

REMARKABLE FOUNTAIN IN FLORIDA.

The following is a beautiful description of a fountain of water in Florida:

Taking a narrow path, I crossed through some dense underwood, and all at once I stood on the banks of the Wakulla spring. There was a basin of water one hundred yards in diameter, almost circular. The thick bubbles were almost growing to the water's edge, and flowing their head under the unrippled surface. I stepped into a shiff and pushed off. Some immense fishes attracted my attention and I seized a spear to strike them. The boatman laughed and asked me how far beneath the surface I supposed they were? I answered about three feet. He assured me that they were at least twenty from me, and it was so. The water is of the most marvellous transparency. I dropped an ordinary pin in the water, forty feet deep, and saw its head with perfect distinctness as it lay on the bottom. As we approached the centre I noticed a jagged, grayish limestone rock beneath us pierced with holes through these holes one seemed to look into unfathomable depths. The boat moved slowly on, and now we hung trembling over the edge of the sunken cliff, and far below it lay a dark, yawning, unfathomable abyss. From its gorge comes pouring forth, with immense velocity, a living river.

Pushing on just beyond its mouth, I dropped a ten cent piece into the water, which is there 190 feet in depth, and I clearly saw it shining on the bottom. This seems incredible. I think the water possessed a magnifying power. I am confident that the piece could not be so distinctly seen from a tower 190 feet high.

We rowed on toward the North side, and suddenly we perceived in the water, which were darting hither and thither, the long flexible roots and the wide luxuriant grasses on the bottom, all arrayed in the most beautiful prismatic hues. The gentle swell occasioned by the boat gave to the whole an undulating motiva. Death like stillness reigned around, and a more fairy scene I never beheld.

So great is the quantity of water here, poured forth that it forms a river itself, large enough to float flat-boats with cotton. The planter who lives here has thus transported his cotton to St. Marks. Near the fountain we saw some of the remains of a mastodon, which had been taken from it. The triangular bones below the knee measured six inches on each side. Almost the entire skeleton has been sent to Barnum's Museum.

The Indian name of the fountain is beautifully significant. Wakulla means "The Mystery." It is said that the Spanish discoverers sprang into it with almost frantic joy, supposing they had discovered the long sought "Fons Juventutis," or the fountain of youth, which should rejuvenate them after their exhausting marches and battles.

NO EXCUSE FOR STARVING.—If any one has ever seriously entertained the idea that there was any danger of starving on account of the scarcity of grain, just let him look at the heaps of corn and wheat being received by the Tithe Collectors, and let him remember that this is only one-tenth of the amount raised. In this Congressional District, composed of the counties of Mecklenburg, Rowan, Cabarrus, Union, Lincoln, Gaston, Catawba and Cleveland, we think the returns will prove that at least five thousand bushels of wheat and one million bushels of corn were raised the past year. We expect to justify this statement by official figures showing the number of bushels received as one-tenth by the Tithe Collectors. Some curiosity is felt to know what has become of the remaining nine-tenths, inasmuch as nine out of ten men say they have not enough to supply their own wants, and in view of the fact that but little has been sold or shipped off. Wonder if the rats and mice could have devoured the greater portion of it? If so, the said rats and mice are in mighty good order, and people may have to commence eating them, for two purposes, viz: to satisfy the pinching of a hungry stomach and to prevent a scarcity of bread hereafter. So, upon the whole, there is "no excuse for starving," and the Yankees might as well abandon all hope of starving us into submission.

We have heretofore indulged in some pretty severe denunciations of the speculators, but we expect we shall have to turn upon the rats now, if they have caused corn to advance to \$15 and \$20 per bushel and flour to \$170 per barrel.—Chas. Democrat.

A GENERAL EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS INAUGURATED—THE CARTEL RESUMED.

We are gratified in being able to make the happy announcement that a regular system for a general exchange of prisoners is agreed upon, and will be immediately inaugurated.

