

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

This Argus on the people's rights doth an eternal vigil keep—
No soothing strain of Maia's son can lull his hundred eyes to sleep.

C. W. FENTON, Editor.

WADESBORO', N. C.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1862

A citizen of Anson, who has been a corn raiser and a corn seller for ten years past, requests us to ask the question—"Who will be the first man in Anson to demand more than one dollar a bushel for corn?" We ask, who?

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN.

That Col. A. Myers, will start from White's store on Wednesday, December 31, with the donations for the Soldiers contributed within the bounds of the 81st Regiment. All articles contributed should be at that place on the Tuesday previous, properly marked and directed—to whom given—the Company—Regiment, and if possible, the Brigade. By punctual attention to this request all will go right.

J. C. Caraway will start on Tuesday, the 23 December, for Petersburg. The friends of the Wild Cats wishing to forward clothing to the boys will have the articles at his house on Monday the 1st.

THE LATEST NEWS

We have from Virginia states that Burnside is concentrating the whole of his army (late McClellan's) opposite Fredericksburg, and that Gen. Lee is concentrating our forces at or near Fredericksburg to receive the Abolitionists. On the 21st, it is said Burnside sent a flag of truce to Fredericksburg and demanded a surrender by our forces by 2 o'clock next day, or else he would shell it. Gen. Lee peremptorily refused to comply with the demand. All accounts agree in representing that there will shortly be another heavy engagement somewhere on the Rappahannock.

There has recently been a heavy increase of the blockading squadron off Charleston and much activity is manifested in the movements of vessels, and a great exhibition of lights and signals.

CORN CROP OF GEORGIA.—The Milledgeville "Confederate" says:

The Comptroller General in his annual report this year, as usual, gives many valuable statistical facts. In his instructions to the Tax collectors in the State he required them to report the number of acres planted in cotton, and also the number planted in corn and other grain. Five counties did not report at all. In the remaining one hundred and twenty-seven counties, it is reported that only two hundred and thirty-six thousand one hundred and ninety-eight acres are planted in cotton, while four million nine thousand and eighty acres were planted in corn and one million three hundred and forty-nine thousand and seven hundred acres were planted in other grain. At fourteen bushels to the acre, the Comptroller General estimates the corn crop of this year in Georgia at fifty-nine million five hundred thousand bushels, nearly double what it was in 1849, which was one of our most fruitful years.

This is a splendid production. It would furnish six bushels of corn per head to every man, woman and child in the Confederacy, which would be a supply for four months from Georgia alone.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TWO HOUSES.

Conservatives may well gratulate each other on the character and fitness for their places of the Speakers and Clerks of the two Houses. Mr. Mebane, the Speaker of the Senate, and Mr. Gilliam, Speaker of the House, are both men of experience and ability in public affairs, and well acquainted with legislative proceedings.

Better clerks could not have been selected than Mr. Thomas and Col. Edwards of the Senate, and Mr. Colton and Mr. Stanly of the House. After the efforts made by unscrupulous accessionists to injure the character for loyalty of Mr. Stanly, we are especially gratified at his election. By electing him, the House has not only secured an excellent officer, but it has given a palpable contradiction to the unfounded charges referred to. Mr. Stanly, we feel sure, could not desire, as he could not have, any vindication of his character which would be more thorough or complete.

[*Raleigh Standard.*]

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

RALEIGH Nov. 24.—Curtis H. Brogden has been re-elected Comptroller of Public Accounts by a unanimous vote. He was nominated at the conservative caucus. The same caucus have nominated Ignatius Worth, of Randolph county, for Secretary of State. Daniel W. Courts and Rufus H. Page, the former incumbents, will retire. Augustus S. Merriman, of Buncombe county, has been elected Solicitor for the Seventh Circuit, and Jesse J. Yeates, of Hertsford County, Solicitor for the First Circuit.

Hon. James A. Sedden, of Virginia, has been appointed by the President, Secretary of War, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of

We do not, usually, notice anonymous communications, our rule being to require the name of a responsible person. The article which we subjoin, over the signature of "L." came to us on the 20th inst., postmarked "Cheraw, Nov. 20," showing that it was mailed on the morning of the day on which it was received, and as we are not in doubt as to its authorship, we comply with the request of the writer, and publish it, to give, as he says, "the poor tanner justice."

