

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

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

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WADESBORO', N. C.

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PUBLIC MEETING.

The people of Anson will assemble in the Court House, on Tuesday next, to deliberate on matters touching the interests of the county and State.

On Saturday, at early candle light, there will be preaching in the Baptist Church in this place, and on the Sabbath following at 11 o'clock. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated. Rev. J. E. Morrison will officiate.

"Quis" next week.

The Yankees have got Morris Island. Fort Wagner was evacuated, guns spiked, and men and munitions saved.

It requires a braver man to advocate peace than to make war.—*Rat. Standard.*

That depends upon circumstances. Now, if a man advocates war, with intent simply to keep out of it himself, or that he may take advantage of circumstances and prey upon the necessities of the poor—that man is both a coward and a villain. That it requires very little bravery to advocate war, we have abundant illustration in the examples of those who so persistently insisted upon the present war, and who have managed so adroitly to stay at home. There is a wide difference between advocating [or making] war, and facing the dangers and privations of war. He who honestly makes or advocates war, will not shrink from its penalties, and those who are not honest—will. The honest advocate is a brave man—the dishonest advocate—a coward.

On the other hand, the advocate of peace may be a brave man—braver than the advocate of war. It depends upon the motive. If the motive be a personal one, he is not entitled to the appellation of brave. If the advocate of peace is sincerely desirous to save the effusion of blood, and bring back to a struggling people all the blessings of peace, and if he discreetly advocate, and show how peace can be obtained, he is a patriot, a gentleman, and a scholar, and will deserve and receive the thanks of the whole people. But, if, in the midst of war—a war most unrighteous and oppressive on the part of our enemies—a war of professed extermination, monstrous, bestial, and bloody, seeking to wipe us out as a free people and to make us the slaves of our servants—a war unsought by us, which we tried to avoid, and used all honorable means of avoiding, and which we are now continuing, to avoid these terrible evils—but which we are ready to cease whenever our enemies will let us alone—if, we say, under such circumstances, a man advocate peace and fail to show how that peace is to be brought about in an honorable way, and at the same time profess that he wants no other than an honorable peace, while all his efforts tend to encourage the enemy and discourage our own people—that man may be physically brave, but he is morally a coward, because he fears to do right.

It is easy—it scarcely requires an effort to swim with the current; but the truly brave man buffets the waves, and labors against wind and tide to bring the barque to the desired haven.—*Rat. Standard.*

The good Book tells us, that we must not go with the multitude to do evil. The Captain of a vessel was once boarded, far out at sea, as he was approaching a dangerous coast. As the vessel neared the harbor the Captain's suspicions were aroused, and he closely questioned the pilot as to his knowledge of the coast and the channels. "Oh," said the pilot, "be easy, I know every rock on the coast—[just then the ship struck] and by St. Patrick, that's one of them." It is one thing to know the rocks, and another, to know how to avoid them.

He is brave who, under all circumstances, does right.—*Standard.*

Ah! that's the man for all times—especially the present. But what shall be said of a man who

"Knows the best and yet the worst passages."

A man may know the rocks and quicksands of navigation—but if he knows not how to avoid them—he is not fit to pilot the ship of State. The man who does right under all circumstances! where is he? Who is he? Does he edit a paper?—*old he did!*

"Shall the sword devour forever?"—*Standard.*

God forbid. The *Standard* is unhappy, we think, in its citation from Holy Writ, in holding up Abner as its hero. God had sent his servant, Samuel, to anoint David, king of Israel. David was on the Lord's side. Abner, in fighting against David, the Lord's anointed, fought against God. God was with the armies of Israel, and Job was victorious. Abner, was defeated, and was flying from the field, when he said to Job "shall the sword devour forever?" Job is clearly the hero, here, for though victorious, and pursuing the routed foe, no sooner had Abner spoken the words, than he blew his trumpet and stopped the pursuit. Job was not the aggressor, but he was the victor, and magnanimously yielded to the request for peace. Abner was a stirrer up of strife. After the death of Saul, but for him there would have been no war, and David would have then entered upon his long and prosperous reign. But he stirred up strife and thus inaugurated a long war, and, because of an accusation brought against him by Ishboshe'h, the son of Saul, whom he wanted to make king, he betrayed his trust, traitorously deserted his friends, and went over to their enemies. Abner may have been a brave man in the field—but he was a traitor—a moral coward—he had not courage to do right, for we cannot admit that *treason* is right. But where is the parallel? Is the *Standard* the Abner of this war?

Garibaldi has published a letter addressed to Abraham Lincoln, liberator of slaves in Republican America. He compares him to the Son of God and John Brown.—*Northern paper.*

And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon. But they came with one accord to him, and having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace, because their country was nourished by the king's country.*

And upon a set day, Herod arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

And the people gave a shout, saying, it is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

[XIIth chapter of the Acts.]

Will such blasphemy go unpunished? Can a cause, which such blasphemy as this subserves, be successful? If the people of the South would only put their trust in the God of battles and do their duty—they would soon be free.