Commissioner Ould returned on Saturday from Fortress Monroe, at which point he has been, under a flag of truce, two or three days past, on business connected with his department, the result of which, he informs us, is the resumption of the cartel, with the prospect under its provisions, of an immediate exchange of all the prisoners of war on both sides.

We congratulate the people of the Confederacy on the glad tidings of this announcement; but much more our prisoners themselves who have suffered so terribly and endured so heroically, and who deserve the generous and joyous reception we trust they will receive on their return, in the way of private greeting, as well as of popular demonstration.—Enquirer.

A CONFEDERATE FATHER.—We had in our office the other day a citizen of Rockingham, who is the father of 21 children—13 sons and 8 daughters. He has been married twice, his first wife being the mother of 14 children, and last one the mother of 7. His youngest child is 2 years old. This Confederate father is yet in his prime and vigor, and is able to make a regular hand at ploughing. He says he feels it to be his duty to raise something for the Southern Confederacy besides children. If the Yankees think they can subjugate a people when children are born at this rate, and when their fathers at 66 years of age are able to make fall hands at ploughing, mowing, or reaping, they are greatly mistaken. It can't be done. [Exchange.]

AFTER THE "SPEAKERS."—On Thursday night last, as two gentlemen were going home, they were induced by the smell of whiskey to examine a vacant lot in the neighborhood of the Flour Mill, and there discovered two negroes with a couple of tubs filled with whiskey. The negroes immediately ran off, leaving the tubs much coveted articles behind. It appears that they had broken into the ware-room of Mr. Bryan, and had carried off a barrel partly filled to the top with whiskey and were engaged in dividing it. Whiskey seems to be a scarce article in these parts now and hence it is sought after under difficulties.—Democrat.

No one knows anything of himself till he is tried. Trial is the touchstone of the character.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

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

[9] C. W. FENTON, EDITOR. [275]

WADESBORO', N. C.

THURSDAY.....APRIL 14, 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.

GOVERNMENT STOCK—A NUISANCE.

We have never, yet, we believe, offered advice to Government, but now we feel constrained to give the authorities that be, a little plain talk, which, if heeded, may result in good to them, and will certainly be of great benefit to the inhabitants of Wadesborough. Government has sent some hundred and fifty miserable specimens of horse flesh into our midst, to eat up the tithe corn and fodder of the county. To this we do not know that we could reasonably object, were there the slightest hope that corn and fodder would prevent their dying and put flesh upon, and restore strength to their bones. We believe and have good reason for believing, that these horse—frames can never be set up—that corn and fodder is thrown away upon them, and therefore wasted. It is not a little provoking to see day by day, the staff of life uselessly fed away to these miserable brutes, (which excite our pity, whenever we look upon them) when it would prevent so much suffering among those who are entitled to the kindest regards of Government—the soldiers' family and the poor.

Had Government distributed these horses among our farmers, who have pasture for them, they might possibly have been nursed into something useful—but as things are the corn and fodder distributed to them is thrown away.

Government has located these horses right in the midst of our town, and it is greatly to be feared, that disease as well as famine will be the consequence. The diseases of horses, (some of them at least) are infectious. These are variously diseased, and their stench is intolerable. They come up and stick their noses into our kitchens. They occupy private gardens, to the injury of the holders thereof, and are, generally, a nuisance, which our town authorities will be compelled to see abated.

Messrs Ramsey, Foster and beach candidates for Congress address the people of Anson today, the 13th, while we write, Capt. Ramsey is speaking. We should have been pleased to have heard them, but the state of our health would not admit of it. Rev. Dr. Deems addressed the people in the morning. His discourse was truly eloquent and inspiring.

A REQUEST.

Many persons would be pleased to hear Rev. Mr. H. C. Parsons preach from the following words:

"If I shut up Heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; if my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."—2 Chron., vii: 13, 14.

We publish with pleasure the accompanying letter from a gentleman connected with the Bureau of Conscription, refuting the charges of "Gamma" against the people of the First District, and doing them justice:

LEXINGTON, N. C. April 4, 1864.