Mr. Fenton: I see, in your last issue of the Argus, you are down on the tanners like a thousand of bricks, but don't say one word about the cost of material. We are now paying from one dollar to one dollar and ten cents per lb for hides, and have to go to foreign markets to purchase and pay freight to get them home. But you say the present stock did not cost as much. Admitting that is so, will you or any body else take the stock we have on hand at seventy-five per cent. when the war is over, and the blockade is raised, and shoes and leather come in from foreign countries? No. You will say it is to your interest to buy where you can buy the cheapest. If that is your motto, I think it is time for you to hush. I have always heard it said it was a bad rule that would not work two ways. You also say we get every cent we can for our leather. I hate to say that is not so; but I will say I have been offered three dollars per lb for my sole leather and four for upper, and I am selling it for just half that amount. You don't say anything about what it costs the poor tanner to live these war times, workmen's wages, and everything else he has to buy are high—but when you come to excusing the poor editor for advancing on his price, you render a thousand excuses or less. Give us justice—that is all we ask. You know and everybody else knows that a tanner has to keep up with the times. You and everybody else know we will have to sell our stock of leather, some time, for less than the hides cost us. Save us a chance to live as well as you, and that is all we ask. There is always two sides to a question. L.

Now, in order that we may do ourselves justice, as well as the "poor tanner," we must say that we think the poor tanner is "down" upon himself. We are, to use his own phrase, "down" upon no particular profession more than another.

We are equally "down" upon all who are unwilling to conform to the law of the land—all who are so greedy of gain as to be dissatisfied with a profit of seventy-five per cent.—all who are withholding supplies of any kind, to enhance their price—all such, be they whom they may, come under our condemnation, and we shall not cease to hold them up to the condemnation of the public, until the evil ceases.

Our correspondent "L." says, "we are now paying \$1 and \$1.10 a pound for hides," exclusive of freight. What did you raise the price of hides for? You had a motive for increasing the price. What was that motive? No man pays more for an article than that article is worth, without a motive. You used to pay 10 cts., a pound for hides; \$4 a cord for bark, delivered; 30 cents a gallon for oil; \$1.50 a barrel for lime; and \$100 a year for labor. Then you sold leather at 25 cents per pound, and were satisfied. Last Spring, you paid, (for your present stock) 12 1/2 to 16 cents, pound for dry hides; bark \$6; oil \$1.25; lime \$3 per barrel, and for labor you paid \$100. If, when you paid 10 cents a pound for hides, you could afford to tan for 15 and sell at 25 cents, can you not afford, when you pay 12 1/2 to 16 cents for hides, to tan for 15, and sell for 30 cents? The fact, that, in one month you increased the price of hides from 20 and 40 cts., for green and dry, to \$1 and \$1.10 per pound, looks suspicious, to say the least of it. It looks as though it might be an effort to evade the law to prevent extortion. Mind, we don't say it was so—only that it looks that way—there being no other competent motive, that we can see.

As to our, or any body else, taking the stock you may have on hand "after the war is over and the blockade raised," at 75 per cent., there is little danger of your having any stock on hand, for then, as now, you will clear out your wares every four weeks, and need not fill them, and will not unless the prices suit you. If "when the war is ended and the blockade raised," people prefer to "buy where they can buy the cheapest," instead of encouraging home productions, you, and others like you, who are taking advantage of the war, and the necessities of the people, who cannot now help themselves, you and they by your present conduct, will bring about the very state of things which you dread. Do you think the people whom you have charged six and eight dollars for shoes and compelled them to pay it, will continue to buy of you when they can purchase elsewhere? You must be green to suppose such a thing. No, they will not buy of you, even though you sold as cheap as the cheapest. They have long memories.

We doubt not that you have been offered three and four dollars for your leather, for we know there is a speculating concern at Charlotte, who have offered to pay that sum for all the leather

further increasing prices. Do you not sell for all you can get at home? There is a moral obligation resting upon you, not to sell your leather to those who have less conscience than you have.

You saying "you will have to sell your stock of leather sometime, for less than the hides cost you," is an admission that you are now charging extra prices to indemnify you against future losses. That is, you now make people pay four times the worth of your products, because you believe the time is coming when you will be compelled to sell for less than cost. Is that it? The time never was, and never will be, when leather sold for less than the cost of the hides. There is, usually, two sides to a question—but we can see but one to this, and that is all on your side.

