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[WHOLE NO. 180.]

FROM THE "PEE DEE WILD CATS."

CAMP NEAR KINGSTON, N. C., May 1st, 1862.

MR. EDITOR: It has been a considerable time since this company has troubled you with a communication; yet I presume you appreciate the cause of our long silence, being pretty well acquainted with our condition during the last month and a half. Even if we had been able and willing to have sent you communications regularly, it appeared to us, to be an entirely useless and unprofitable task, to attempt to keep the people of Anson informed as to our movements and condition, for they always kept so far ahead of us, in this respect, that we had to get our information, as to ourselves, from that source, so great has been the facility with which certain individuals have been enabled to procure, or rather manufacture, news. In fact, I suppose, that, between one thousand and ten thousand items of news respecting ourselves, have come to us through our correspondents in Anson, and through persons coming immediately from Anson, all about things accredited to us, of which this was the first information we had had. "They Say," has been very busy during the last two months. I am not at all surprised that that gentleman should tell lies, but I am very much surprised that honest, intelligent, people should believe them; and I am happy to see that none of them have found a place in the Argus—I did not expect to find them there, and I am pleased to state that some, and they not a few, of our friends, have maintained their fidelity, and taken the advice we gave them, concerning news, before we left home.

All these things do not disturb our equanimity in the least degree, or produce the slightest effect upon us; but we go steadily forward in the path which duty points out to us, regardless alike, of the schemes of open enemies, and the slanders of secret foes: but we wish it to be known, that we know that there are some, who, with badly concealed delight, rejoice at our misfortunes who have devoted themselves to the cause of Abe Lincoln and the devil, and who think the best way to promote that cause, is by trying to injure the characters of the soldiers of our country. Mark all such—they are traitors in disguise, and if opportunity offers, they will be *op-sly* so.

The 26th Regiment, forming part of the first brigade of the Army of the Pamlico, is now encamped five miles below Kingston, on the south side of Neuse River. Our camp is in a very pleasant location, beautifully supplied with good water—a luxury which we now enjoy for the first time since leaving Anson. Our company is rapidly recovering from the effects of our disastrous retreat, and its health is very much improved; yet we have now fifty on the sick list, all of whom, as far as we can learn, are convalescent. Eleven are in the hospitals at Kingston and Goldsboro' and at home, and four in camp; they are only slightly indisposed. Up to the time of the battle of Newbern, we devoted our personal attention to the sick, having most of them under the care of our estimable and heroic physician, Dr. A. L. Jackson, to whom we are all under lasting obligations for his unwearied attentions to the sick, and we all admire the heroism with which he shouldered his musket, pocketed his surgical appurtenances and endured with the company, all the dangers and exposure of the battle field, and the hardships of the retreat, and we regret very much the combination of circumstances, which made it necessary for him to return home. The sick were then as well cared for as they could be under the circumstances. But when the enemy approached, we were compelled to give up our sick to the surgeons at the different hospitals, and since that time, we have had no control over the sick, when they get too unwell to endure the drudgery of the camp and the fatigue of marches. We have been so closely confined to camp that we could bestow scarcely any attention upon them, but we detailed the best nurses, as many as we were allowed by law, and as many more as we could persuade the authorities to accept, to wait on the sick, and the friends of the dead and the sick may be assured that everything in our power was done, to make them comfortable, and relieve their sufferings. Notwithstanding all our efforts we have lost nine of our best soldiers since the battle. All of these

lough, at the time of the battle and died there. So rapidly did the deaths of our comrades succeed each other, that we could scarcely realize that one of our number was no more, and we could not give expression to the feelings of our hearts, before we had to mourn the loss of two or three others of our much loved companions. It is really saddening to me to hear the roll of our company called, so many lips that, a short time ago, merrily answered in the ranks, are now silent and motionless in the tomb; but it is the Lord's will, and we humbly submit to Him saying, "Thy will be done." The hand of Death seems now to be stayed, and for this we humbly thank our merciful heavenly Parent, and we hope and pray that those of us who remain, may be permitted to return to the loved ones at home, when, by the help of God, we shall have driven our cruel enemies from the Sunny South.

