

North Carolina Argus.

NEW SERIES—VOL. V—NO. 24.]

WADESBOROUGH, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1863.

[WHOLE NO. 236.]

THE REASON.

They tell me that I'm handsome yet,
And all the ladies say,
"Do look at him! the dear old man
Grows younger every day."
And when each friend asks, "at your age
How came you free from ills?"
I always answer, "In my youth
I paid my Printer's Bills!"

The following beautiful epitaph upon an infant speaks to the heart:

Beneath this stone, in sweet repose,
Lies a mother's dearest pride;
A flower that scarce had waked to life,
And light and beauty ere it died.
God, in his wisdom has recalled
The precious boon his life had given,
And though the casket moulders here,
The gem is sparkling now in heaven.

EXECUTION OF TWO CONFEDERATE OFFICERS AT FRANKLIN, BY THE ENEMY.

A STARTLING TRAGEDY.

One of the strangest and most tragic events of the Revolution took place at Franklin on the 9th inst., it has yet been our province to record. Two officers of our army, Col. Lawrence W. Orton, and Lieut. Walter G. Peter were captured at Franklin under most peculiar circumstances, tried under the charge of being spies, by drum-head Court Martial, and by Rosecrans' order, sentenced and hung from a scaffold, erected in the suburbs of the town of Franklin. A friend has just sent us a copy of the Nashville Press of the 11th, containing what purports to be a detailed statement of facts with a history of the two officers, executed as spies. This Federal account of the tragic affair was the first intimation our people had received of the occurrence. The correspondent who furnished the account to the Press, is a Federal Surgeon, who witnessed the entire proceedings, and assisted in the examination of the dead bodies authorized to be made after their execution. The facts contained in the correspondence are deeply interesting, and lend a prominence to the event which has no parallel in the annals of the war.

Every reader, who knows anything about our army, will remember Captain Lawrence Orton Williams. He was at first an *Aid de Camp* to General Robert E. Lee; then aid to General Polk; then Captain of artillery, under the same General at Columbus, Ky., then Chief of Artillery on General Bragg's staff and subsequently commander of that general's "Body Guard," and was finally made Colonel of cavalry, which position in our service, he honorably filled up to the time of his tragic end. He dropped the "Williams," of his name, because as we understand, another member of his family of that name, continued to hold a position in the Federal army. For the last four months, preceding his death, he has been known as "Colonel Orton." The Federal account represents him as a cousin of General Lee, commanding the Confederate army on the Rappahannock. He was also, we understand, a relative of Captain Wickham, at present, of this Post. The horse which he is said to have presented to the Federal Colonel Watkins, was a fine black stud, which formerly belonged to Capt. Wickham, and well known to the citizens of Chattanooga,

Colonel Orton, was recently married to Mrs. Lamb, formerly a Miss Hamilton of Charleston; who accompanied her husband to the army, but a short time since.

Colonel Orton, by those who knew him well was known to be brave to rashness. His courage was not tempered with prudence or any regard whatever for consequences. He was not sent on the expedition which resulted in the loss of two brave men and useful officers, and his brother officers of our army were not even aware of his intentions. The Yankee correspondent is correct when he states that history will hardly furnish a parallel, in the character and standing of the parties, the boldness and reckless daring of the expedition and the swiftness with which detection and death overtook them.

[Chattanooga Rebel.]

Keep out of bad company, for the chance is, that when the devil fires into a flock, he will hit somebody.

THE CONFEDERATE TAX BILL.

The following is a summary of the Tax-Bill which was passed by the Confederate Congress on the 20th of April, 1863:

It imposes a tax of eight per cent. 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 first day of July next, and not necessary for family consumption for the unexpired portion of the year 1863, and of the growth or production of any year preceding the year 1863; and a tax of one per cent. upon all moneys, bank notes or other currency, on hand or on deposit on the 1st of July next; and on the value of all credits on which the interest has not been paid and not employed in a business the income derived from which is taxed under the provisions of this act: provided, that all moneys owned, held or deposited beyond the limits of the Confederate States shall be valued at the current rate of exchange in Confederate Treasury notes. The tax to be assessed on the 1st day of July, and collected on the 1st day of October next, or as soon thereafter as may be possible.

Section 5th imposes the following taxes for the year ending the 31st of December, 1863, and for each year thereafter:

Bankers shall pay \$500. Auctioneers, retail dealers, tobacconists, pedlars, cattle brokers, apothecaries, photographers, and confectioners, \$50, and 2½ per centum on the gross amount of sales made.