The following, which we take from the Atlanta, Ga., Commonwealth, makes the matter plain.

Mr. Sam. Johnson bought, the other day, leather enough for a pair of shoes for \$2, and a shoemaker made them up for \$1.50. At the same time both the tanner and shoemaker were selling the same kind and size of shoes at eight dollars per pair.

In conclusion, permit us to say that "L.'s" remarks in regard to the "poor editor"—though we are poor enough, God knows—apply not to us. Our skirts are clear, and we intend to keep them clear, God helping us.

P. S.—Since writing the above we have been in conversation with a man, a citizen of Anson, who bought a number of hides last winter, and had them tanned the present season, for twenty cents per pound—the tanner being entirely satisfied with the price, and thankful therefor. Now, Mr. L. if one tanner can afford to tan for 20 cents, without the use of steam, which is a much longer process, can you not afford, to tan at 20 cents per pound, adding the cost of the hide?

THE LEGISLATURE.

We have heard of persons buying up and holding on to corn in anticipation of the removal by the Legislature of the restrictions on distilleries.

[*Western Democrat.*]

Great will be our disappointment if the present Legislature take away the restrictions on distillers. We will not do them so much injustice as to suppose they could be induced to think of such an act, much less consummate it. The act would be suicidal. We believe Gov. Vance would veto it, if he did, and every good man in the State would applaud the deed. But that body will do no such wicked thing: They have too much respect for themselves, and are, besides, too patriotic and have too much of the milk of human kindness in their bosoms, to bring such a ruin upon the State. We will not insult them by the supposition. Gov. Vance is reported to have said that he will not allow a still to be run in the State during his term. We hope he did say so, for if he did, it means what he says. It is not a question of Temperance, now. It is bread, and will be, ere long, if Speculators in bread stuffs are let alone, a question of "bread or blood."

We do hope Gov. Vance will not allow a bushel of corn to be distilled in this State until the war is over. If Government Agents are allowed to start distilleries under the plea of making alcohol it will not be long before nearly all the whiskey-makers will be at work under the pretence of making medicine, and corn will be about five dollars per bushel, and the people will suffer for bread.

Many of the Government Agents do not appear to have an uncommon amount of common sense (some of them act as if they had no sense at all) judging from the extravagant manner in which they make contracts for Government supplies and bid against each other. One Agent alone in this State, we learn has had distilled about twenty thousand gallons of whiskey, and he wants to make contracts for more, and will do it if our State authorities allow the corn to be wasted in that way, in violation of the law of North Carolina. No wonder corn is scarce and commanding high prices in certain sections.

[*Wes. Democrat.*]

TEN MEN DROWNED—HEAVY FIRING—THIRTEEN OF THE ENEMY CAPTURED.

Heavy firing was heard here yesterday forenoon. We learn that the blockaders had run a schooner ashore near Moore's Inlet, on the Sound, and a brig ashore near Fort Fisher.

The brig was the Fanny Lewis belonging to John Frazer & Co. She grounded yesterday morning on the reef at New Inlet and we regret to learn that Captain Gardner, his mate and eight of his crew were drowned in trying to reach the shore. The brig lies out of the range of the blockaders. Only two of the crew of the brig were saved. They were brought off by Midshipman Moses, and picked crew with the largest garrison boat from Fort Fisher. We presume that all the assistance that can be rendered, will be sent down to try and save the vessel and cargo. The weather was very unfavorable yesterday.

The Schooner was burned by a boat's crew of thirteen men sent for that purpose from one of the blockaders. The boat's crew was captured by Captain Newberk, with a portion of his Cavalry, to whom information had been given by the crew of the schooner who escaped.—*W. Journal 18th inst.*

FROM THE ANSON TROOPERS.

FRANKLIN, VA., Nov. 18th, 1862.

Mr. Editor: On yesterday two Regiments from this place concluded to pay our friends beyond the river a small visit and live on more sociable terms than we had for sometime past. Beyond Carville they were found coming this way, on a similar errand, and to let them know we wished the road for our Troops a small cannon opened upon them; they took the hint and retired out of sight. The cavalry scoured the country round, could find nothing more in the shape of a Yankee and our forces returned, leaving pickets as usual from the Anson Troopers. This morning while revelling in the luxuries of dreamland, I was startled by the heavy booming of cannon, which continued for a long time. Couriers running to and fro, sending one of our companies to one point, another to a second, and so on, was as much as I could learn, for some time, then came in our pickets with Yankee guns and the live curiosities themselves. There were only eight of the Anson Troopers beyond the river and they brought in an equal number of the enemy. Caught two negroes who were making themselves cooks for their brothers—started one man to camp with them—played the Yankee on him—took his gun away from him and marched off. So we lost two good prizes by that operation.