Although it has been a long time since the battle of Newbern, it may not be amiss to state a few particulars respecting it, as there seems to be some misapprehension as to the action of this company on that occasion. The battle was fought on Friday, March 14th. On Wednesday night previous, the enemy's gun boats being in sight, a detachment of the company was sent out on picket duty, and at 1 o'clock the same night, another detachment was sent out to destroy some bridges and throw up a breast work for some pieces of artillery. They worked until day-light, when they and the picket rejoined the company. Early on Thursday morning the whole regiment was called out, and carried by Railroad about six miles below the battle field, to a breast work which we were to hold; but a few minutes after we had taken our position, we learned that the enemy had landed in our rear, and we were ordered back and assigned a position behind the breast-works at Wood's brick yard. The enemy took possession of the railroad opposite their place of landing in thirty minutes after we had passed up. We held the position assigned to us, which was on the right of the railroad, all day, awaiting the advance of the enemy. A little before dark some of the men were allowed to go to camp, which was about a mile from us, to get some blankets to protect us from the rain, which had been falling nearly all day, and which was then falling very fast. We made shelters with our blankets, put out guard, and lay down to take a little rest, but there was no rest for us—about 9 o'clock, we were told that the enemy were trying to turn our right flank, and we received orders to move farther to the right. We then left our shelters and were stationed about a quarter of a mile further to the right, where there was no fortification at all, and we had nothing to protect us from the rain, which fell very fast all night. Lieut. Col. Burgwyn commanded the right wing of the 26th, of which ours is the second company; the companies were stationed at intervals of from twenty to forty yards from each other. About daylight, Col. Burgwyn received orders to hold his position at all hazards. Very soon the engagement commenced on the left, and Col. Burgwyn gave Capt. Caraway command of the ridge on which his company were stationed, and ordered him to hold it at all hazards. We then, while the fight was going on, made a temporary breast-work of logs, which would have afforded some little protection, but we were very soon ordered to deploy as skirmishers about fifty yards in front of our log piles. This we did as rapidly as the nature of the ground would permit. This placed us in view of the enemy who were in the woods

on our left, concealed from us by the woods and the smoke. Then the balls began to whistle about our ears, but we could not return the fire, having orders not to do so, unless we could see the enemy distinctly at good range for our muskets. This continued until our line of battle was broken at the railroad, when the enemy moved back in that direction. This was a situation to try the mettle of a soldier—to be in an exposed position, with balls whistling around him from an unseen foe, at whom he cannot fire in return; but our boys stood without flinching, and no one gave any evidence of fear, but every eye was turned in the direction of the enemy, eagerly watching for an opportunity to get a fire. None of us were struck, but as

the 26th, and a portion of the 33d, and all the captains of the right companies asked leave of their commander, to march their companies to reinforce the left; but he could not grant it under the orders he had received, but told them to be easy, they would have the hottest of this fight yet. We thought all was well until orders came for us to fall back to our breast-work. We were then informed that the enemy had taken our ammunition, which was in the rear on the railroad, and we understood that we were ordered to retake it, and we commenced marching in that direction, expecting to drive off the rogues at the point of the bayonet; but we were soon met by Col. Burgwyn, who ordered us to retreat. The men obeyed reluctantly and sullenly, for it was very repugnant to our feelings to leave the field without firing a gun. We marched off the field in perfect order and as steadily as we ever did to dress parade, leaving behind a rear guard to watch the movements of the enemy, and when we had proceeded a few hundred yards, we were halted, and the troops on that part of the field were formed into a battalion, consisting of four companies of the 26th and one of dismounted cavalry, the column was headed by two pieces of artillery, the whole commanded by Lieut. Col. Burgwyn.

