

State Library

HORRIBLE MURDER.

We learn from Mr. O. F. Alexander, that on the 24th of February last, his negro girl Sarah Jane, left his premises without any cause, and he supposed she had gone to Newbern. On Friday last, the 18th of March, he was informed that a free negro, called John Shavers, had carried her off. That night two of his neighbors and himself went to look Shavers up, and luckily succeeded in taking him. On examining him he said that he had carried the girl off to the edge of Onslow county and left her in a piece of woods, in Mr. Seth King's field, he being at the time hired at some Salt Works near by. Mr. Alexander kept Shavers secure until Saturday morning, when he made his escape, carrying off a trace chain locked around his ankles. Mr. Alexander repaired to the place Shavers had described to him where he left the girl, and about 150 yards from the road, with some friends, found the dead body of the girl covered over with limbs, straw, etc. Her head was separated from the body—by her side lay a lightwood limb, from which most probably the unfortunate girl received the fatal blow.

A jury of inquest was called, and their verdict was, "that Sarah Jane came to her death by a blow or blows inflicted on the back of her head by the hands of John Shavers."

A reward of \$100 is offered for his arrest.

[Wm. Journal, 26th.

ATTEMPTED HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—An attempt at highway robbery and murder was made upon the person of an old gentleman, Mr. Woodman Sidbury, on Saturday last, while he was on his way from Wilmington to his home in Topsail Sound. It appears that two men in soldiers' uniforms, accosted him in the public road, and demanded his money, which he refused to give up, when the fiends struck him several severe blows on the head with a club, thereby stunning him very severely and rendering him insensible. From some cause the culprits ceased their operations on the old gentleman without getting his money. He was still in his buggy insensible, and when he came to his senses he found that his horse had carried him near to a neighbor's on the Sound. He then succeeded in getting home, where his wounds were dressed. Mr. Sidbury is in a very critical situation, and there is considerable doubt of his recovery. We presume the matter will be fully investigated. We learn Mr. S. can identify the men. Mr. Sidbury is quite an old and feeble man, and it is a great wonder that he got home after having received at least four blows on his head with a club. The parties engaged in the outrage had first ascertained that he had no weapons. Their leaving him without consummating their purpose is, no doubt, due to their hearing some noise and fearing some one was coming.—Wm. Journal, 31st.

OUTRAGEOUS MURDER.

We are pained to announce, says the Raleigh Progress, 2d, that Mr. Gray Strickland, a worthy and industrious citizen of this county, living about six miles North of Raleigh, was murdered near his own house on Thursday or Thursday night. There are many rumors but no facts in reference to the foul deed. We suppose there is no doubt, however, but the deed was committed by a band of deserters that are lurking in that part of the county.

P. S. Since writing the above we have seen a gentleman who saw the body of Strickland yesterday, and from whom we learn the following facts: He was supposed to have been killed about 9 o'clock Thursday morning, while on his way from his residence to a plantation owned by him. The reports of the guns were heard by some of the neighbors and the exclamations of Strickland and his cries for help were heard by one or two persons, but no one was near enough to witness the horrible deed or to detect those who perpetrated it. The universal belief, however, is that the murder was committed by deserters who are lurking in the neighborhood. The body received three shots, either of which, in the opinion of medical men, would have caused death. The head was not mutilated as reported. We hope the facts will be ascertained and the guilty parties brought to justice.

EXCITING NEWS FROM GEN. FORREST.

ATLANTA, April 1st. Special to the Appeal, dated Grenada, 31st ult., says Memphis Bulletin 25th received. Steamer J. D. Perry arrived from above on the evening of the 27th, and the City of Alton this morning, bringing exciting news from Gen. Forrest. Late Friday evening last, when the Perry left, a dispatch just received, said Paducah city was on fire and fighting going on. The City of Alton left Saturday evening from above and confirmed the news—that Paducah was in ashes—fighting going on between the gunboats and rebels on shore. Pickets driven in.

The Mobile Tribune says that a gentleman arrived in that city on the 22d, bringing some cheering news of army affairs in Louisiana. We learn from him that all the yankee troops had left Madisonville and gone back to New Orleans, drawn thither, it is supposed, by necessities on that side of the Lake. A battle had taken place at Franklin, St. Mary's parish, in which the enemy was badly whipped. Our forces were led by Gen. Dick Taylor; those of the enemy by Gen. Franklin. What the extent of the loss was is not known, but it is reported that hundreds—one report says thousands—of the enemy's wounded were arriving at New Orleans. The gentleman who brought this news read the Picayune of the 11th inst., in which the loss of a battle at Franklin was acknowledged, although no details of it were given. Our readers recollect the rumors a few days ago of a battle in the Teche county in which it was reported that Gen. Taylor had beaten the enemy very recently. This may be a confirmation of that rumor.

