

State Library

ACTS OF THE LAST LEGISLATURE.

AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF THE WIVES AND FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS IN THE ARMY.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, That the sum of one million of dollars to be paid in Treasury notes of the State of North Carolina, in addition to the appropriation heretofore made in that behalf, be and the same is hereby appropriated for the support of the wives and families of the indigent soldiers of this State, whether in the service of the State or Confederate governments; or whether killed in battle or dying in the military service of the country, such sum to be distributed among the several counties of the State as heretofore, according to white population, as ascertained by the Census of 1860.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That the quota of each county shall be paid to the County Commissioner or County Trustee of the same, according to the provisions of the act of the General Assembly ratified the 10th day of February, 18-3, entitled "An act for the relief of the wives and families of soldiers in the army," and shall be applied to the support of the wives and families of the soldiers of this State, as above enumerated according to the rules and regulations which have been or may be prescribed by the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of each county.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That when any family of a soldier, as aforesaid, shall have removed from the county of his residence, since the commencement of the war, and shall have acquired a residence in another county, they shall be considered residents of the last county; and receive a share of such distribution accordingly.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That in addition to the foregoing appropriation, the sum of three thousand dollars is hereby appropriated to be paid by the Public Treasurer as aforesaid to the County Commissioners in those Counties in which are resident the families of Indian warriors, who have rendered service to the Confederate States in the present war, for distribution among them according to the provisions herein before made in the case of white persons.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from its ratification.

Read three times and ratified in General Assembly the 14th day of December, 1863.

R. S. DONNELL, S. H. C. GILES MEBANE, S. S.

AN ACT TO RESTORE THE COURTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That there shall hereafter be two terms of the Superior Courts of Law and Equity for each county in the State, to be held at the times prescribed in chapter 31, sections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the Revised Code, and by an act entitled "An act to establish the eighth judicial circuit and for other purposes," ratified the 12th day of December, 1862.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That said Superior Courts of Law shall have jurisdiction to try and determine all actions of tort, under the rules and regulations which existed prior to the passage of an act, entitled "An act to change the jurisdiction of the Courts and the rules of pleading therein," ratified the 11th day of September, 1861, and all process hereafter to be issued in such actions and in all criminal proceedings, shall be made returnable in like manner and under the same penalties as were prescribed prior to the passage of said act: Provided, that no suits in debt, assumpsit, or account shall be tried before said Courts by virtue of any jurisdiction conferred by this act.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That all process in the said actions and criminal proceedings from said Courts hereafter issued and made returnable to the Fall Term, 1864, of said Courts, shall be deemed and to be returnable to the Spring Term 1864, of said Courts, respectively.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That so much of said act of Sept. 11th, 1861, as applied to the rules of pleadings in cases of bills for injunction and sequestration, and petitions for sale or partition of land be and the same is hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, That there shall hereafter be two terms of the Supreme Court to be held in the City of Raleigh on the second Monday in June, and the thirtieth day of December, or on the day after, in case the thirtieth day be Sunday.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, That the County Courts shall have jurisdiction to try and determine all cases of contested wills.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, That all laws coming in conflict with the provisions of this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

Read three times and ratified in General Assembly, the 14th day of Dec., A. D., 1863.

R. S. DONNELL, S. H. C. GILES MEBANE, S. S.

AN ACT CONCERNING SLAVE LABOR ON PUBLIC WORKS.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the first section of chapter 16 of an act concerning "Public Works," ratified 20th December, 1862, entitled an "Act to authorize the Governor to employ slave labor in erecting fortifications and other works," is hereby amended by inserting the word "male" before the word "slaves," and after the word "slave," "between the ages of eighteen and forty-five," so that the section may read as follows: "That the Governor shall have power and authority to compel the services of any number of [male] slaves between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years," &c.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Read three times and ratified in General Assembly, the 12th day of Dec., A. D., 1863.

R. S. DONNELL, S. H. C. GILES MEBANE, S. S.

RETALIATION.—The following is a copy of the letter sent to the Federal General, Wilde, by the Colonel commanding the forces on Blackwater, relative to the late measures of retaliation adopted by our military authorities in Eastern North Carolina:

HEADQUARTERS FORCES ON BLACKWATER, FRANKLIN, VA., JANUARY, 1864. General Wilde, Commanding Colored Brigade, Norfolk, Virginia.

Sir: Probably no expedition during the progress of the war, has been attended with more utter disregard for the long established usages of civilization, or the dictates of humanity, than was your late raid into the Albemarle.