We then marched, double quick, about a hundred yards, hoping that we would be able to reach the Trent Bridge before the enemy could get possession of it, but learning that they were too far in advance of us to accomplish that object, we turned to the left, and made our way across Brice's Creek, the best way we could; but no company in that command, broke ranks until they were halted on the bank of the creek and ordered to stack their arms and proceed to construct rafts to cross on. This experiment failed; but after a great deal of trouble, we succeeded in getting all across safe, except a few who were drowned in swimming—those who swam across brought a boat from the Neuse on their shoulders; this assisted us very much. I have not the heart to give the details of our retreat from that point, and the sufferings we endured until we reached Kingston, and for some time afterward. Suffice it to say, we are not anxious to experience the same again. I must here state that the company are under many obligations to the members of the Soldier's Aid Society of Anson, and to other citizens and friends, for their timely efforts, in supplying us with clothing. We will not soon forget their kindness. I understand that certain persons not only insinuate, but openly say, that we ought to have acted differently in that engagement; and they speak in terms not very complimentary to the company, especially of the officers, saying that if certain other persons, for instance, themselves, had been there, they would have acted differently, and the result would have been very different. We care nothing for this, as far as it relates to ourselves, not one iota; but we do ask, in the name of our country, why do these heroes not come out and display their gallantry on the field, instead of boasting of it at home. Our country demands that all her military skill and courage, be now brought into service, and we ask them, in the name of liberty, to come out and show us how to fight, and set the example. Now that the Conscription Bill has become a law, I presume that some of these croakers will have to come out of their dens, and show their hands. We are not so hard-hearted as some of them. We cannot rejoice at their misfortunes. On the other hand we regret the circumstances that make it necessary for them to come out; but we do rejoice that the country will get the benefit of their boasted prowess. The Conscription Law produces very little effect here. All cheerfully submit to it as a military necessity, and are more determined than ever, by the help of God, to make short work with old Abe. Our company was reorganized on the 21st of April, by order of Brig. Gen. Ransom. The following officers were elected: John C. McLaughlin, Captain; Thomas Lilly, 1st Lieutenant, W. S. Ingram, 2d, and J. L. Henry, 3rd. On recommendation of the Captain, the following were appointed non-commissioned officers: John A. Polk, 1st Serg't; M. S. McRae, 2d; John H. Jarman, 3d; W. H. Smith, 4th; John Britney, 5th; W. H. [unclear], 6th; [unclear], 7th; [unclear], 8th; [unclear], 9th; [unclear], 10th; [unclear], 11th; [unclear], 12th; [unclear], 13th; [unclear], 14th; [unclear], 15th; [unclear], 16th; [unclear], 17th; [unclear], 18th; [unclear], 19th; [unclear], 20th; [unclear], 21st; [unclear], 22nd; [unclear], 23rd; [unclear], 24th; [unclear], 25th; [unclear], 26th; [unclear], 27th; [unclear], 28th; [unclear], 29th; [unclear], 30th; [unclear], 31st; [unclear], 32nd; [unclear], 33rd; [unclear], 34th; [unclear], 35th; [unclear], 36th; [unclear], 37th; [unclear], 38th; [unclear], 39th; [unclear], 40th; [unclear], 41st; [unclear], 42nd; [unclear], 43rd; [unclear], 44th; [unclear], 45th; [unclear], 46th; [unclear], 47th; [unclear], 48th; [unclear], 49th; [unclear], 50th; [unclear], 51st; [unclear], 52nd; [unclear], 53rd; [unclear], 54th; [unclear], 55th; [unclear], 56th; [unclear], 57th; [unclear], 58th; [unclear], 59th; [unclear], 60th; [unclear], 61st; [unclear], 62nd; [unclear], 63rd; [unclear], 64th; [unclear], 65th; [unclear], 66th; [unclear], 67th; [unclear], 68th; [unclear], 69th; [unclear], 70th; [unclear], 71st; [unclear], 72nd; [unclear], 73rd; [unclear], 74th; [unclear], 75th; [unclear], 76th; [unclear], 77th; [unclear], 78th; [unclear], 79th; [unclear], 80th; [unclear], 81st; [unclear], 82nd; [unclear], 83rd; [unclear], 84th; [unclear], 85th; [unclear], 86th; [unclear], 87th; [unclear], 88th; [unclear], 89th; [unclear], 90th; [unclear], 91st; [unclear], 92nd; [unclear], 93rd; [unclear], 94th; [unclear], 95th; [unclear], 96th; [unclear], 97th; [unclear], 98th; [unclear], 99th; [unclear], 100th.

