

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS

Published weekly for the people of the State, at Wadesboro, N. C., by C. W. FENTON, Editor.

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Every citizen of the State has a right to feel proud of the man who now fills the Executive Chair of North Carolina. Ever since he went into office, his whole time, energies and affections have been given to his State and his country—to upholding the dignity and honor of North Carolina and seeing that she performs her whole duty in the great struggle for liberty and independence; to seeing that the Confederate Government's demands upon the State for men and money are fully complied with, and in defending the private rights of citizens when invaded by unauthorized power. No lagging spirit on the part of friends who aided in his election, has been allowed to exercise any influence over him, to prevent his coming up to his whole duty, nor the haste and indiscretion of hot heads caused him to rush headlong into excess and dilemma. "Right on" in the discharge of his whole duty, seems to have been taken as his motto, and most nobly has he carried it out thus far.

Do the soldiers from his State, or their families, or the poor at home, need looking after, Gov. Vance has never failed to give the matter his most prompt and sympathetic attention. Does the Confederate Government call for more troops? Who so prompt to call forth all the powers at his command to secure them, as Gov. Vance? Do unskilled and unpatriotic men desert their posts in the army, his persuasive appeal is made, his authoritative power at once enforced to cause their return, and to punish those who encourage them in their course of insubordination. Is a man untrue to the cause or his country in this hour of trial and suffering?—no one is more solicitous that severe punishment should be meted out to him, while none are more true to protect the innocent, however humble.

In a word, Gov. Vance is the man for the times, and fortunate indeed is North Carolina that she has such a man at the head of affairs in these critical times. Everybody feels that whatever he does is right—and to whatever he does, the people say—Amen. We heartily endorse the above from the Raleigh Age. It is true.

OUR WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN RICHMOND.
Our noble Governor is never idle. He is ever doing something for the good of the State, and especially is he attentive in providing for the comfort of our soldiers. Gov. Vance and the Surgeon General of the State have established in Richmond a "North Carolina Soldiers' Home," where every soldier from the State will be cared for, on application, if not already provided for, and registered at some hospital. At this "Home," the mothers, wives and sisters of sick and wounded men in the city, will be furnished with board and lodging free. Fathers and sons who go to see after their friends will have lodging gratis; but if they board at the "Home," they will be charged \$1 per day. If however, fathers and sons choose to bring their own provision with them, they can deposit them at the "Home" and lodge there free of expense. We heartily unite with the Editor of the Raleigh "Age," in saying—

God bless these noble men, the Governor, Surgeon-General and all co-operating with them for their patriotic and humane action and to the legislature for voting money to be appropriated in caring for our sick and wounded soldiers.

Sugar.—We learn, says the Raleigh Progress, that there are thousands of hogheads of Sugar between Montgomery and Richmond, in the hands of speculators. We learn that there are several hundred hogheads, possibly thousands, along the North Carolina Railroad. At Charlotte alone there are hundreds of hogheads, and though much of it was bought at from 6 to 10 cents, the heartless wretches who own it are holding it for still higher prices. We should very much deprecate anything like mob violence and devoutly hope that we may live through this war without any disgrace upon the fair fame of our good old State, and yet we doubt not but the hanging of a few speculators would have a most wholesome effect. To talk about stopping it any other way is perfectly ridiculous, for a man who hoards up sugar and other articles of like character, in these times, has no regard for public opinion, moral responsibility or anything else. They are the carrion crows of society, and are never so supremely happy as when filling their greedy pouches with the life-blood of the poor and destitute. They are doing our cause more damage than those who try to take our lives on the battle-field. These scoundrels may revel in their gains now, but the lightning and contempt of all honest men and the curse of heaven will be their portion.

In the words of the Chattanooga Rebel we like Mr. Vallandigham, over and above our respect for his honesty, ability and conservatism, because we believe he is for peace. Dissenting from all his views upon the possible or probable reconstruction of the Union, we concede them to be at least the nearest approximates to sanity, which have come out of any Northern mind, and in any event we hold them to be humane maxims directed toward a close of the war. We regard Mr. Vallandigham as a faithful citizen of the United States. As an upright man, he has spoken his sentiments freely and frankly. They are very clear, and if founded in an erroneous estimate of the feelings which inspire the heart of the South, they are frank and honest. We like them for these good and rare qualifications. We like him for having uttered them. But still it is public and political point of view, he is our enemy, and as such we are bound to treat him. Mr. Lincoln makes him our enemy in his very act of banishment, which is the first recognition of our independence by the Federal Government. Mr. Vallandigham is sent to a foreign nation, as "an exile" from the United States. Now, what is his position? He is not a citizen of the United States, and he is not a citizen of the foreign country to which he is sent. Does he desire to expatriate himself and become a citizen of the Confederate States? If so, well and good. We have no more to say. But as a citizen of the United States he cannot, and should not remain here. We do not wish to be inhospitable, but we cannot recognize the right of any power or court, to send his exiles here as to Botany Bay. The South is not the proper lodge for political hermits—however dignified, or popular or noble.