Your stay, though short, was marked by crimes and enormities. You burned houses over the heads of defenceless women and children, carried off private property of every description, arrested non-combatants, and carried off ladies in irons, whom you confined with negro men. Your negro troops fired on Confederates after they had surrendered, and they were only saved by the exertions of the more humane of your white officers.

Last, but not least, under the pretext that he was a guerrilla, you hanged Daniel Bright, a private of company L, sixty-second Georgia regiment (cavalry,) forcing the ladies and gentlemen whom you held in arrest to witness the execution. Therefore, I have obtained an order from the General commanding for the execution of Samuel Jones, a private of company B, Fifth Ohio; whom I hang in retaliation. I hold two more of your men—in irons—as hostages for Mrs. Weels and Mrs. Mundin. When these ladies are released these men will be relieved, and treated as prisoners of war.

"Col. JOEL R. GRIFFIN."

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

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

[2.] C. W. FENTON, EDITOR. [266.]

WADESBORO', N. C.

THURSDAY.....FEBRUARY 4, 1864.

Price of Subscription, \$3 per year.

ADVERTISING.—\$2.00 per square of ten lines for first insertion and \$1.50 for each subsequent insertion. For inserting only one time, \$2. Obituaries over five lines one dollar per square.

Please see advertisement of the Assessors of Anson, and, especially, note, citizens of Smith's, Gum Spring, Burnsville, and Beverly's beats, that you are to meet them at the nearest appointment.

If the County Court was in possession of some facts that have lately come to our knowledge, we think it would get rid of its supineness, and act promptly and generously in behalf of the poor. A hint to the wise, &c.

FIFTH SUNDAYS.—The Rev. J. E. Morrison preaches in Wadesboro' on the second and fourth Sundays in each month. On the first and third Sundays at Mineral Springs. The fifth Sundays he reserves to himself, preaching at the Springs, Wadesboro', or elsewhere as the necessity of the case may determine. Last Sunday was the fifth, which he gave to the Church at the Springs. Next Sunday being the first in the month, he will according to the arrangement, preach at the Springs, and on the Sunday following at Wadesboro', and thereafter, in due course. Consequently there will be no preaching at Temperance Hall on next Sunday, it being the first. Services may be expected in the Hall on the second and fourth Sundays, during the year 1864.

THE TITHE GRAIN

Has anything been done towards securing the tithe grain for the county. If not, it is high time something was done. It is the only hope for the poor. Will the Commissioner of taxes order a re-assessment for this county? We hope he will. As the law stands the tithe payer can hold on to his grain by paying fifty per cent., in which event, the people will have to pay whatever price holders demand. If there is a re-assessment, the Government will hold the grain and dispose of it, when necessary, at a lower price than it can be had of those who will hold it up, as they are now doing, for high, higher, highest prices.

There is no doubt Mr. Badham will sell if application be made to him, and the necessity of the case clearly state. What is done, should be done quickly, and well.

"HE THAT WITHHOLDETH CORN, THE PEOPLE SHALL CURSE HIM; BUT BLESSING SHALL BE UPON THE HEAD OF HIM THAT SELLETH IT."—Proverbs XI, 26.

That is, "He that hoardeth up corn in a time of scarcity, on purpose to raise the price."

[Bishop Patrick.]

The people shall curse him.

"Acts of prudent liberality do often, in their very nature, promote worldly wealth, but the heavenly riches they never fail to increase. Whereas, the niggard, by his very covetous and unjust practices, as often brings himself to poverty. This, at least, is certain, the more any man withholdeth of what he ought to spend for the benefit of himself and others, still the poorer he is; for no man is so poor as he who does no good with what he hath."—Wogan.

"The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered himself."—Proverbs XI, 25.

The liberal "soul," or the liberal "man;" "soul" being often in Hebrew put for "man."—Dr. Wells.

"Shall be made fat," or rich; and he that "watereth," or giveth plentifully to others, shall be watered, or, receive plentifully from God himself."—Dr. Wells.

This is God's word, and we have appended the comments of Bishop Patrick, Wogan, and Dr. Wells, three ministers of the Gospel, abundantly qualified to explain and expound the Scriptures. There is no getting over the fact—for God has spoken it—that "he that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him—but blessings shall be upon the head of him that sells it" not at extortionate, but liberal prices. "The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered himself." Lay these things to heart, we pray you, and act like christians—not like Hottentots.

Capt. S. P. Caldwell, of Cabarrus county, N. C., was drowned in Coddle creek on the 12th inst.

"MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN, MAKES COUNT-LESS THOUSANDS MOURN."

