping to make it so. This morning, I understand, for I was not at the Depot when the boys left, one of them, just before the cars started, sold the city of Raleigh at public auction to the highest bidder at forty cents, and the Adjutant General at fifteen. A large crowd was at the Depot, and the joke was highly relished. I mentioned in my last letter that the Adjutant General's management was giving great dissatisfaction. This dissatisfaction is not only manifested by the volunteers, but the Legislature has held of him, and he has been pretty roughly handled by some of the members. As I intimated, he will probably be superseded by the establishment of a Military Board, with such men on it as Major Hill and Col. Tew, men who are up to the requirements of the times. As an evidence of Mayor Hill's popularity—among the volunteers, I would instance his unanimous election to the colonelcy of the First Regiment, by the men he has been for a week past severely drilling.

At the camp ground (the Fair Ground) men are quartered in stables, stalls, and any where where they can be stowed away. One individual who occupies the quarters of the prize ox on exhibition at the last fair, goes by the name of that animal.

The boys, last night, made up quite a handsome sum to procure a testimonial to be presented to Mrs. McN., the wife of one of our comrades who is on here with him, who has done much to alleviate their condition and make them comfortable. They have much

reason to complain of their treatment, but for all that they are cheerful and seemed disposed to put up with almost everything for the sake of being of some service to their country.

If we go on to Virginia, as it seems probable we will do, some few of the members of the company feel that they will be placed in an awkward predicament. They are under promise to relatives and friends that they would not leave the State for service; but if the war is to be kept away from our borders, how can they help going, if they are ordered; and are anxious, at the same time, to do "the State some service." Besides, we all feel that it is absolutely necessary for the safety of our mothers, sisters, wives and children, that not a Yankee foot should be allowed to pollute the soil of the "Old North State." How is it to be done, then, unless they are kept busy, as far away from the State's limits as possible? Shall we sit idle and allow Virginia to fight our battles; for, in fighting for her own safety, she would be fighting for ours as well. If Virginia is allowed to be subjugated, and her citizens exterminated, North Carolina must follow. Maryland, is under the yoke, with the feet of a despot pressing her down. Shall we sit idle and see that, too? I hope not. It would be well for those who have exacted the promises intimated, to release their friends from them.

S. W. Cole, Esq., did not go on to Weldon this morning with the company as I stated he would. He remains over here a few days, to stir up the circumlocution office to have the men thoroughly equipped and furnished with camp equipage as soon as possible.

May 5.—I had proposed furnishing this letter yesterday, and sending it off last night; but circumstances interfered, and notwithstanding it is Sunday, I will close it to-day and dispatch it this evening, knowing how anxious our friends at home are to hear from us. I cannot, however, in this, give any further information of the boys. I hope to do so after Tuesday, when I expect to join them, and regularly on, after that, until our mission is fulfilled, or I am taken off either by disease or the "favors" of the enemy.

What I have further to say, is only from rumors and "they say" about here.

In the first place, some interest was created yesterday by the House of Commons going into secret session, and although the seal of secrecy has not yet been removed, I learn no business of importance was transacted.

In the First Regiment, at the camp ground, there is a company commanded by a Presbyterian Minister.

The First Regiment, after all, and contrary to first reports, will move on to Richmond to-morrow.

There is a report in town that Alexandria is to be or was attacked by the Lincolnites to-day.

There is, by the way, drilling in town, a company of Lincolnites who are expecting to do some service for the South. There is a proposition to change the name of the county from whence they come, to Stevens, and its county seat's name to Stevensville. This company until ours came was said to have been the finest looking and largest men, on the average, of any that had arrived here. But the company which came in from Davis on Friday afternoon, and moved on with our company to Weldon yesterday, now takes, it is said, the front rank. They are all stout and hardy looking men, just from the plow, and the anvil—men, it is claimed, who could spit a Yankee upon their bayonets, and think it child's play to carry him at "shoulder arms."

There is some talk of changing the places for drilling. Instead of forming the volunteers into camps, as at present, those of each county, will assemble at their respective county seats for ten days, under the charge of experienced drillmasters, and while drilling, every arrangement can be made necessary for moving off to whatever point they may be needed at the earliest moment after being drilled. It is claimed by those who propose this change, that the present camp system is very expensive, while under bad management somewhere there is great suffering by exposure, and in preparation of food. It is a wonder I think, that the volunteers are doing as well as they are under the circumstances. It has been but a week or so since the troops were called into the field, and when the State authorities, only a few days before, found it necessary to commence operations to equip them. Never deeming the circumstances to transpire that now afflict us, the State, like others, has never made arrangements for putting an army in the field at short notice.

There is a disposition, on the part of some being manifested to put provisions at panic figures. This should not be. It looks like speculating upon the necessities of the State, and is unpatriotic. There is any quantity of bacon in the western counties, as also flour and grain, with a good prospect this season.

Tell all to be sure and plant plenty of corn—corn rather than cotton.

Before I close I would say to those engaged in the leather and shoe business, to push on and extend their operations. The shoes the volunteers are equipped with are principally Yankee shoes, and will not last three months, with anything like ordinary service, and the stock, I apprehend, must be by this time pretty well exhausted. It requires a particular kind of shoe for army service—neither too heavy or too light. Attention should be paid to joining the quarters and vamp, that the eyes do not rub or wound the soldiers' feet. Let all who can, join in the manufacture of the kind of shoes indicated. They will be needed. The Legislature expects to adjourn on Wednesday. D.