We understand that the Stockholders of the Rockingham factory, at a meeting held last week, with one exception, were in favor of raising the price of Cotton Yarn to \$10. The idea is to let the Government consent all who are liable to conscription, which Government will doubtless do.

For the Argus.
Mr. Barron: We have a Governor and a good Government. You those who oppose his election as well as those who favor it; his patriotic independent course draws unqualified commendation. But do those whose duty it is to aid him in this day of trial—to uphold and sustain him in those measures which his sense of right and justice indicate as necessary to be enforced, do they I say, discharge their duty? I think some of them are, to say the least, shamefully inattentive. For instance: day after day wagon loads of provisions are carried to South Carolina, and I have yet to hear of the first Militia Officer who has interposed to prevent this violation of what ought to be regarded not only as law but as a high Christian duty. As those gentlemen, exempt from conscription, have but little else to do, surely the two or three roads leading from our county to Cheraw might be guarded if no other means can be found to remedy the evil. Why not call upon some other exempt, or some of those who have substitutes in the army to "stand guard," and themselves—the officers—see that the proclamation of our Governor is strictly enforced? Unless something of this sort is done and that speedily, the Governor and Adjutant General must be notified of the existing state of affairs. THAT'S ALL.

FROM THE FORTY-THIRD REGIMENT N. C. T. CAMP NEAR KINSTON, N. C., May 24, 1863.

Mr. FENTON: The Argus at last has been making its weekly visits to us. I assure you its columns are eagerly perused by us all. From it we gather what is going on in old Anson, and occasionally we find letters from different portions of the army, which we delight to read. The last issue is at hand, and we find the following language in the communication of your correspondent of the Forty-Third.

"Some of our boys seem to be carrying on a military correspondence with the girls. One wrote three to his dalcinea before he heard anything from her. Finally the long looked for came at last. With throbbing heart and blushing brow he opened it, eagerly, when, to his utter surprise and astonishment, he found his three letters neatly wrapped in a piece of note paper with these simple but comprehensive words written on it, 'disapproved and respectfully returned.'" This being the case of some it is not by any means right.

"May the 12th, 1863,
DEAR MR. —: I hope this ramification in the shape of an epistle, should it have the good fortune to reach your angelic fingers, will not drag amiss the super simple flowers of your cranium, for be assured my sugar dumplin, that the first time my winkers played upon your nectarine cheeks, that old serpent, Cupid, let fly his arrow slap dab in my gizzard, and there it stuck fast and kicked up such a conjuncting and chitter-gingling that I imagined that I was made up of glass bottles and tin jars for two long hours; but, thank fortune, by the way of a cross, I found out the true cause of all that racket. Oh, my, those graceful smiles that play across those ruby lips! Oh those beautiful eyes that rolled below those silken brows! I need not say any more. I have said enough. You are the Mr. of my love, my sugar dumplin, my sweet apple, now for the ugly word—I am going to see you in leap year, and you must not say no.

Mr. —, another word before I close. I shall wait your answer with intense anxiety, and now my Jacobug, should your answer be unfavourable, it will knock my inside thumper into a flitter-jig and turn my outside capacity into an old fashioned sidesaddle, but if contrary, I shall be one of the happiest women who ever wrote a May Fool. Now do not forget but write to your lover.
LAULLA.

After reading this, I must confess that I was almost paralyzed, and as you might say sold again. Laulla, dearest Laulla, I will not put thee to the unnecessary trouble of waiting until leap year; if you will just give me your name in full.
Since I commenced to write, our regiment (43d) has moved from camp to Kinston, and is now awaiting transportation to what point I don't know. Some say to Fredericksburg, some to Vicksburg, and others say they don't know where, which is about as near the truth as any one can tell, save the commanding General. The boys are generally well and in good spirits and are more than willing to exchange these swamps and frog ponds for almost any other section.
Respectfully,
O. S. K.

TAXES—STATE AND CONFEDERATE.
The Raleigh Standard estimates that the Confederate States Tax Law will draw from this State in money and produce twenty millions of dollars—to which all the State and County taxes, and the sum total will be about twenty-five millions, one-twentieth of the value of all the real and personal property in the State.

THE RAPPAHANNOCK.
We may look for stirring news from Virginia ere long. Lee has got a rod in work for Hooker. Forty thousand infantry, have been mounted and placed under the lead of Stewart. What they intend to do will be apparent soon. One thing is certain, Hooker will feel them ere he sees them. We look for a blow to be struck which will turn Lincoln pale, and perhaps frighten the Abolition rats from their stinking pit of State. God grant that the blow may be a finality. Lee is hopeful, confident, trustful. Let all Christians pray for success and the end of this bloody war.

