

# NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

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

C. W. FENTON, EDITOR.

WADESBORO', N. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1863.

## SPECIAL COURT.

S. W. Cole, Chairman, Wm. Allen, P. Richardson, G. W. Little, re-elected County Trustee. S. W. Cole, John Broadway, and M. W. Mrs. were elected a Committee of Finance. The usual allowance to the families of Volunteers was continued.

We stated last week, that we had been informed that there were certain people in Montgomery Co. in favor of reconstruction, and that they had requested certain would-be prominent men to address them on the subject. To our utter astonishment, we learn that public sentiment has settled upon Hon. Alfred Dockery and O. H. Dockery, as the men alluded to. We are authorized to say that public sentiment, in this respect, is entirely erroneous.

## ATTENTION.

We are authorized to announce that Capt. J. C. Caraway will be one of FIFTY, to organize an independent company, to go to Wilmington and assist in the defence of that place. Lieut. Crump and J. C. Caudel have signified their determination to do likewise. Here is an experienced captain and Lieutenant, both of whom have faced the enemy, willing to unite with forty-seven others, to go and fight the invader at Wilmington. Who will join this patriot band? Leave your names at this office.

Twenty-seven persons in Fayetteville have purchased corn to the amount of \$16,000, to be sold to the people at cost and charges.

Why could not something like this be done in Anson? Why? There is but one answer. The will, alone, is lacking! There is plenty of ability—but little WILL. We know of but two men in Anson, who have come up to their duty in this respect! It is true that ten righteous men could not be found in Sodom, and it is equally true that ten disinterested men cannot be found in Anson, to prevent Anson's becoming a Sodom! There are plenty of self-righteous men in Anson, who forget that "the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof"—who forget that all they have is His—who do not believe that the command, "OCCUPY TILL I COME" applies to them, for whose especial benefit we publish the following from the 12th chapter of Luke—"The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought within himself, saying, what shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, this will I do, I will pull down my barns and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him—Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God!"

The latest canard out, is to the effect that the Conservative members of the Legislature held, just previous to the recess, a private meeting, to consider a proposition from the traitor, Stanly, to the effect that if North Carolina would return to the Union, the Federals would guarantee protection to person and property, &c., and that said caucus refused to accept Stanly's proposition by only one vote. The origin of this slander, as we learn from the Salisbury Watchman, is, "that a secret session of the Legislature was held, at which Gov. Vance read a communication from the Federal Military Governor, Stanly, and his reply to the same. That reply we have heard spoken of as one of the best things Gov. Vance has done, and received the unanimous applause of the Legislature." From this, doubtless, originated the false and absurd story whispered about in this town, in private circles, for the purpose of prejudicing the people against the Legislature. The same persons profess great admiration and respect for Gov. Vance, who, they say, defeated the treasonable attempt referred to above; but their professions have this significance, and no more—they desire a breach between the Governor and the people who elect him."

This villainous concoction is doubtless the work of some of the brave stay-at-homes, who, before the war, were going to do all the fighting—but, after the war began, took special care to keep out of harm's way. The miserable, falsifying, good for nothing scamps. They are too cowardly to fight—hate the smell of gunpowder—but are cunning enough to keep at home, and base enough to invent and circulate falsehoods about those whose every thought, word and act is pregnant with good to the Old North State.

## THE BATTLE OF KINSTON.

The fight on Saturday was merely a series of heavy skirmishes.

### THE OBJECT OF GEN. FOSTER.

In advancing from his entrenched works at Newbern, was clearly to capture Goldsboro', as the key of future operations in the State; destroy our railroad communications between Virginia and the South, and re-build the line between Newbern and Goldsboro', which had been partially destroyed by our troops under Gen. Evans. His spies had informed him of the true condition of affairs up to the hour of his departure from Newbern, and our trusty scouts had likewise given us intelligence of the advance contemplated by the enemy. Unfortunately, however, this information did not reach us in time to be available, and the Abolitionists found our forces divided, as they had been for several days in anticipation of an attack at other points. The Holcombe Legion and the 18th South Carolina Regiment, for instance, were posted at Greenville, on the Tar River, some thirty-five miles distant, and the former did not reach Kinston until late on Saturday evening. The latter, by reason of their orders, did not come at all, being detained to guard our rear from an advance of the enemy via Washington, where the latter were in considerable force.