MR. FENTON—Dear Sir: I see in your last issue a communication from "Gamma," which does great injustice to the citizens of the 1st District, and also to the Bureau of Conscription. In speaking of the suspension of the Conscription law in that District, he states the argument urged in getting it done was "that if the parties were conscribed, they would go to the enemy." Your correspondent, like a great many others, has been misinformed in regard to this step of the Department, and it is due the loyal people of that section, as well as the people generally, that a correction be made. Without speaking of the wisdom of this move on the part of the Government, I am satisfied that no such representation as is alleged to have been made to the department, could possibly have influenced its action. The people in that part of the State are peculiarly situated, and I attribute the action of the authorities to this alone. The enemy, in that part of our State, are exceedingly atrocious and barbarous, and threaten to destroy the homes and property of every person who shall attend any of the enrollments in that District, and in more than one instance, have carried their threats into sad execution. I am aware that great distrust of the Eastern people pervades throughout the State, and some have even gone so far to pronounce them almost unanimously disloyal. But never were people more grossly slandered, or their sacrifices so little appreciated. My experience among them is that they are the most loyal people of the State, and it is a remarkable fact that the nearer we approach the enemies' usurped territory, the more loyal (if possible) we find the people. There are, of course, some among them, who are opposed to the Administration for selfish purposes; but if there are any who favor a reconstruction of the old Government they dare not

let it be known. But to refute the charge of disloyalty against a people so devoted to the cause of the South, it is only necessary to cite you to the last enrollment at Hamilton, in Martin county, where persons residing between the armies—on disputed territory—and even within the enemies' lines—beyond the reach of all conscript officers—promptly came forward and enrolled themselves with a unanimity almost incredible. It so happened, with the exception of one or two, every man from that portion of the country was conscribed and ordered to camp of instruction, where all reported at the appointed time. On arriving there, however, they were informed that the law in their District had been suspended, and they were permitted by Col. Mallet, to return home—which they did—but not to find things as they left them, for the enemy had executed his threat, and naught but the "blackness of ashes" marked the spot where their comfortable homes formerly stood. Call these men disloyal! JUSTICE.

A young lady, living in the vicinity of Danville, presented a trooper from a Southern State with a serviceable sword, with the charge to run it through Beast Butler.

A dispatch from the Persian Gulf announces the successful laying of 450 miles of the new cable to India, and that the paying out of the line towards Europe was about to commence.

The Clarion says that the Mobile and Ohio Railroad is now in running order, and the first through train arrived from Mobile yesterday. The promptness and energy exhibited in getting this road in running order speaks well for those who had it in charge. But twenty-five working days completed that which the Yankees boastfully said would take six months to repair. The Selma road is also in running order to Meridian. So much for Yankee vandalism.

The Charleston Courier gives the following easy rule for ascertaining the equivalent of either the old or new currency, in the other, viz:

Given a sum in the old issue to get its equivalent in the new, you subtract one-third—which may be easily done by most boys, by multiplying by two and dividing the product by three. If a sum in the new issue is given and you wish to ascertain its equivalent in the old, you reverse this process, multiply by three, and divide the product by two.

CAUGHT A TARTAR.—A gentleman from Florida informs us that a blockade running schooner, with an assorted cargo, ran into Deadman's Bay about ten days ago and came to anchor. She was soon boarded by a party of Tories and deserters, who helped themselves to all they could carry off. The Captain, not liking the neighborhood, weighed anchor and was passing out of the Bay, when the vessel ran aground. The blockaders, seeing her in distress, put out to her in launches, when the crew, seeing their approach, applied a slow match to a lot of powder in the hold, poured turpentine over the deck, set it on fire and put out to the shore. The Yankees coming alongside, boarded the vessel and were hard at work putting out the fire, when the powder below exploded, blowing the whole party—numbering from twenty-five to thirty—to "Kingdom come." Verdict: Served them right. [Sav. Rep.]

