

FIGHT NEAR NEWBERN—MIRACULOUS ESCAPE OF TWO OFFICERS—A GALLANT AND SUCCESSFUL CHARGE BY COL. FOLK'S CAVALRY.

Kinston, N. C., April 18, 1864. Mr. Editor:—Quite a spirited engagement occurred yesterday, in a reconnaissance in the direction of Newbern, N. C., by a portion of troops in General Corse's command. On Thursday of last week, a force of Yankee cavalry, with two pieces of artillery, advanced up the lower Trent road, and opened with the battery upon a vidette or two, picketing on the road. After a considerable demonstration they failed to drive in the pickets, and retired in the direction they came, leaving a card or two stuck upon a tree with compliments for the rebels and an invitation for them to come down and spend the day, &c., signed respectively by Capt's. Loyd and Myers, 12th New York cavalry. So the "rebels started down to pay the desired visit yesterday morning, Col. Folk's 6th N. C. cavalry and two pieces of artillery moving down the lower Trent road and a small force of infantry on the Dover Road.

A scouting or advance party of the cavalry went considerably ahead of the main column and after passing beyond the usual lines occupied by the enemy's pickets, Capt. Gash and Lieut. Brown were returning with a report that the prospects of a fight was very slim, as the Yankees were supposed to have retired to a discretionary distance from before our forces. Two men were observed standing near the road a considerable distance ahead of the returning officers, who had disappeared on these officers reaching the locality the men had been seen in. The officers halted and asked aloud, who was there, something being heard as they supposed, in the thick undergrowth a few feet from the road. Come out of there, I say; and tell us who you are," cried one of the officers. "Yes, come out," said the other one, laughing, "we know you are in there, we see your toes sticking out!" "Come out of your good clothes if you've got any" "Who are you?"

"We are strangers," replied a voice. "Come out, boys—d—n it, don't be ashamed of a body!" Just then the forms of a dozen Yankee riflemen rose above the low thicket, and bang, bang, bang, bang! from 20 guns, not as many yards distant, saluted the gallant Captain and Lieutenant. Their horses were wheeled, and they darted up the road, the bullets whizzing thick and fast after them. It was one of the most miraculous escapes ever known. Neither was touched, although 20 shots were fired at them, and some almost close enough to burn, with the powder, their faces. In a few minutes the first squadron of the cavalry, under the command of Capt's. Brown and Council, came dashing down on the enemy who now appeared in full view in "line of fight." A terrible volley from the Yankee rifles met the shout of the brave mountain boys, but could not resist their valor. In turn they gave volley for volley; gave a yell or so, louder than before, and in twenty seconds every Yankee was running for his life.

It was a glorious chase I am told; would have been more glorious, had not the dismounted blue bellies taken advantage of a swamp near by, in which they nearly all made good their escape. One was killed dead, another reported mortally wounded, another mortally stuck fast in the mud, and three were taken prisoners, together with a dozen or two splendid carbines, Colt's pistols, haversacks, oil cloth, coffee, sugar and in short nearly all their camp equipment and accompaniments.

The prisoners, intoigent New Yorkers, relate that they were on a secret expedition to our lines, to ascertain our forces, positions, plans, &c., &c. They were commanded by the valiant, knightly, Captains Loyd and Myers, who had distinguished themselves by shelling, for half an hour, two pickets on their posts, and then unable to drive them away, gave vent to their braggart Yankee slang, left with negroes and to turpentine trees! They had five days rations in their haversacks and numbered, one account says, sixty-three picked men from the 12th New York cavalry.

We did not have a man hurt, and I believe the surgeon reports none scared! The Yankees have one Regiment of cavalry at Newbern, (16th N. Y. cavalry,) encamped at Deep Gully, a small brigade of white troops and a few negroes. This is considered reliable here. Look out for news next week.—Progress.

GLORIOUS NEWS! BATTLE OF MANSFIELD, LA. GREAT CONFEDERATE VICTORY! BRILLIANT DASH OF COL. POWERS!

MOBILE, April 20.—Western dispatches report a great battle fought at Mansfield, La., April 8th, in which Banks was defeated with the loss of eight thousand men. Gen. Kirby Smith captured thirty-five guns, two hundred wagons, and two thousand prisoners. The Federals admit the defeat. Gens. Mouton and Polignac were severely wounded. Gen. Steel is still surrounded on Little Maousry, awaiting reinforcements. Col. Powers, with two hundred men, dashed into Port Hudson on the 7th inst., and captured one gun and eighteen prisoners. The Yankees admit a loss of ninety. Powers lost but three wounded.

GOOD NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA. OFFICIAL FROM GEN. HOKE.

CAPTURE OF PLYMOUTH, N. C. A YANKEE BRIGADIER, SIXTEEN HUNDRED PRISONERS, STORES, ARTILLERY, ETC.