The march of the Abolitionists was, therefore, uninterrupted until Friday, the 12th. Their arrival at Trenton, twenty-two miles below, was reported by Major Nethercutt, of the Partizan Rangers, North Carolina, on Thursday, and on Friday Col. Baker, of the Cavalry, was dispatched with parts of two companies to his assistance. Owing to some lack of prudence or knowledge of the country, however, reinforcements got between the cavalry of the enemy and their advance guard, and before the Confederates were aware of it, they were completely surrounded. A skirmish then ensued, in which Col. Baker was wounded in the ear, and the men succeeded in cutting their way out, but in such a scattered and disorganized condition that as a distinct command, they proved of no further use during the events that followed.

### THE FIGHT ON SUNDAY.

The engagement commenced about 9 o'clock, a. m., when our artillery opened on the abolitionists, who were discovered in a long open field in their front. It is a singular fact, and not unworthy of record, that this discovery was due to a woman who was seen vigorously waving her handkerchief, or some other white object of feminine apparel, to her rear. Almost immediately the Yankees swarmed into the field in which she was standing, and we opened. The female then disappeared as mysteriously as she had showed herself, and nothing more has been seen or heard of her since the engagement. The Abolitionists at once returned the fire of the artillery with a volley of musketry and a salvo of heavy guns, and the battle became general. The roar of the fusillade is said to have been as terribly incessant as that which has characterized any of our large battles; and in the fourteen or fifteen engagements I have witnessed I have certainly never seen the effect of fire more conspicuously marked upon and around the field. The ground is level and alternately covered with woods and the thickest undergrowth; and where these were occupied by either our men or of those of the enemy there is scarcely a shrub that has not been splintered by the balls. Frequently the huge pines were cut completely down, and the eye on every side rests upon severed branches hanging to the parent stem by a few fragments, great ragged holes, sapplings toppling in all directions, bushes shattered by a hundred bullets, grape shot buried in the trunks of trees, and scars, gashes, and perforations of every shape, size and character.

Looking at this work of destruction you cannot but wonder how our little handful were saved from utter annihilation; and I can only explain it on the ground of bad marksmanship of the enemy, and perhaps some slight advantage of position. Many of the trees, for instance, have Yankee bullets in them thirty feet from the ground.

The battle continued without intermission from nine a. m. until one o'clock, p. m., and though it raged along our line for a mile, the hottest fighting of the day was on the right. Here, near an old Church, were stationed the Holcombe Legion, with Mallet's Battalion on its right, and six companies of the 17th Regiment S. C. V. on the left, and here it may be said, without discredit to the gallant North and South Carolinians further to the left; (where Goodlett's 22d Regiment, the remainder of the 17th and 61st were fighting) the advance of the Abolitionists was most stubbornly resisted, and they were most severely punished.

The old Church to which I have referred above is literally riddled with balls, large and small. In one board I counted forty-six holes. It was probably owing to the protection which this afforded to the Legion that the men were enabled so long to withstand the hurricane of fire that every second of time swept so remorsefully from the front of the low, dense thicket which concealed the enemy. I judge from the great stains of blood upon the floor that the Abolitionists

must have used the Church as a hospital after the battle, and the presence of a considerable number of graves and trenches shows that they must likewise have buried many of their dead in that vicinity. Our own killed were also interred by the enemy.