Wholesale dealers in liquors \$200, and 5 per centum on gross amount of sales. Retail dealers in liquors: \$100, and 10 per centum on gross amount of sales. Wholesale dealers in groceries, goods, wares, merchandise, etc., \$200, and 2½ per centum.

Pawn brokers, money and exchange brokers \$200.

Distillers, \$200 and 20 per centum. Brewers, \$100, and 2½ per centum.

Hotels, inns, taverns and eating houses—first class, \$500; second class, \$300; third class, \$200; fourth class, \$100; fifth class, \$50. Every house where food or refreshments are sold, and every boarding-house where there shall be six boarders or more, shall be deemed to be an eating house under this act.

Commercial brokers or commission merchants \$200 and 2½ per centum.

Theatres, \$500 and 5 per centum on all receipts. Each circus, \$100, and \$10 for each exhibition. Jugglers and other persons exhibiting shows, \$50.

Bowling alleys and billiard rooms, \$40 for each alley or table registered. Livery stable keepers, lawyers, physicians, surgeons and dentists, \$50.

Butchers and bakers, \$50 and one per centum.

All persons engaged, or intending to engage, in any business named in the 5th section, shall, within sixty days after the passage of the act, or at the time of beginning business, and on the 1st of January in each year thereafter, register with the district collector a true account of the name and residence of each person, firm or corporation engaged or interested in the business, with a statement of the time for which, and the place and manner in which the same is conducted, &c. At the time of the registry there shall be paid the specific tax for the year ending on the next 31st of December, and each other tax or duty due upon sales or receipts of business.

Any person failing to make such registry and pay such tax shall, in addition to all other taxes upon his business imposed by the act, pay double the amount of the specific tax on such business, and a like sum for every thirty days of such failure.

Requires a separate registry and tax for each business mentioned in the 5th section, and for each place of conducting the same; but no tax for mere storage of goods at a place other than the registered place of business. A new registry required upon every change in the place of conducting a registered business, upon the death of any person conducting the same, or upon the transfer of the business to another, but no additional tax.

Every person registered and taxed is required to make return of the gross amount of sales from the passage of the act to the 30th of June, and every three months thereafter.

A tax upon all salaries, except of persons in the military or naval service, of 1 per cent when not exceeding \$1,500, and two per cent upon an excess over that amount. Provided, that no taxes shall be imposed on the salary of any person receiving a salary not exceeding \$1,000 per annum, or at a like rate for another period of time, longer or shorter. The tax on annual incomes, between \$500 and \$1,500, shall be five per cent; between \$1,500 and \$3,000, five per cent on the first \$1,500 and ten per cent on the excess; between \$3,000 and \$5,000 ten per cent; between \$5,000 and 10,000, 12½ per cent; over \$10,000 fifteen per cent; subject to the following deductions: on incomes derived from rents of real estate, manufacturing and mining establishments, &c., a sum sufficient for necessary annual repairs; on income from any mining or manufacturing business the rent (if rented) cost of labor actually hired, and raw material; on incomes from navigating enterprises, the hire of the vessels or allowance for wear and tear of the same, not exceeding ten per cent; on income derived from the sale of merchandize or any other property, the prime cost, cost of transportation, salaries of clerks and rent of building on incomes from any other occupation, the salaries of clerks, rent, cost of labor, material, &c.; and in case of mutual insurance companies the amount of loss paid by them during the year. Incomes derived from other sources are subject to no deduction whatever.

All joint stock companies and corporations shall pay one-tenth of the dividend and reserved fund annually if the annual earnings shall give a profit of more than ten and less than twenty per cent on capital stock, one-eighth to be paid; if more than twenty per cent, one-sixth. The tax to be collected on the 1st of January next and of each year thereafter.

A tax of ten per cent. on all profits in 1862 by the purchase and sale of flour, corn, bacon, pork, oats, hay, rice, salt, iron or the manufactures of iron, sugar, molasses made of cane, butter, woolen cloths, shoes, boots, blankets and cotton cloths. This is not to apply to regular retail business.

Each farmer after reserving for his own use fifty bushels sweet and fifty bushels Irish potatoes, one hundred bushels corn, or fifty bushels wheat, produced this year, shall pay and deliver to the Confederate Government one-tenth of the grain, potatoes, forage, sugar, molasses, cotton, wool and tobacco produced. After reserving twenty bushels peas or beans he shall deliver one-tenth thereof.