It would seem as though opportunity, only, was wanting, to demonstrate the truth of the heading of this article. It was always true, There has not been a time since the fall of Adam, when it was not true. It is especially and fearfully true in these latter days. A few years since, the men who now look upon distress and suffering without emotion—the men who now, in the presence of biting want, button up their pockets and double lock their cribs and smoke-houses—would have cried for very vexation had they not had the means of alleviating the distress, which now they mock and laugh at. We account for it on the principle laid down by the poet—

"Vice is a monster of such hideous mien,
That, to be hated, needs but to be seen—
But, seen too oft—familiar with its face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

We admit that familiarity with scenes of danger and distress produces callousness and indifference in man to a greater or less extent, depending upon the state or condition of the individual. Thus, man, in a natural state, will become utterly hardened and indifferent to sights and sounds of physical suffering, by familiarity with them. But this, we affirm, is true, mainly, of the natural man, whose heart has not been touched by grace—who goes not to the source of light and strength—who is without God and without hope—who looks upon this world as here

"Be-all and the end-all here.

And who, upon this bank and shoal of time,
Does jump the life to come."

But while we admit this of the unrenewed man, we maintain that it ought not to be, is not, and cannot be the case with the christian. It is morally impossible. We wish to be understood. There is a vast difference between profession and principle. Profession is not possession. Were every professor of religion a christian, we should not have been cursed with this war. Christianity is the same everywhere. Its great feature is love to God and man. God supremely. His neighbor as himself. This is its essence. Now where there is christianity, there must be love. Where there is love, there will be no suffering that love can mitigate. Nor apply the rule, and it will not be hard to distinguish between the mere professor and the bona fide christian.

Who are these whose hearts are callous, and whose ears are deaf to the calls of charity? Who have bread in store, and will not part with it, albeit there is distress and poverty all around them! Are they christians? By their fruits ye shall know them. The fruit of the spirit is love. Professors they may be—christians, No.

We believe that our present troubles were sent to distinguish professors from possessors—that they were sent, especially, on account of the church—that they who walk by faith might be distinguished from those who walk by sight—who have no faith—who are satisfied with a name to live—who have no religion, and never had—hypocrites, dissemblers.

Zion should now arise and shine, and appear in her beautiful robes, and show that her light has come. She is being (or ought to be) purified. Certainly, the time for her purification has come? How is it with the church? Is her light shining? No. She is in darkness. Her candle has been removed. She is swallowed up of hypocrisy. Professors outnumber possessors. Is anything being done toward her purification? When the prophet Jonah took ship to avoid the command of God, God pursued that ship, and every man on board was in danger of his life because one christian had neglected his duty and found refuge among a heathen crew. The storm was sent on account of that one man. When Jonah was cast overboard the storm ceased. So of his church in this day. The storm that is now desolating our land and wasting so many precious lives, was sent, not on account of the heathen among us, nor yet on account of the hypocrites in the church—but on account of the church herself and it is incontrovertible evidence that God has a church in this land, and it is also evidence that the storm will rage, and blood flow, and devastation continue, until the church is purged of hypocrisy. The sooner then, the work of expurgation begins, the better it will be for the church, for the people, for the country.

Zion cannot shine. Her light is obscured by the clouds of hypocrisy. She is obscured by the light of the world—that is, non-professors of the religion of Jesus Christ—men of the world—from whom nothing was to be expected, are living out the christian character—acting more like christians, than those who profess to be christians. They are doing more for the poor and for soldier's families than those who profess to love Christ, and who have publicly confessed his name, and united themselves with his church. Thus the world is overshadowing the church. Verily, it shall be more tolerable, in the day of judgment for the world, than for the professed people of God—the members of the church.

GENEROUS ACTION OF GOV. VANCE.

Gov. Vance, of North Carolina, has kindly offered General Longstreet enough clothing to supply his command. It is to be hoped that a liberal contribution of socks and gloves will be sent forward by private individuals, as much suffering can thereby be prevented.

A countryman was knocked down by a slung shot on one of the principal streets in Richmond a short time since. The attempt to assassinate was made at the early hour of 9 o'clock and the moon shining almost as bright as day. The countryman was only partially stunned by the blow, and drew his revolver and fired on the four ruffians who made the attempt to rob and murder him, when they fled.

For the Argus.

MR. EDITOR—DEAR SIR: Will you permit me, through your column, to speak a word to Alpha? Why does he presume to shape our private and domestic affairs to suit his taste? Is he infallible, or might he not commit an error in such an extensive business! Dost thou think, Oh, Alpha! that the people have all been metamorphosed into wax figures or weather-cocks, to be moulded into any shape or shifted by every popular breeze! As I feel somewhat poetical, on this occasion, you will excuse me for writing a few lines in rhyme for your consideration:

Observe the envious and malicious man,
Projecting all the mischief that he can—
When fair policies will not prevail,
He will use foul rather than fall.
Dear sir, why wilt thou meddling be
In others business, which concerns not thee?
For while thereon thou dost extend thy cares,
Thou dost, at home, neglect thy own affairs!
And if thou would'st write for men of sense,
Do lay aside such base impertinence.