A pretty well founded report from another source has been received, to the effect that Gen. Polignac had whipped Sherman at Trinity, in Louisiana. Also, that Gen. Price had driven the enemy out of Little Rock, Arkansas, and was in possession of that place. From the sources from which those reports come, the Mobile Register is inclined to give some credence to them.

FIVE DOLLAR NOTES.—The hoarders of five dollar notes will soon be glad to produce them and throw them into circulation. After the first of April they will be undesirable as compared with the new currency and the smaller notes; for they will all have to be funded in four per cents, prior to the 1st July, or submit to a tax of one-third. So the small note families will be ended in a few days, says the Sentinel.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

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

[8.] C. W. FENTON, EDITOR. [274.]

WADESBORO', N. C.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 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.

FOR GOVERNOR.

Z. B. VANCE.

ELECTION IN AUGUST NEXT.

It seems to us impossible that the people of North Carolina should think of preferring any man for Governor, over him whose name is printed at the head of this article. He has been our Governor for nearly two years. In that period he has done more for the State, the soldier, the soldiers' family, and the poor of the State generally, than it was expected even he could do, much as was expected of him when he entered upon the duties of his office.

As between him and the opposing candidate, there can be no doubt. We know Z. B. Vance. His acts speak for him—trumpet tongue, they sound his praises through the land. Nor Envy, nor Malice, with their foul and blistering tongues, have been able to detract aught from his well earned and nobly sustained reputation for honor, probity, and justice. Read his speeches—consider his acts. He is for peace—a constitutional peace. Holden says he is for peace, too. What sort of peace? Why, the very best he can get, which means—peace on any terms—if it means anything. Who can hesitate between the two?

"Three thousand ducts, for three months."—Shiplock.

The Government has consented that three thousand bushels of the tithe Corn may be sold in Anson, for the benefit of the poor. At the same time Government has in the county hundreds of used up horses, poor, maimed, spavined, and otherwise injured and broken down, to such an extent that it comes not within the range of probability that they will ever recover, (three or four died a few days since) to whom it is feeding the tithe corn and fodder of the county in profusion—wasteful profusion—for these horses, it is the opinion of good judges, can never be rendered capable of serving the Government again. Better knock them in the head, and sell the hides for \$25 each—indefinitely better than to waste upon their never to be resuscitated carcasses, the food that should go to sustain and comfort the families of the soldiers who are battling for liberty, and the poor generally. The Government horses in Wadesboro and Ansonville, consume (waste) sixty bushels of corn per day—420 bushels per week—nearly 3000 bushels in seven weeks. The reason is obvious, why the Government cannot afford to sell for distribution among the poor, more than 3000 bushels of corn!

We take the following from a letter, dated Tarboro' March 27. The writer says:

"Just as I close this another report comes that the Yankees have crossed ten thousand troops from Washington to Hill's Point, which looks as if they were going towards Kinston and Goldsboro'. I learn that Kemper's brigade was brought up from Wilmington to Goldsboro' yesterday."

There is that about all this, that looks wonderfully suspicious. It looks as though Lincoln intends to interfere in the coming elections in our State, to prevent a free expression of the wishes of the people, except so far as they may be inclined to favor his own creatures. Burnside's success at Roanoke and Newbern has induced the tyrant to send him again into our State, encouraged as he has been, by reports of disaffection, caused by the publication of peace meetings and secret communications with our enemies at Newbern. We commend him to the polite attention of General Pickett.

Amount of Confederate notes funded at Wadesboro', N. C., up to 1st April, five hundred and seventy-six thousand three hundred dollars.

IMPORTANCE OF SUCCESS IN THE SPRING CAMPAIGN.—If our gallant soldiers were not already sufficiently resolute and brave, the tone of the yankee papers would teach them how vitally important it is that we should triumph this Spring. The New York Herald says:—"If, with General Grant at the head and the struggle as it now is, we cannot put the rebellion down in the coming summer, we can never put it down. Never again, if we fail now, shall we be in so good a position to strike the decisive blow. Before another summer a Presidential election and an unparalleled political strife will tear the country to pieces with intestine quarrels."

Latest European news unimportant. In the House of Commons, Roebuck said he would be glad to see Federal shipping swept from the seas.

The Confederate States are stronger and more capable of continuing the struggle than they have ever been since the commencement of the war. Gold is declining, our currency is advancing in value, our people are united and confident, and our armies are blazing with enthusiasm.—Char. Courier.

SOLDIER'S HOME.—We learn that Dr. Neagle is making preparations for establishing a way-side Hospital at this place. We trust that the Doctor may soon have this valuable enterprise fully completed which will be to the great relief of the wearied soldier, on his journey.—Greens. Patriot.

MR. J. M. LEACH, LATE LIEUT. COLONEL.