Henry H. Crowson, 4th. Capt. Caraway, deeming his services more needed at home than in camp, declined a reelection, and would not allow the boys to run him for any office. We all miss him very much; the boys are constantly remarking how much they miss the Captain. They were all very much attached to him. In fact we miss all our comrades, who have left us, very much, and we hope that if they cannot remain with us, they will visit us very often.

On the 22d of April we held an election for field officers, when our present Colonel—Z. B. Vance—was unanimously reelected; the whole Regiment, both officers and privates, are very much attached to Col. Zeb.—as they they call him—and would not be separated from him for any consideration; our Lieut. Col. H. K. Burgwyn was also reelected, the election for Major is still undecided. Yours truly, K., 26th.

A SHARP SHOOTER SHARPLY SHOT.—A gentleman informs us of the death of one of McClellan's sharpshooters on the Peninsula under circumstances which possess interest sufficient to give them to the public. Several of our men, it seems, were killed while going to a spring near by, but by whom no one could imagine. It was at last determined to stop this inhuman game, if possible, even at the cost of killing the hireling himself, who was thus, in cold blood, butchering our men. So a sharp look out was kept for this sharp shooter, and the next time he fired, the smoke of his rifle revealed the locality of his pit. That night a pit was dug by the Confederate soldiers, commanding the position of the Yankee sharp shooter, and arrangements made to get rid of the annoying creature. For this purpose a young Kentuckian was placed in our pit, with a trusty rifle, and provisions enough to last him until the next night. Next morning early, a man was despatched as usual, with two baskets, to go to the spring. He had proceeded about one or two hundred yards, when the Yankee marksman elevated himself, and placing his rifle to his shoulder was about to pull trigger, but the Kentuckian was too quick for him, for he pulled his trigger first, and simultaneously therewith the Yankee fell. Upon repairing to the spot, which the Kentuckian did immediately, he discovered a rifle pit and a sturdy Yankee in it, in the last agonies of expiring nature. The pit was provided with a cushioned chair, pipes and tobacco, liquor and provisions. But the rifle which had been used was really a valuable prize. It was of most superb manufacture, and supplied with the latest invention, an improved telescopic sight upon its end. The pit had been dug at night, and its occupant had been provisioned at night, so that for a sharp look out for the smoke of his gun, there is no saying how long this Yankee Vandal would have enjoyed the luxury of killing Southern men without even a chance of losing his own worthless life. We are gratified to know that he at last met with so righteous a fate.—*Petersburg Express.*

Beauregard sent with the flags and other trophies captured at Shiloh, an escort of ten privates and two officers to Richmond, who had distinguished themselves by heroic deeds on the field. They were introduced to the President soon after their arrival, and were greeted with a handsome little speech.

GEN. VANCE.—We have just learned that Col. Z. B. Vance has been appointed by President Davis, a brigadier General in the Confederate Army. This is the first conservative appointment made by the Government, to high position. Our friend Vance has won it, and will no doubt do honor to the post.—*Standard.*

Hon. Robert E. Scott, of Fauquier County, Virginia, one of the most distinguished jurists of Virginia, and a prominent member of the late Virginia State Convention, was killed on the 3d inst. by a marauding party of Yankee deserters of Fauquier county.

(Scene, a barber's shop) Young Swell—"I say, Thompson, do you think I shall ever have whiskers?" Thompson, after careful examination—"Well, sir, I don't think as you will—least wise, not to speak of." Young Swell—"That's rather hard, for my pap, I mean governor, has plenty." Thompson, facetiously—"Yes, sir, but p'raps you take after ma."—*Punch.*

Several bags of coffee were sold at auction, in Savannah, at prices ranging from 61 to 66 cents.

It is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no room left but in chains and slavery.