*A very good reason for desiring peace. Now, if the South was nourished by the North, there would be some sense in desiring peace and reconstruction. But the history of the past shows that the North, even in times of peace, was a vampire to the South, sucking her substance and draining her resources, and now that she is doing all she can to destroy us utterly, men, calling themselves North Carolinians, are tempted by the devil to throw themselves into their embraces, and become Northern slaves, rather than fight like men, to earn independence.

The people of North Carolina, though desirous of peace, do not intend or expect to obtain it by revolutionizing their own Government. Though always opposed to war, they were compelled to accept of war as the only alternative for a degrading and servile submission to the unjust rule of a tyrannical, sectional, fanatical majority—the alternative (as truly and forcibly put by the *Standard*) of fighting for our whole brother of the South, or our half brother of the North—a cruel necessity—yet a necessity forced upon us by the North. Lincoln called upon North Carolina for her quota of the 75,000 men to suppress the rebellion! Her response was promptly given, and by that response, the fate—the doom of the United States was irrevocably sealed. That once proud Republic passed away into history, among the things that were. It no longer existed; nor will it ever exist again. In its stead are two governments—that over which Mr. Lincoln presides—resembling only in name the old Union—and that over which Mr. Davis presides, a government regularly organized and put into successful operation, with the sanction and co-operation of North Carolina. As to its merits, or its defects, or the faults of its administration, it were worse than useless now to inquire. The people of North Carolina, through their duly appointed agents, have solemnly pledged themselves to its support, and nobly have they redeemed their pledge thus far. But we hear, now and then, some desponding spirit whispering—"If we could get sufficient guarantees, we would consent to reconstruction." Reconstruction! that is simply impossible! the old U. S. Government is gone, finally and forever. True, it is possible to submit, or rather consent to subjugation! Sufficient

guarantee! What kind of guarantees could the North offer, that would be a sufficient security to the South? Amendments of the Constitution! Is there any man so simple as to suppose a written Constitution of any value, standing in the way of a fanatical, unscrupulous, higher law majority of the North? Let our sad experience of the past answer? What are those rights required to be secured to the South? rights in the great public domain—equality in public improvements and expenditure—commercial equality—the right to regulate and manage her domestic institutions in her own way, and to be protected therein by the Federal Government. These are some of the rights of the South which her honor and her interest demand to be secured, if we consent to reconstruction. He who has read aright the history of this country for the past ten or fifteen years at least, cannot fail to have seen, as if written in letters of living light, that the North and South can never again live together under a constitution of sectional equality, and the South be secure in those rights. We know by experience, that the North cannot be trusted, when they have the power. Under a constitution based upon equality of rights and representation, it is to be expected that the power—the controlling power of the Federal Government—that is, the executive, legislative and judicial—authority will occasionally pass into the hands of the North? What then becomes of our rights when thus in the hands of a people who openly recognize a law higher than the Constitution, and who are blinded by fanaticism—and what is equally dangerous, an irreconcilable sectional interest, an interest totally antagonistic to the interest of the South? Of what avail then is our constitutional guarantee? If, then, the North cannot safely be trusted with the reigns of government, it follows necessarily that the only sufficient guarantee, upon a reconstruction, would be such amendments of the Constitution as would secure to the South the perpetual control of the government in all its departments—executive, legislative, and judicial. Can such amendments be obtained? Certainly not. Even the North would feel disgraced by agreeing to such terms. Hence we say, reconstruction is simply, palpably impossible; and again also repeat, that submission, or rather quiescent subjugation, is possible. If this be so, then what folly, what madness and self-delusion was, in the midst of a life and death struggle for our dearest rights, to talk about reconstruction! Let it be remembered, that as a government and a people, at the outset of this conflict, we sought by every honorable means to avoid war; we almost begged for peace; we only asked to be let alone; and during its whole continuance we have sought no conquests, struck no blow to avenge, but only in defence; we are stricken and we strike back—even while we strike we still say let us alone and we will let you alone; and yet, our cruel enemies press upon us with the avowed purpose to exterminate us, or hold us in subjection by means of negro taskmasters and negro governors. Reconstruction! Has the spirit of liberty fled the haunts of men? We answer, No. That spirit still moves among the men of the South, and, in proud defiance, humbly trusting in a Higher Power, says to the North, "We will live by you as neighbors, because we can't help ourselves; as members of the same family, NEVER!"

All business men and other citizens in the Confederacy should set themselves at work, steadily and deliberately to counteract the depreciation of the currency on account of its redundancy. No man's property is really worth any more because he places five or ten prices on it, and those who pay five or ten prices, when, by investing in Government bonds, or by loaning their money to the Government on call, they may, in a comparatively short time, realize such an interest on their loans as will make every dollar worth so much gold, (or even half so much,) are actually throwing their money into the streets.