About 11 o'clock, the enemy moved down on Franklin with their artillery, but kept at a good distance. They let loose on our devoted heads for several hours, and I thought our visit had awakened the slumbering lion, who would certainly rend us to pieces. In addition to all this, we learned from the prisoners that they had three brigades, and were determined to come to Franklin, at all hazards, before night. They tried Col. Marshall's pickets, above, and met with such a warm reception that they backed out. They then knew we were too strong for them, and, after venting their spleen upon us, concluded to leave us alone for a few days. Joy go with them, for I have a particular antipathy to a bombshell, and its wild, whizzing sound, that is not very easy to overcome. Two of our men were wounded—none killed. The loss of the enemy not yet ascertained. A portion of our regiment are now dogging their tracks to pick up stragglers.

There are many hardships in war that the uninitiated never dream of. It is excellent fun to be shot at in plain view of a man who takes shure aim, and will yell if he sees you fall. It is fine sport to stand picket near the enemy's lines of a cold drizzly night, with your toes aching, and your teeth chattering like the ague, and, for fear a Yankee might pick you off, don't dare to kindle a blaze of fire. It is excellent fun to run your horse all day to get to the dozen places you are ordered at the same time, and then it is a great luxury, after fasting, to come in and find your mess with nothing cooked—why? haven't had enough for ourselves, eat yourself and wait patiently, there will be some beef along presently. After your patience is exhausted, the much desired article arrives. Boil it two hours, and attempt to eat it. Won't do. Boil again. Same result. Finally retire in disgust, leaving the kettle bubbling on the fire. Meantime, the contents to his own use, and you find yourself wishing that somebody high in authority had the remainder of the fighting to do.

Nov. 19. The enemy returned to Suffolk, telling every body that they had run us out of Franklin—the lying rascals—Our boys could have taken more prisoners, but were told by Col. Levenworth that he had as many as he could guard. G.M.M.A.

The friends of the Anson Troopers will direct their letters to Garysburg, N. C., as we start this morning for that point.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH-CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North-Carolina assembled in Raleigh on Monday the 17th, according to law.

The Senate was called to order at 12 M. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald.

The roll was called by Mr. Alspaugh, Principal Clerk, and the oaths of office were administered by Hon. Geo. E. Badger, a Justice of the Peace for Wake County.

Mr. Ramsay, of Rowan, nominated Mr. Mebane, of Alamance, for Speaker, and Mr. Faison, of Sampson, nominated Mr. Wright, of Cumberland. The vote was, Mr. Mebane 24; Wright 2; Graham 3, Wiggins 3, Taylor 1, Hall 1.

On motion of Mr. Graham, Messrs. Ramsay and Hall conducted Mr. Mebane to the Chair, when he made his acknowledgments in an appropriate manner.

C. R. Thomas, Esq., of Carteret, was then elected Principal Clerk of the Senate; Col. L. C. Edwards, of Granville, Assistant Clerk; W. K. Page, of Randolph, Doorkeeper; and C. C. Tally, of Chatham, Assistant Doorkeeper.

The House of Commons was called to order at half past 12 o'clock, by James H. Moore, Esq., Principal Clerk of the last House, whereupon the roll of Counties was called in alphabetical order, and the certificates of members presented and examined. The oaths required by law were then administered by Will. Thompson, Esq., one of the Justices for the County of Wake.

After some debate in regard to the credentials of some members, the House proceeded to vote for Speaker. Mr. Burgin, of Buncombe, nominated the Hon. Robt. B. Gilliam, of Granville, and Mr. Stanford, of Duplin, nominated Hon. J. G. Shepherd, of Cumberland. Mr. Shepherd withdrew his name. Mr. Gilliam received 69 votes, Mr. Shepherd 13, Mr. Fleming 6. Mr. Gilliam having been duly elected, was conducted to the Chair, whence he made his acknowledgments in an appropriate address.