The New Hampshire Patriot says that sixty-four Northern females, sent South to teach negroes to teach negroes to read and pray: have given birth to sixty-four mulatto children! [This is practical amalgamation strong enough to satisfy even old Josh Giddings. Inasmuch as Northern school-maids are no longer in a situation to catch Southern white men for husbands, they take cuffy as a demier resort.]

A HAT MANUFACTORY.—A hat manufactory has recently been established in Statesville. The Express says of the enterprise:

"We have neglected earlier to mention the establishment of this important 'institution' in our town. We do so now, not because we have been complimented with a new article, but because there is a 'brick in our old hat,' but as an important and necessary article which has been almost totally neglected among the manufacturers of the South. Messrs. Wittkowsky & Co., are the first, we believe, to turn out an article equal if not superior to the thousands that were formerly brought from the North; and in so saying, those who have examined the styles and quality, or who may hereafter purchase one of their manufacture, will testify to the truth of what we now write.

Mr. Salzbury, Mr. Wittkowsky's associate, is thoroughly acquainted with the practical part of the business, having carried on an extensive and fashionable establishment in one of the large cities before the war, and therefore we cordially recommend their firm to Southern patronage, feeling sure that none will be disappointed in purchasing a hat of their manufacture.

RICHMOND, April 6.—The aggregate official returns to this date show that \$200,000,000 have been funded. Gov. Smith has declined certifying in favor of the exemption of Justices of the Peace under forty-five years of age.

Lieut. Col. Bowman, of the 102d Ohio regiment, has been dismissed as an officer of the United States service at Chattanooga, for refusing to recognize Col. Morgan (a negro) as a United States officer.

The Northern papers say Lincoln's regular army is to consist of 750,000, for active hostilities, while the whole militia of the North, about two millions, are to be called into service for six months to hold strategic points. Quite an army. Wonder what the price of gold will be after they are paid in greenbacks for the six months? If Lincoln don't mind his machine will run down. At the end of three years twenty-seven hundred thousand men to be called out to "crush the rebellion!" He may call, but will they come? There's the rub.—Progress.

A large yankee steamer was blown up 15 miles above Jacksonville, Fla., by a torpedo.

The planters of Talladega County, Alabama, are selling corn to soldiers' families at fifty cents per bushel.

An Englishman has sent from Liverpool, to the Secretary of War, a handsome Confederate flag to be hoisted over the grave of Stonewall Jackson.

NORTHERN NEWS.

NEW YORK, March 28.—Forrest was reported eight miles from Columbus last night. The whole garrison at Union City under Col. Hawkins, numbering five hundred, surrendered to Forrest on the 24th. On the 26th Yankee reinforcements being reported as arriving at Paducah, the town was riddled with shot and shell, and many houses burnt.

The rebels depended on overwhelming numbers to carry the work by assault. The steamer Decotah was burnt.

The loss by the rebels plundering Paducah is estimated at two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Their Col. A. P. Thompson is reported killed.

It was currently reported that on the 20th Forrest had moved upon Cumberland river and attacked Fort Donelson. A force of rebel cavalry was previously reported opposite Canton, fifteen miles from Donelson.

MEMPHIS, March 30.—Gen. McCullough was reported near Jackson, with twenty five hundred men enroute to re-inforce Forrest. Grierson is watching him but too weak to follow Forrest. A great riot occurred between the Copperheads and soldiers in Coles county, Illinois, on the 28th. Col. Mitchell and a large number of soldiers were badly wounded. A Yankee surgeon and others were killed. A further outbreak is anticipated.

Out of forty-four Yankee Regiments furloughed to recruit, not 5,000 men were obtained, and 100,000 of the furloughed Yankees deserted to the gold mines of Idaho.

Burnside has been appointed superintendent for recruiting negroes in Kentucky.

FORREST ON HIS TRAVELS.

Forrest has been having a jolly old time in Kentucky. The following official dispatches have been received at the War Department:

DEMOPOLIS, April 2, 1864.