We received this morning a letter from a gentleman of unquestionable character, says the Raleigh Confederate, 23d, who was not long since a Colonel of one of our regiments, in which he speaks in high terms of Col. Van H. Manning, of the 3rd Arkansas regiment, who wrote to this paper, a few days since, certain facts connected with the capture and imprisonment of Mr. Leach.

The gentleman who has addressed us to-day, had heard the same statement about Mr. Leach while in the army, from the lips of Lt. Col. Taylor. Our correspondent says he thinks Col. Van Manning may be mistaken somewhat as to the date, but that his recital of the facts is accurate. He also says that no officer within his association, has a brighter character for intelligence and gallantry than has Col. Van Manning. It will be seen from the statement, that Mr. Leach, after his capture, assured his captors of his "devotion to the Federal Union;" boasted that he was the last man in North Carolina to quit struggling for its cause; that he held himself ready at all times to renew his efforts in its behalf, when the opportune moment should arrive; that his language was so offensive to Lieut. Col. Taylor, that he denounced him and asked to be separated from him, which was done—Col. Taylor being closely confined, while Mr. Leach, late Lieut. Col., received privileges for his loyalty to the Federal "grid-iron."

We were not at all surprised at this news about Mr. Leach. Mr. Holden had some years ago given us a pretty fair estimate of this politician; and we neither saw nor heard anything of his career while Lt. Col. of Kirkland's regiment, materially to change our preconceived opinion. But it is well for the people of the Seventh district, to know, that here are responsible statements of an army officer of high character, who was confined with him, that he bought privileges that were denied to his associates; and at the expense of his associates, by disavowing his country and avowing his loyalty to the enemy.

There are thousands of privates captured on the bloody battle fields, who have pined within prison walls until their clothes have rotted on their backs, who have been tempted by the most alluring persuasions, and yet have kept their faith, spurning and scorning the offered bribe. If this be true of Mr. Leach, and we see no reason to doubt it, what will the people of the Seventh district say of it?

We commend his eulogist to Mr. Holden, and we accept, with gratitude in unmeasured stint, whatever of his denunciation was intended for us. Such dispraise is high encomium. But what does Mr. James Madison Leach, late Lieut. Col. of Kirkland's regiment, say to this charge? We wait his answer.

For the Argus.

Mr. Editor: Perhaps your readers may like to hear something of the canvass in the Seventh Congressional District, between Alfred G. Foster Esq., and General J. M. Leach. They are the only candidates now. The other two, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Waddell, have come down—and it is reported that they are giving their influence to Foster.

The General is not having as easy a time as he seemed to anticipate in the outset. "The people" will ask trouble some questions. They want to know if he is for Vance or Holden—if he is for or against a Convention—and how he stands on the war. He seems a little puzzled to know how to answer these questions to suit "the people." His "principles and views" are a good deal like the waters of the Mississippi—quite muddy. In fact, it is thought, when a man crosses that remarkably crooked river often, that his head gets so turned that he doesn't know whether he is going North or coming South. This being the case, we can't expect the General to tell us his choice for Governor, nor whether he is for or against a Convention. But the people rather suspect that he is against Gov. Vance, if he thinks that course will send him to Congress, and he is for the Convention, if that will gain him votes. But the General will find that a large majority of the people of the district will prefer the man that takes a manly, open position.

It is understood that the citizens of his own county, Davidson, are watching his course narrowly, and cannot reconcile his present course with his patriotic position in the beginning of the war. Then, he thought ours was a just cause—a holy cause—and appealed to the able-bodied men and the young men to join him in driving back the vandal foe—there should be no stint of blood nor treasure in defending our sacred cause. Now a change has come over the spirit of his dream. Now, when a brutal foe has made the land slippery with our best blood, and laid a fair land in ashes—now, that he is demanding that we kneel and let him put the manacles of subjugation and slavery upon us—the General thinks enough blood has been shed, enough treasure wasted, and that we must have a "Convention of all the States of the Continent," and that peace must be made with our loving "brethren" of the North. The people of Davidson and the district will look at these things and contrast his course with the plain, open course of Foster—who is a far better peace man than his competitor—and they will give Foster a majority.

OBSERVER.

*See announcement of Capt. N. A. Ramsay, of the army.

THE 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.—We learn that two of the candidates, Col. Wm. P. Taylor and M. Q. Waddell, Esqs. have withdrawn from the canvass in this District, and that Capt. N. A. Ramsay, of the army, has announced himself a candidate. So that the contest is between A. G. Foster, Esq., Capt. Ramsay, and Col. James M. Leach.—Patriot.

In the town of Wilmington says the Raleigh Confederate a meeting has lately been held, whose proceedings are a model of mutual forbearance on the differing political opinions for the sake of the country. Out of the resolutions there adopted, we subjoin a platform upon which every right-minded, loyal of North Carolina can stand and support Gov. Vance.