RICHMOND, April 21.—An official dispatch from General Hoke, dated Plymouth, N. C. April 20th, says: "I have stormed and carried this place, capturing one brigadier, sixteen hundred men, twenty-five pieces artillery, stores," &c.

A telegram to the President from Col. John Taylor Wood, says: "About twenty five hundred prisoners, including four hundred negroes, have been captured at Plymouth; also, thirty-five pieces of artillery, one hundred thousand pounds of meat, one thousand barrels of flour and a full garrison outfit. Two gunboats were sunk, another disabled, and one small steamer captured. Our loss is about three hundred in all, killed, wounded and missing. Col. Mercer is among the killed."

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

This Argus for the people's rights doth an eternal vigil keep—Necesse quod servat Mala non casu tollit hunc deestaleo 10.] C. W. FENTON, EDITOR. [277]

WADESBORO', N. C. THURSDAY.....APRIL 28, 1864.

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FOR GOVERNOR, Z. B. VANCE. ELECTION IN AUGUST, NEXT.

The "Confederate Primer and Speller" is out.

Mr. Jno. W. LEAK, of Rockingham, has presented to the poor of Anson county, twenty-five bundles of Cotton thread, to be distributed among the most needy. A noble bequest.

We do not know the result of the election for Congress. There is much contradiction in the accounts given by different papers. The Progress says Leach will be elected—if he is, it will be by a small majority, we think.

[For the Argus. CAMP NEAR ORANGE C. H., April 14, 1864.

Mr. Editor: As the coming August will determine who shall represent the people of Anson in the next State Legislature of North Carolina, it may not be amiss for the people to make up their minds in time to cast their votes in favor of such men as will honestly endeavor to promote the interest and welfare of the State, and the cause in which so many precious lives have been sacrificed since this war was inaugurated. We are aware that some very worthy citizens of Anson have been spoken of as being suitable men to send to the Legislature, but so far as we are aware, there is no one now serving in the field spoken of in connection with the office. Therefore, we suggest the name of Lieut. J. A. POLK, of Co. K, 25th N. C. Troops, as a suitable man to represent the people of Anson county in the next State Legislature. Lieut. Polk is well known to many of the people of Anson, and his soldierly qualities and personal courage have been tested on many a well fought battle field.

Nothing very important is transpiring in the immediate locality of Orange C. H. However, all surplus baggage is being rapidly consolidated to be taken to the rear, and the signs of the times seem to indicate a movement in some direction as soon as the roads become sufficiently dry to admit of it. No doubt the coming campaign is soon to open and will probably be one of the bloodiest of the war, but a confident spirit rests in the bosoms of the veterans who compose the Army of Northern Va., and with Gen. Lee at their head will ever prove invincible.

MANY FRIENDS. For the Argus. CAMP 14th N. C. T., April 14th, '64.

Mr. FENTON: There is no news as regards army movements. Quiet reigns on both sides the Rapidan. We are on picket at Raccoon Ford. To-day being election, of course some excitement prevails. The only thing needed to make it look like old times (ante bellum) is cake carts and cider waggon. I am sure these would be quite an addition. The vote of the four companies from the 7th District is as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Name, Foster, Leach, Ramsey. Rows include Co. I, Davidson; Co. H, Stanly; Co. C, Anson; Co. B, Davidson; Whole vote.

No other candidates known. All well and in fine spirits. I could give you some news that would be encouraging to our people in Anson, but secrecy being enjoined on us, prevents me from so doing. I will say this much, Grant can't stay in Culpepper many days longer. Perhaps before this reaches you, a change of base will be made. Yours, MOCUS.

ELECTION RETURNS.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Foster, Leach, Ramsey. Rows include Wadesboro', Morven, Gulledges', White's Store, Gum Spring, Lanesboro', Diamond Hill, Burnsville, Cedar Hill, Beverly, Smith's, Lilesville, Co. K, 26th Regt., Co. C, 24th, Capt. Johnson's Co., 32d Regt., 31st, 40th, Camp Holmes, 43d Regt., and totals.

RICHMOND, April 22.—The Yankee gunboats have left the Rappahannock river. Before leaving three hundred men were landed at Boulware's wharf, who destroyed five hundred bushels of corn and a farm house.

MILITIA OFFICERS AND MAGISTRATES.—We have never, says the Charlotte Democrat of the 19th, since the commencement of the war, advised the conscription or exemption of any particular class of persons; but as the question of conscribing militia officers and Magistrates is being discussed in some quarters, we will say a few words on the subject. Some militia officers have done their duty well and have greatly aided the Confederate authorities, by arresting deserters and maintaining good order at home; but others have not discharged their duty nor, been of any benefit to the cause by remaining at home. If the former are conscribed and removed it will prove a great loss to some sections. Therefore if it is determined to conscribe the militia officers, some provision ought to be made for detailing the efficient ones for service at home. A distinction ought to be made between those who have faithfully discharged their duties and those who have not. The facts can be easily ascertained.