Of the character of the battle there is very little to describe beyond the fact that it was a stand up, give-and-take affair, in which our troops behaved better than in any other fight of the war. There was no charging, no running here or there, and no straggling. The men seemed inspired by a common determination if necessary to "die there," and until the order was given to "fall back firing," they stood their ground like heroes, and held at bay the legions by whom they were confronted. Col. Mallet\* was wounded near the Church and subsequently taken prisoner, and Adjutant DuBose, of the Holcombe Legion, also fell at this point severely wounded, and was carried to the rear. I have heard several speak of the splendid conduct of this young officer during the day as chief in command of the regiment, and the handsome manner in which he maneuvered his men, and gave them encouragement by his own cool and gallant example.

As the day wore on it became evident that the enemy were making an endeavor to turn our left and get between us and the Neuse River, thus surrounding our forces. The troops on the left were, accordingly, ordered to retire over the bridge in good order and fall back upon the town. This, of course, necessitated a similar movement upon the right, and between one and two o'clock the entire body, save those who were severely wounded and those who were captured, had crossed to the Kinston side.

I have now to speak of the circumstances of this capture.

### THE BURNING OF THE BRIDGE.

As mentioned above, Boyce's Battery was instructed to hold the bridge, and as soon as our troops were over to open fire and check the pursuit by the enemy. To one of his Lieutenants was also entrusted the task of burning the bridge. Our regiments, one by one, retreated, according to the orders of the General, preserving, with but one or two exceptions, an unbroken front, and fighting the enemy to the last; and the Abolitionists, too timid to make a bold rush and overpower our weak numbers, failed to take advantage of the best opportunity they have had during the war of capturing a complete command. With a narrow structure only two hundred yards in length at our back, and an army ten times larger than our own, in front, the wonder is that Foster did not follow up his success by pressing us rapidly to the river bank and there compelling a capitulation. But he did not, and all of the regiments, except the Holcombe Legion, crossed in safety. Capt. Boyce being informed of this fact, now opened a vigorous fire from his pieces, which he continued for some minutes, and at the same time his Lieutenant, duly prepared with lightwood and turpentine, applied the torch to the bridge. Suddenly word came that the Holcombe Legion were on the other side. The artilleryists were, of course ordered to desist, and soon the Holcombe Legion made their appearance, and the greater part dashing through the just ignited flames, arrived on this side of the river. The enemy at this juncture were within fifty yards, and some of them so near that they could not be fired upon without killing our own men. The result was "confusion worse confounded." Those who remained with their regiments and preserved proper discipline escaped easily, but those who left the ranks to screen themselves behind the river bank from the incessant pouring of the iron hail, and then vainly endeavored to cross in a crowd, suffered for their indiscretion, and were necessarily captured. Of these I may mention the Holcombe Legion, which lost 27; the 22d, which lost 91; the 17th, which lost 8, and the 23d, which lost 12; making a total of 138 South Carolinians taken prisoners. Between Mallet's Battalion and the 61st North Carolina some two hundred and ten or twelve others were captured—the aggregate of prisoners being three hundred and fifty. I should add by the way that 19 of the above number belonging to the 22d Regiment were captured while on picket the Friday evening previous to the fight.

Among the officers sacrificed as a prisoner, by his sense of duty, was Capt. Zeigler, the now senior officer of the Holcombe Legion, who, after the passage of the bridge by his regiment, attempted to aid the escape of those behind who were struggling in the crowd, and to restore something like order; but his effort was ineffectual, and before he could retire the Yankees were upon him.

It should be added, in justice to these men, that they were not only obliged to endure the heavy volleys of the enemy's musketry, but to encounter the flames of the burning fagots on the bridge, whose fiery tongues were now licking every foot of the structure, and it was indeed a task which few natures—could grimly withstand.