Foreigners and persons who have furnished substitutes are not exempt from militia duty. The Adjutant of the State has thus decided.

THE BLACK FLAG.
The exact count of prisoners thus far taken during the battle of Sunday is not known, but must be told nearly if not quite ten thousand. They brought in singly, in squads and in regiments, and our men say they could have taken many more but for the trouble of bothing with them on the field. THEY WOULD BATHER SHOOT THAN CAPTURE!—Baltimore American.

We copy the above from a leading Journal of the North. It is not to be mistaken. In a single glimpse it gives us a clear insight to the spirit now animating the foe we are daily meeting on the tented field.

Not content with the invasion of our soil, the destruction of our homes and the oppression of all, irrespective of age, sex or condition, the dastards of the North—who have not the courage to raise the black flag openly—cannot conceal the actual existence of the bloody code in their hearts, and confess the crime of adding to their many enormities that of murder, on the battle field.

We commit this paragraph to the soldier. It is for each man in the South to choose for himself how he will reply to it. Let no one imagine that there is the faintest shadow of civilization now pervading those who are waging a merciless war against us.

They prefer to shoot rather than capture. So do we! We have never advocated the black flag. God forbid that we should. It is a demoralizing banner. It is also a two edged sword. But we must resist force with force and if to shoot rather than to capture be their game let us see who will make most of it.

We are not a cannoner of merely paper bullets. We know very well there is a difference between sitting snugly in an editorial room, far in the rear and braving the dangers of the front. We know too that the moral sense of our army is humane and christian. But here we have a declaration of cold-blooded murder levelled against us, and it is our duty to meet and resist it.

Each man to his own duty. It is for the soldiers to decide for themselves how far they will be governed will take. —many prisoners they will take.

Let them read the extract above and ponder it long and well.

A correspondent of the Raleigh Progress, writing from Pettigrew's Brigade May 20th says—

One word of advice to your speculators. As we think it is not intended that we—I mean the soldiers—will be all killed before the end of the war, as we are men that know as well how to maintain individual as national right; and as many of us have families at home who are in very limited circumstances because speculation has placed all the necessities of life at such high prices that our families have been unable to procure in many cases a scanty subsistence; and as the war will soon end, they—the "Specs"—had better "about face" and pay some attention to the poor families of our soldiers, or they may find that hickory limbs and hemp in the hands of men who have defiled the carnage of a hundred battle fields, are unpleasant weapons.

It is supposed that Hooker is making some important movement—that he is evacuating Stafford county—twenty thousand Yankees having been seen moving in the direction of Port Royal.

There was a rumor in town on Tuesday, that Johnston had routed Grant, and that Lee was crossing the Rappahannock.

NEWS GENERAL AND STATE.

On Monday, the body of a dead man was found on Reed Island in the river below Danville, and on the succeeding day, an inquest was held over the body. From all appearances the man had been dead several weeks, and possibly was drowned and washed on the Island. The body could not be identified.

ENGLISH SENTIMENT.—The London Post, received by the last arrival from Europe, says that no amount of "Union Meetings" in England will detach the masses of the British people from their support of the cause of the rebel Confederate States. The circumstances attending the capture of the *Albatross* and *Dolphin*, were still canvassed with warmth, both in and out of Parliament and in England.

THE TAX ON MERCHANDISE, ETC.—The following is a part of the first section of the new Confederate tax law:

Be it enacted, That there shall be levied and collected upon the value of all naval stores, salt, wines and spirituous liquors, tobacco, manufactured or unmanufactured, cotton, wool, flour, sugar, molasses, syrup, rice, and other agricultural products, held or owned on the 1st day of July next, and not necessary for family consumption for the unexpired portion of the year eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and of the growth or production of any year preceding the year eighteen hundred and sixty-three, a tax of eight per centum.

The Assessment Act authorizes and requires the Assessors to inspect the contents of warehouses, when they have cause to suspect that a fraudulent return has been made by the owners of property stored there in.

MOVEMENTS OF BANKS' ARMY—IMMENSE SLAUGHTER OF YANKEES—THE REPORTED CAPTURE OF HELENA, ARKANSAS.

Helena, Miss., May 15.—Reports from Helena state that the Rebels have crossed the river at Bayou Sara. A Federal report confirms the capture of the great carriage among the Tankees at Vicksburg. Grant sent a flag of truce to day about the sick and wounded. General Pemberton is burning his and using other disinfectants to save our troops from the injurious effects of the Federal dead rotting in front of our works. The slaughter of the Federals is represented as far greater than in any former battle of the war.

The Mississippi on Tuesday evening received, states that two Yankee gunboats have been sunk at Vicksburg. It also says that Saturday's battle at Vicksburg was the most stubborn fight of all.