In regard to Magistrates, a distinction might be made between those recently appointed to save them from military service, and those appointed previous to the operation of the conscription laws. In every county in the State there have always been a great many more Magistrates than there was any necessity for—all know this to be true—but since the passage of the conscription laws the number has been largely increased by new appointments. In some counties we have heard of as many as 25 and 50 new appointments being made. This is unfair, for in many instances the appointment was made merely to save the appointee from conscription.

The present mode and manner of appointing magistrates is much abused and has proven a nuisance to the State at large. If men were appointed on account of their fitness, integrity and morality, it would not do much harm to have such a host of "Squires," but such has not been the rule in governing appointments. Under the present circumstances there is a general opinion that the services of a large number of magistrates at home, as magistrates, might be dispensed with without the least detriment to the public.

In order to increase the supply of food, as many farmers ought to be exempted as possibly can be spared from the service, and we hope this will be done, but no one should be exempted because he holds some little petty, useless office. We wish something could be done to prevent the Legislature of North Carolina from making any new Magistrates for the next ten years.

THE RESERVE CORPS.—The orders heretofore published from the Commandant of Conscripts for North Carolina (Circular No. 13) in regard to enrolling persons between 17 and 18 and 45 and 50, have been revoked, and other Orders issued, which will be found in to-days paper. Where the enrollment was not made on the day indicated, 16th of April, we suppose it is intended that it shall be done as soon as the new orders are known to the officers. The time allowed for enrollment is too short between the date of the orders and the day fixed for the enrollment. It was impossible to communicate general information on the subject in so short a time.

We hope some arrangement will be made whereby the men over 45 will not be taken from their homes this summer.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church meets in Charlotte on the 5th of May. Says the Charlotte Democrat—a large number of persons are expected to be present on the occasion, and among them some of the ablest Divines in the country. The citizens of Charlotte are trying to make preparations to take care of the visitors. Fresh meats will be in demand about that time—Other things in proportion.

We are authorized to say that the Delegates to the General Assembly will pass over the various Railroad lines for one fare—they must pay their fare coming, but will return free, on the certificate of the Secretary of the Assembly.

STEAM-BOILER EXPLOSION.—The steam boiler of D. Murphy's paper mill, Fayetteville, exploded Saturday the 9th, carrying away a portion of the building, and slightly injuring the machinery. Fortunately the explosion occurred late in the evening when the operatives had nearly all left the mill—there was no one hurt. The proprietors expect to be in operation again in three or four weeks.—Carolinian.

THE HARDENING POWER OF SIN.—In a sermon to young men, delivered at the request of the Philadelphia Institute, Dr. Bedell said, "I have now been nearly twenty years in the ministry of the gospel, and I here publicly state to you, that I do not believe I could enumerate three persons over fifty years of age whom I have ever heard ask the solemn and eternally momentous question, 'What shall I do to be saved?'"

The Pennsylvania Senate has adopted a resolution removing the seat of Government to Philadelphia.

The Christian Sun, formerly published at Suffolk, by Rev. W. B. Wellons, has been revived at Petersburg. Mr. Wellons issues a handsome, interesting, well-filled sheet.

FERNANDO WOOD AND THE SOUTH.—Fernando Wood, in a speech delivered in the Yankee House of representatives, on the resolution to expel Mr. Long, of Ohio, for declaring substantially that he was in favor of recognition rather than to see every woman and child of the Southern States put to the sword, asserted that the present Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Chase, advocated a recognition of the Southern Confederacy in the cabinet, while the Confederates had only a Provisional Government.

A NEW FABRIC.—A gentleman at Tarboro' has sent us a scrap of cloth—the warp cotton, and the filling one-third wool and two-thirds raccoon fur. The gentleman remarks that the fur is more readily obtained than wool, and our readers may be profited by the suggestion. One thing is certain, the cloth is a stout, substantial article, the fur mixing most admirably with the wool. It will make good warm clothing for coarse wear and for servants. That "some old coon" can by this means be made both useful and ornamental, even more so than in the days of "coon skins and log cabins."—Rat. Confederate.

REPLY OF PRESIDENT JEFF. DAVIS, TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD LYONS, C. B., &c. &c., H. B. M. MINISTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

RICHMOND, VA., April 8th, 1864. MY LORD.—I have been instructed by the President to acknowledge the receipt of a dispatch from your Lordship, enclosing a copy of a portion of a dispatch from Earl Russell, H. B. M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, purporting to be a "formal protest and remonstrance of Her Majesty's Government, against the efforts of the authorities of the so-called Confederate States, to build war vessels within Her Majesty's dominions, to be employed against the Government of the United States."