I revert for a moment again to the prisoners to say, that they have all been paroled and sent to Raleigh, to await there the consummation of the arrangements for their exchange. But I learn that a great deal of

indignation exists at the Headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief, Gen. Smith, because a very large number have gone home without leave, and thus absented themselves from their commands at a time when their services are of the greatest value. An order is about to be issued publishing these men in the principal papers as deserters. By the time this letter reaches you the exchange will have been made, and if the foregoing statement should meet the eye of any of these absentees, let me suggest that they will save their reputation by returning to the ranks without delay.

\*Col. Mallet was wounded at the bridge, and subsequently taken prisoner.—Ed. An.]

†Mallet's Battalion was the last Regiment to leave the field and consequently arrived at the bridge after all others had crossed.—Ed. An.]

APPOINTED.—S. F. Phillips, Auditor, has appointed Gen. H. G. Spruill, of Washington county, and Thomas Harrison, of Caswell, as his clerks under the recent act of the General Assembly, creating the office of Auditor of Public Accounts.

CORN.—Corn is selling at one dollar per bushel in most of the lower counties of Alabama, at which price thousands of bushels can be obtained.

Colonel Richard Yeadon, one of the editors of the Charleston Courier, offers a reward of ten thousand dollars for the capture of Butler the Beast.

It is said that Gov. Bradford, of Maryland, will succeed Pierce, by appointment, in the U. S. Senate.

Brigadier General Henry Prince has been assigned to an important command in North Carolina.

Lieut. Richard A. Stitt, of Union county, an officer of Co A, 48th N. C. Regt., died recently in Richmond of pneumonia.

W. H. Jenkins, Esq., is elected to the Commons from Graubville county, in place of Hon. R. B. Gilliam, resigned; Maj. Willie D. Jones to the Senate from Wake, in place of J. P. H. Russ; and Isaac H. Foust, Esq., to the Commons from Randolph, in place of Mr. Worth.

The Adjutant General of this State offers a reward of \$100 for the arrest of John Medlin, Jr., of Union county, a deserter from the army, who recently shot and killed Hosea Little near Monroe. He had been arrested and was being conveyed to Raleigh, when he jumped from the cars at the Shops and made his escape on the night of the 23d inst.

Williams and Helms, accomplices of Medlin, have been secured and confined in jail at Raleigh.

SMASH UP.—Two freight trains left this city on the R. & G. R. R. on yesterday morning, and when near Camp Holmes two cars belonging to the foremost train became detached and ran down grade on the hindmost train, damaging the engine, and smashing up the two cars and some twenty hogsheads of Government sugar on board, and injured a fireman. We understand the soldiers at Camp Holmes helped themselves to the sugar pretty freely until a guard was placed over it. The passenger train due here yesterday morning did not reach here until late in the afternoon in consequence of the above accident.—Progress, Jan 8.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY COURTS.—It will be seen by a notice of the Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, that the next Term of the Court for this county will be held on the second Monday of January instead of the 4th Monday. This change was made necessary by the establishment of a new Circuit by the Legislature, causing a change in the time of holding our Superior Courts. Therefore the time for holding our County Courts was altered so as to prevent two terms from taking place on the same weeks of the Superior Courts.—Western Democrat.

Small-pox is being carried from the army into the country and here and there. The people should be vaccinated to guard against it.

Cotton cards are now being made at the Georgia Penitentiary, at the rate of thirty pairs per day. Skins of sheep, goats, or dogs, will be taken in exchange at present, as it is the desire of the factory to get skins on hand to work up. The cards are worth six dollars a pair.

A new Post Office has been established in Edgecombe county, N. C., at Whitaker's Turnout, on the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad.

The Bank of Clarendon, at Fayetteville, has declared a semi-annual dividend of six per cent.

IRON.—Unless our people soon get to making iron in large quantities, we shall have an iron famine equal to the salt famine.—There is no difficulty in procuring a bountiful supply, if those who have means will go into the business. No country on earth is richer in ores of the finest qualities than ours. The mountain regions of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, abound with iron.—Charlotte Democrat.