WHEREAS, It is at all times the right as well as the privilege of a free people to assemble together for consultation upon the affairs of the country and for the expression of their opinions in regard to public and public measures; AND WHEREAS, the present appears to us to be a time that calls for such consultation and demands such expression of opinion upon part of all those who are heartily devoted to the success of the Confederate States in the great struggle in which they are now engaged for the protection of their institutions and the assertion of their independence. Be it therefore,

Resolved, That we, a portion of the people of Hanover county, in public meeting assembled, pledging in the justness of our cause, and relying upon the aid and protection of Divine Providence, do hereby renew our vows of fidelity to our country, pledge it all that we have and all that we are.

Resolved, That the thanks of the country at large are especially due to the officers and soldiers of our gallant army, who have stood like a wall of fire between the homes of the South and the ravages of a ruthless invader; who have proved their devotion to a hundred fields, and confirmed it (if confirmation were necessary) by their voluntary re-enlistment in the war.

Resolved, That it is the bounden duty of every woman and child in the Confederacy to do all that is in their power to support the army and sustain the Government in this trying crisis of our fate.

Resolved, That to do this, not only should measures be freely furnished to the Government, and supplied to the soldiers, but ample provision should be made to shield from want or suffering the widows and families of the gallant men who have left homes to confront the public enemy in the field.

Resolved, That all our energies and abilities be directed to meet and repel the advances of the invader, and that we have none to expend in intestine or political squabbles.

Resolved, That, desirous of peace and harmony at home, we have been anxious to see the election of Governor of North Carolina pass over quietly this year by the re-election of Governor Vance without opposition, believing him to be true and reliable upon the essential question of maintaining the rights of the South and prosecuting the war to honorable termination being willing, for the sake of union among ourselves, to waive, for the present, at least, all former differences, and forget all previous divisions.

Resolved, That for these reasons we still desire the re-election of Governor Vance, while the course of present competitor, Mr. Holden, as the leader of the disunion and political disaffection in the State to us to preclude him from receiving the support of any true friend of the South or of the State.

Resolved, That in our opinion the loyal Southern people of the State should see to it that none but Southern men in principle are elected to the next Legislature. No Convention agitators—no covert advocates of re-construction or a peace on any terms, receive their support under any circumstances.

THE VOICE OF THE ARMY.

THE FOURTEENTH N. C. REGIMENT.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of the members of the 14th N. C. Troops, composing nearly every member in the command, was held at their camp, near Camp C. H. Vance on the 15th inst. Seaton, Gales, C. Wm. N. E. Jenkins, Jno. S. Bryan, Secretaries. At which the following resolutions were adopted.

Resolved, That we deem this a fitting opportunity for expressing our devotion to the principles of national liberty for which we are struggling, and determination to relax no effort until they shall be secured upon that firm and secure basis which lies in the success of our just and glorious cause.

Resolved, That we do heartily approve and endorse the general course of Gov. Vance, and that we are watched, with feelings of pride and gratification, by his brilliant and successful administration of our affairs; that his patriotic devotion to the cause—his stern regard for the dignity and character of the Southern people; his cardinal co-operation with the constituted authorities of the Confederate Government, and his unflinching consideration for the necessities and wants of the soldier in the field, alike entitle him to our esteem and our gratitude; we accordingly pledge him our warm united support for a second term of office.

Resolved, That these proceedings be communicated by the chairman of this meeting to Gov. Vance, that he be invited to visit this regiment at any day, when he may be assured of that enthusiastic welcome, to which he is so eminently entitled as the hero of every North Carolina Soldier.

Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings be sent to the Daily Confederate for publication, and that the local Journals of the State be requested to copy.

These resolutions were adopted by acclamation amid much enthusiasm.

After which, Col. Bennett and others entertained the meeting with brief and spirited speeches.

On motion of Col. Bennett, the meeting adjourned.

A SUBJECT FOR THE ENROLLING OFFICER.—A Virginia correspondent of the Christian Index writes to paper:

"I know a Virginia Baptist Minister, who once as high as a useful pastor, who claims exemption from military duty on the ground of being a minister, and yet has scarcely preached a sermon for twelve months but spends his time in selling coffee, ginger bread, peanuts, &c., at the highest obtainable prices. He cannot plead necessity for his course, since he has a son one child and is worth about one hundred thousand dollars."

We have heard of one or two instances, almost allied to the above, in North Carolina, says the N. Carolina Presbyterian. Such persons (we will not them ministers, though they may claim to be,) should by all means be put at once in the army; and it is hoped that under the new Military Law, they will be led after by enrolling officers.

Gen. Clingman is out in a letter in which he says is not his intention to leave the field for any civil situation during the war, and thinks that Gov. Vance ought to be supported by all who are in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war.