The President desires me to say to your Lordship that while he is not unwilling to waive, in existing circumstances, the transmission of such a document through other than the usual and proper channels, it would be inconsistent with the dignity of the position he fills, as Chief Magistrate of a nation comprising a population of more than twelve millions, occupying territory many times larger than the United Kingdom and possessing resources unsurpassed by those of any country on the face of the globe, to allow the attempt of Earl Russell to ignore the actual existence of the Confederate States, and to contumeliously style them "so-called," to pass without a formal protest and remonstrance. The President, therefore, does protest and remonstrate against this studied insult; and he instructs me to say that in future any document in which it may be repeated will be returned unanswered and unacknowledged.

With respect to the subject of the extract from Earl Russell's dispatch, the President desires me to state that the plea of neutrality which is used to sustain the sinister course of Her Majesty's present Government against the Government of the Confederate States, is so clearly contradicted by their actions that it is regarded by the world, not even excepting the United States as a mere cover for actual hostility, and the President cannot but feel that this is a just view of it. Were indeed, Her Majesty's Government sincere in a desire and determination to maintain neutrality, the President could not but feel that they would neither be just nor gallant to allow the subjugation of a nation like the Confederate States, by such a barbarous, despoiling ruse as are now attempting it.

He cannot but feel, with the history and traditions of the Anglo-Saxon race before him, that under a Government faithfully representing the people of Great Britain, the whole weight and power of that nation would be unhesitatingly thrown into the scale in favor of the principles of free government, on which these States were originally formed, and for which alone the Confederate States are now struggling. He cannot but feel that with such a Government and with the plea of neutrality urged upon the people as it now is, no such pitiful spectacle could be witnessed, as is now manifested by Her Majesty's present Government in the persistent persecution of the Confederate States at the beck and bidding of officers of the United States, while a prime minister mocks and insults the intelligence of a House of commons and of the world, by exclaiming the permission to allow British subjects to go to the United States to fight against us, by the pally subterfuge, that it was the great demand for labor and the high rate of wages that were taking them thither.

He cannot but feel that a neutrality most cunningly, audaciously fawning and insolently sought and urged, begged and demanded by one belligerent and repudiated by the other, must be seen by all impartial men to be a mere pretext for aiding the cause of one at the expense of the other, while pretending to be impartial, to be, in short, but a cover for secret, malignant, treacherous hostility.

As for the specious arguments on the subject of the rans, advanced by Earl Russell, the President desires me to state that he is content to leave the world and history to pronounce judgment upon this attempt to heap injury upon insult, by declaring that Her Majesty's Government and law officers are satisfied of the question involved, while these questions are still before the highest legal tribunal of the kingdom, composed of members of the Government and the highest law officers of the crown, for their decision. The President himself will not condescend to notice them.

I have the honor to be your Lordship's obedient, humble servant, BURTON N. HARRISON, Private Secretary.

DO NOT BE FOOLED.—Some parties are trying to fool the soldiers, members of State Troops, in and about Wilmington, by alleging that Gov. Vance is responsible for the late day at which they have been paid for their services. It appears that the troops referred to, having not received their pay for over three or four months prior to the first of April,—that in the last days of March, these poor soldiers were paid off in \$10's, \$20's &c., of the old currency, which would not then be taken by any one except at a discount of 25 per cent. Some evil disposed persons are making capital out of it against the Governor, stating to the soldiers that, as they are State Troops, Gov. Vance should have seen them paid earlier, or else in new currency. Everybody knows, who knows anything, that the Governor has nothing to do with paying troops. These troops are now in the service of the Confederate government, and Gov. Vance has nothing to do with them, except so far as vacancies and promotions are concerned. The entire blame rests with the Confederate authorities, not with Gov. Vance, who, whatever may be said against him, otherwise, cannot be accused of inattention to the wants of soldiers or their families. [North Carolinian.]

THE OLD CURRENCY AND THE NEW SIX PER CENT.—It is not generally known that the old currency may be funded in six per cent. bonds which the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue to the amount of five hundred millions of dollars. The bonds are to bear interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, and thus six hundred and sixty-six dollars, thus invested, will yield the same amount of interest as one thousand dollars in the four per cents.—forty dollars per annum in both cases. So the holder of the notes will lose nothing in amount of interest, by neglecting to fund them at their expressed value in four per cents., and funding them hereafter at the rate of sixty six cents in the dollar in six per cents. The interest on the six per cents. is secured by the pledge of the revenues of the Confederacy derived from its import duties and its export duties on cotton, tobacco and naval stores. No fund or revenue is pledged or set apart for the payment of the interest on the four per cents. the holders of the six per cent. bonds will be preferred creditors of the Government, secured by the mortgage of a sufficient amount of its revenues. It is probably the most desirable disposition to be made of what remains of the old currency to convert it, scaled to the amount of one third, into the new six per cents.—Ex.