To Gen. S. Cooper: The following dispatch from Gen. Forrest has just been received:

L. POLK, Lieutenant General.

DEMOPOLIS, Tennessee, March 27, via Omolona, April 2.—To Lieutenant General Polk:—I left Jackson on the 23d ultimo, and captured Union City on the 24th, with four hundred and fifty prisoners, among them the renegade Hawkins, and most of his regiment, about two hundred horses and five hundred small arms.

I also took possession of Hickman, the enemy having moved it.

I moved north with Buford's division, marching direct from Jackson to Paducah in fifty hours, attacked it on the evening of the 26th, drove the enemy to their gunboats and forts, held the town for ten hours and could have held it longer, but found the small boat razing and evacuated the place.

We captured many stores and horses, burned up sixty bales of cotton, one steamer in the dry dock, and brought out fifty prisoners.

My loss at Union City and Paducah, as far as known is twenty-five killed and wounded, among them Col. Thompson commanding the Kentucky brigade, killed; Lieutenant Colonel Lanham of the Faulkner regiment mortally wounded; and Colonel Crossin, of the Ninth Kentucky, and Lieutenant Colonel Morton of the Second Tennessee, slightly wounded.

The enemy's loss at Paducah was fifty killed and wounded. The prisoners in all five hundred.

N. B. FORREST.

DEMOPOLIS, April 3, 1864.

To Gen. S. Cooper: The following dispatch just received from General Forrest:

JACKSON TENNESSEE, via Waterford, April 2.—Six hundred Federal Prisoners will arrive at Ripley, Mississippi, today, en route for Demopolis.

Col. Neely engaged Hunt (?) on the 29th March, near Bolivar, capturing his entire wagon train, fighting and driving him to Memphis, killing thirty and capturing thirty-five prisoners, killing two captains and capturing one.

L. POLK, Lieutenant General.

REBELLION IN MISSOURI AND ILLINOIS.—TROOPS ATTACKED.—INSURGENTS EXTRESCHE.—The papers contain the following account of a disturbance which has occurred in Missouri and Illinois. All the places mentioned are in the Northern portion of those States, and but a few miles distant from each other:

St. Louis, Tuesday, March 29 1864.—A special dispatch to the Democrat, from Charleston, Coles county, says the Copperheads came into that town to attend Court yesterday, with guns concealed in their wagons and armed with pistols. Some soldiers in the Court House yard were drawn into an affray, and a general fight occurred.

The County Sheriff sprang from the Judge's stand and commenced firing a pistol at Union men. Major York, surgeon of the 45th, was one of the first victims. The Union men being outnumbered at the Court House ran to the houses and stores for arms. They were fired upon from the windows.

Ten or twelve were wounded. Col. Mitchell, of the 54th Regiment, was badly wounded; Oliver Sales was killed; James Goodrich, William Hart, T. C. Jeffreys, and several soldiers belonging to the 54th, were wounded severely.

The 54th regiment arrived in the afternoon, and formed on the square. Nelson Welts, the man who fired the first shot, was instantly killed. John Cooper, a prisoner, was shot while trying to escape.

Col. Brooks with a squad of men, went in pursuit of the gang of Copperheads about seven miles.

Capt. Williams has some twenty prominent secesh, implicated in the affair, under guard at the Court House.

Col. Mitchell had a conference with the Hon. O. B. Franklin and Judge Constable, who seemed very anxious that steps should be taken to prevent a further outbreak.

CHICAGO, March 30, 1864.—A dispatch dated Mattoon, Ill., last night, says:

Four hundred men of the 54th Illinois Regiment leave Charleston to-night to attack the rebels, who are said to be three hundred strong, under the command of Sheriff John S. O'Sair, entrenched at Gillady's Mill; ten miles Northeast of Charleston.

A portion of the 54th Illinois is at Mattoon, that place also being threatened by rebels from Shelby and Moultrie counties.

Two companies of the Invalid corps, en route for Springfield, have been stopped at Charleston for garrison duty.

Pickets are out on all the roads.

In the fight on Monday four of the 24th Illinois Regiment and one Union citizen were killed; and Col. Mitchell, five privates and two Union citizens, were wounded.

Two rebels were killed and several wounded.