Every farmer, planter, or grazier, one-tenth of the hogs slaughtered by him, in cured bacon, at the rate of 60 pounds of bacon to 100 pounds of pork; one per cent upon the value of all neat, cattle, horses, mules not used in cultivation, and asses, to be paid by the owners of the same, beeves sold to be taxed as income.

Trustees, guardians, &c., are responsible for taxes due from estates, &c., under their control.

All hospitals, insane, deaf, and charitable asylums, churches, schools and colleges are exempt from taxation.

This act to be in force for two years from the expiration of the present year, unless sooner repealed; but the tax on naval stores, flour, wool, cotton, tobacco and other agricultural products of the growth of any year preceding 1863, imposed in the first section, shall be levied and collected only for the present year.

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool.—Solomon.

Better do and not promise, than promise and not do.

The 29th, 39th, and 60th N. C Regiments, have gone to Vicksburg.

WORTH REMEMBERING.—It is not what we earn but what we save, that makes us rich. It is not what we eat but what we digest that makes us fat. It is not what we read but what we remember, that makes us learned. All this is very simple but it is worth remembering.

IMPORTANT CIRCULAR FROM THE TREASURER.

We invite the attention of the Sheriffs, and citizens of the State generally to the following circular from Mr. Treasurer Worth. Mr. Worth's explanations of the condition of the Confederate issues are explicit and thorough, and contain in brief the reasons which rendered it indispensable that the legislature should be convened:—

TREASURER'S OFFICE,
Raleigh, N. C., June 18, 1863.

To the Sheriffs and Tax Collectors of North-Carolina:

Under the act of the Confederate Congress of the 23d March last, relating to the funding of Confederate Treasury notes, these fundable notes are divided into three classes:

1. Those dated prior to December 1st, 1862.
2. Those dated between 1st December, 1862, and 6th April, 1863.
3. Those dated on and after 6th April, 1863.

The first class is fundable in 7 per cent. bonds until the 1st August next, after which they are not fundable at all.

The second class are also fundable in 7 per cent. bonds until the 1st August next, after which they are fundable in 4 per cents.

The third class are fundable for one year from the first day of the month printed in red ink across the face of them in 6 per cent. bonds; after which they are fundable in 4 per cents.

The faith of the Confederate government is pledged for the ultimate payment of these issues, and all of them are receivable in payment of taxes and other dues to the Confederate government at any time.

At the time this act of Congress passed, the vast amount of this currency in circulation had cheapened its value, and the further issues which were unavoidable, were likely to produce ruinous depreciation.

The policy of Congress to remedy the present and prospective evil, seems to have been, to diminish the amount of circulation, and the plans to effect this end were:—

1. To induce the holders of the issues then out, (to wit, the first and second classes,) to fund them by the 1st of August next, by allowing till that date a liberal rate of interest.
2. To have a new issue out, the third class, by the first day of August, fundable at a higher rate of interest than the old issues, which would depreciate the value of these old issues, thus operating on the holders of the old issues to fund them, both by the hope of gain and the fear of loss.
3. By the collection of a tax which it is supposed will absorb one hundred and twenty-five millions.
4. To prevent a future redundancy of the currency by limiting the new issues to fifty millions per month, and supplying the army with provisions by a tax in kind.

The Legislature of Virginia, with a view, as I presume, to co-operate in carrying out the views of Congress, and to protect her Treasury, immediately passed an act providing that only the third class of issues should be received in payment of taxes due to that state; and more recently, the Banks of Richmond, no doubt with the same objects, have resolved not to receive on deposit the issues of the first class. The Banks of Petersburg and Lynchburg, and of the other Southern States, so far as I know, still receive all the issues; but whether they will continue to do so, after the 1st of August, I have been unable to ascertain.

The second section of ordinance No. 35, February session of our Convention, compels you to receive any Confederate notes in payment of taxes, and gives me no power to forbid you to receive any class of it; and as it may turn out that the effect of the act of Congress may be to make one or both the first mentioned classes of notes uncurrent after the first of August, whereby the State and County Treasuries may be supplied with unavailable money, the Governor, with advice of his Council, has ordered an extra session of the General Assembly to convene on the 30th inst., to consider and decide what ought to be done

[See fourth page]