The news of the capture of Helena, Ark., came from Memphis to Grenada, and was believed as Memphis. A later telegram from Oxford to Grenada was received stating that Helena was captured to-day.

A man from the river who had reached Canton on Monday, stated positively that he had read a dispatch addressed to Colonel Ferguson, saying that General Marmaduke (Confederate) had taken Helena and hung a regiment of three hundred and forty negroes with the Yankee officers who commanded them. The quartermaster says the above statement may be relied on. The Yankee gunboats are reported at Yazoo city.

THE NILE.—A New York paper states that Mr. Wm. Goodhue, the Vice Consul of the United States at Zanzibar, reports that Messrs. Speke and Grant's expedition in search of the sources of the Nile, has been almost, if not entirely, crowned with success. Captain Speke has discovered the Mirrago river, the first certain branch of the Nile. It takes its rise in lat. 0 deg. 17 min. N, in the Victoria Majanon, a lake discovered by Captain Speke.

PROGRESS OF TRADE.—A merchant, says the Savannah Republican, who has kept an eye to the blockade runners, informs us that there are at this time twenty-one cargoes of unsold imported goods in ports of the Confederate States, viz: two at Mobile, five at Wilmington and fourteen at Charleston. So much for the "effective" blockade! It is to be hoped that the sale and distribution of these goods will bring down prices from present high figures.

The Board of Internal Improvement will meet in Raleigh on Saturday the 30th instant, and the Council of State on Thursday the 11th of June.

The banking house of William T. Smithson, in Washington, has been seized and closed. Smithson is in prison, charged with buying Confederate money.

The Merchants Bank of Newbern, (now doing business at Greensboro,) has declared a dividend of seven per cent. for the last twelve months.

All continues quiet on the Rappahannock. Gen. Ewell, who has succeeded to the command of Jackson's corps, had a grand review of the troops on yesterday. —Richmond Sentinel.

CHARGED WITH MURDER AND ROBBERY.—The following parties were received at Castle Thunder yesterday, charged with the commission of a horrid murder and robbery in the Eastern portion of North Carolina: Martin Eaststep, John Mutter, Eli J. Miller, Irving Sloan, James Martin, and James Sloan. The parties were confined in double irons. Their trial will come off shortly.

ALLEGED SPY.—An individual named M. L. Underwood was arrested by order of Gen. Winder, on the charge of being a Yankee spy, and with gathering information in Richmond for the use of the Lincoln Government in Washington.

FEDERAL ATROCITIES IN ARKANSAS.—A gentleman writing from Ozark to Little Rock says that a few days since a Federal scouting party left Fayetteville with the black flag hoisted. They murdered twenty-five citizens, among them Lewis Hewitt and three of the Applebys. The fories there openly preached extermination and threaten to murder every Southern man, woman and child.

A QUIETUS IN THE SUBSTITUTE BUSINESS.—At last a panacea for the ills of substitution in the army has been found, which if it does not check it altogether will go far towards suppressing the frauds by which so many persons are swindled. By an order from headquarters, promulgated yesterday, all substitute papers, to be valid, or of any avail, must be countersigned by the commanding General of the army to which the substitute is sent. As Generals don't care to have their commands encumbered with substitutes, the substitute market may hereafter be quoted as "dull, and few offering." —Richmond Examiner.

CAPTURE OF A DARING SCOUT.—The Knoxville Register says that Pillow Humphreys, a son of Hon. West H. Humphreys, now presiding over the Confederate Court in session in that city, was captured by the Federals in the neighborhood of Nashville last week. He was one of Van Dorn's most daring scouts, and at one time even ventured into Nashville and made purchase of a number of articles he needed. He will probably suffer rude treatment at the hands of his captors to whom his patriotic father's name is most obnoxious, but we trust he will speedily be exchanged, and return to render good service to his command.

ARREST.—Thomas V. Carr, a Clerk in the Comptroller's office, one of the Bureau of the C. S. Treasury Department, was arrested on the 28th inst. on the charge of forging the names of certain soldiers, certificates made payable to their order, for sums due for services of deceased soldiers and for other description of claims against the government. It has been impossible, as yet, to ascertain to what extent the frauds have been carried, but an investigation will no doubt fully develop the amount that has been abstracted. —Rich. Whig 26th.

COTTON AND WOOLEN CARDS.—We are much gratified to learn from one of our Oxford correspondents that cotton and woollen cards will soon be manufactured in that place. Messrs. Pool and Brother will achieve a reputation as public benefactors, if they should succeed, as there is every prospect they will, with their enterprise. —Standard.

The Richmond Enquirer says that Gen. Joseph E. Johnston has the entire command of the geographical Department of the West, embracing all of Alabama and Mississippi, as well as Tennessee and Kentucky, and has the direction of all the forces under Generals Bragg and Pemberton.