We understand that on Tuesday last quite a serious affair occurred near the house of Col. Coble of the 67th regiment militia, in the Southeast part of this county. As we learn the particulars, a party of deserters were passing through the neighborhood, and the Colonel with a small force of his neighbors attempted to arrest them. The deserters were armed, and regular firing ensued. Two of the deserters were killed, and three captured. The others made their escape. Col. Coble was slightly wounded.

Greensboro' Patriot, Sept. 3d.

The editors return their most grateful acknowledgments to the gentleman who recently paid his year's subscription to the Patriot with two sacks of flour, worth in each sack. This is a specimen of liberality most remarkable in these days of speculation and extortion, and commends itself for the emulation of people generally.—*Greensboro' Patriot, Sept. 3d.*

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

MACON, Aug. 31.—A great fire occurred in Thomaston, commencing Saturday night at ten. Three sides of the public square were destroyed, two public houses, the Thomaston hotel and Webb's hotel were burnt. The printing office of the Union Pilot was burnt. The post office, a large quantity of Government corn and some wheat were lost; the bacon was mostly saved. Two hundred and thirty bales of cotton were burnt and the whole business part of the town is in ruins, except two small stores. The work of an incendiary. The loss is estimated at three hundred thousand dollars.

[For the Argus.]

The condition of public sentiment in North Carolina, at the present time, is causing much anxiety, not only in this State, but in the whole Confederacy, and no true and enlightened friend of the Southern States, and especially of North Carolina, can contemplate without feelings of mingled grief and alarm, the present unhappy difference of sentiment among the people with regard to prosecuting the war. Only a few weeks ago the whole mass of the people seemed to be perfectly united and inspired with the full purpose and unalterable determination to make good their unanimous declaration made in Raleigh, on the 20th of May, 1861, that the State of North Carolina is and shall forever be free from the yoke of Yankee tyranny. Now there seems to be arising a party of misguided men whose only platform is a series of petty complaints against our general Government, and a silly clamoring for a cessation of hostilities and peace, while the schemes by which they pretend to hope to secure these results are so absurd and puerile as to merit the ridicule of the most ignorant. It is peculiarly lamentable that such a state of things should exist just at this crisis. The people of the northern States had despaired of being able to subdue us by force of arms; discouragement, disaffection and demoralization, had shown themselves in the camps of their armies; dissensions, and distrust in the present administrators of their Government, and a violent opposition to the orders of their President had begun to manifest themselves—recruits could not be obtained to fill the thinned and shattered ranks of their armies—a very large portion of the Northern people had become so anxious for peace as the most clamorous amongst us can be, and that on any terms that we have ever demanded—and the present Administrators of the United States Government, who had already strained every nerve and every means both lawful and unlawful to accomplish our overthrow, and had most signally failed, were pressing their subjects to the utmost extent of their endurance, that they might work out the remaining eighteen months of their administration, and maintain during that period, in its present gigantic proportions, the war which they had begun with such boastful threats to us, and promises to their subjects, that the odium of abandoning the contest might fall upon the shoulders of their successors. At the expiration of this period, if the people of the South would but stand firm and maintain their determination to secure their rights and independence at every hazard, this mighty scheme for our subjugation must inevitably crumble and fall to the ground with its own weight. But now our enemies have from North Carolina the very encouragement they have long wished for and predicted—an evidence that our people are disposed to relax their efforts in vigorously prosecuting the war, and are becoming dissatisfied with their newly adopted Government. On every Southern breeze there is wafted to the delighted ears of every demon-like enemy of our sunny home, the cry of peace! peace!! give us peace now, lest we lose what property is now left us, and at the same time a whining and growling at Jeff Davis about his appointments, threatening to tear up things generally if he does not undo certain things at their dictation. Nothing can do so much to uphold the hands of Abraham Lincoln as the action of which these peace men are guilty. He can now hold out to his people that they are beginning to realize the fulfillment of his promise that the people of the South would soon become tired of the war, dissatisfied with their new government, and discordant amongst themselves, and their subjugation would then be an easy work. The most ignorant is sufficiently acquainted with human nature to know that this will reanimate the war spirit of the North, give fresh courage and vigor to the war party, smooth down the opposition of the advocates of peace, and cause them to yield to the favorable circumstances and flattering prospects of the party in power, give them confidence in the Lincoln policy and thus cause us to have again a united nation to contend with. The same cause will influence their army in the field to renew its efforts and recover its lost laurels—recruiting will again become, as in the beginning of the war, an easy work, the recruits believing now as then, that our subjugation will be only a pleasant amusement—a holiday excursion to the land of Dixie. The United States Government strove hard to bolster up its waning fortunes, and give encouragement to its armies and people at home by boasting of the fall of Vicksburg and publishing lying reports about driving Gen. Lee from Pennsylvania and Maryland, with his army in a demoralized rout; but their false hopes built upon this foundation had vanished like all their previous fond imaginations, when their Generals saw themselves confronted at every point by a bold and defiant band of rebels, so that instead of marching in triumph to Richmond and other desired points, they have deemed it prudent to fall back to their strong positions to await further reinforcements. But the publication of these peace resolutions and complaints against our Government