OMEGA.

THE NUMBER OF DECEASED SOLDIERS.

RICHMOND, Jan. 25.—The number of soldiers that have been killed and died in the service from each State may somewhat be approximated from the following:

To 31st Dec. last the following number of applications had been filed in the 2d Auditor's office by widows and orphans of deceased soldiers: Virginia 2,945; North Carolina 8,261; South Carolina 4,511; Georgia 9,054; Alabama 8,060; Texas 1,224; Tennessee 871; Florida 561; Arkansas 861; Louisiana 327, and Mississippi 3,270.

General Orders No. 80, issued 13th October, 1862, required that commanders of companies, immediately on the death of a soldier, shall make out and forward to the 2d Auditor a descriptive list showing the name, when and where enlisted, from what cause he died, and when last paid.

Surgeons in charge of Hospitals are also required to make similar reports of all soldiers who die.

The following number had been reported up to the 31st Dec. last: Virginia 5,943; North Carolina 7,962; South Carolina 2,900; Alabama 8,987; Tennessee 2,839; Florida 1,119; Arkansas 1,948; and Texas 6,377. These returns show a great deal of negligence by Captains and Surgeons in reporting the deaths of soldiers.

The New York Times comments very rationally on the proposition to march one million of Yankees into the South. It would take three months to get a million of men mustered into the service, three months longer to drill and brigade them, and require thirty-six thousand officers, who cannot be found.

"Considering the state of the South, however, it would seem wise for our crusaders to take at least a million of sheep with them to cook as they went along, and it would be well for every man to drive his own animal.

They would be sure to die like cockroaches before they ever got near the enemy. And we need hardly say, that when they did get to him, ten thousand such troops as Generals Lee or Johnston's command would be a match for one hundred thousand of them, and would readily drive that number off the field in utter rout.

The sole result of his "grand uprising" would, therefore, probably be the desolation of some hundred thousand Northern homes, and the leaving down South in the hands of Jeff. Davis' ragamuffins, one million muskets, one million hats and coats, and pocket handkerchiefs, several hundred tons of pie and hard tack, and we were going to add, one million pair pantaloons; but, we believe, that our fugitives stick to their pantaloons as well as their pantaloons to them, even in the wildest rout. In a word, no force can carry either food or clothing to the Richmond captives except a highly disciplined, well organized and perfectly manageable one, led by able and experienced officers.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs, know this, so they will of course not waste much time over the consideration of Mr. Howe's bill.

A COMPLIMENT TO THE NORTH CAROLINA SOLDIERS.

A minister, who has returned from a visit to the army of Northern Virginia, gives the following: He called at the house of a gentleman, stating his name, profession and place of residence, and soliciting food and shelter for the night. The reply was highly honorable to our brave soldiers. "Even if I could turn away a preacher," said the gentleman, "I could not refuse to take in a North Carolinian. When the soldiers from your State were encamped on my premises they committed no depredations. I missed no poultry, hogs or cattle, and though my fences were much nearer than the woods, they invariably left my fences uninjured. I need not tell you that I have received different treatment from the soldiers of other States; nor can I ever forget the gallant North Carolinians." This is indeed a high compliment to our brave boys, from one who has a right to speak, and we hope they will never prove unworthy of the reputation which they have earned.—Biblical Recorder.

The "State Journal," published at Raleigh, has been sold by Mr. Spelman, the former Editor and proprietor, to A. M. Gorman & Co. The publication of the paper will be continued in Raleigh under the name of "The Confederate"—"which," says the new proprietor, "will be significant of its political complexion."

Mr. Gorman is a native of Raleigh, and is a printer and Editor by profession, having published the "Spirit of the Age" for the past 15 or 20 years. He is a well-informed man and a good writer, and will, no doubt, make an interesting and valuable paper, and do good service for the Confederate cause.

CONCLUSION TO THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER.—The author of the Star Spangled Banner omitted the last verse of that once celebrated song. Here it is:

Farewell to that flag, though long it hath waved,
The pride of our land, and the world's admiration;
Now sullied and shorn, its supports enslaved,
It flauts but to tell of its own desecration;
Accused be the name
That hath covered with shame,
That flag, once the emblem of glory and fame,
For the Star Spangled Banner no longer doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The small pox is rapidly on the increase in Wilmington.