State Library

THRILLING SCENE.

The following account of a scene in the great battle of the 12th inst., is very interesting. The scene when General Lee proposed to head the charge for the recapture of our lost lines, but was forbidden by his men, was very thrilling. The heroes who were so considerate for their commander, proved themselves no less brave and irresistible against their enemies than they were affectionate to their general. The country will thank them and the gallant Gordon who led them, both for their magnanimity and their important service on that truly interesting occasion. No wonder that Gordon's and Pegram's brigades have been rewarded by the admiration of the superior officers and the applause of the whole army, for the manner in which they improved the opportunity which fortune threw in their ways of rendering a most important service to their country.

The 12th of May, 1864, will be ever memorable and ever remembered, as the day of one of the most bloody and obstinate struggles which have ever marked the annals of war, or added fresh horrors to this most cruel contest.

Before daylight we were moved up to the support of Hayes and Stafford's brigades in the works. Scarcely had the gray tinge of morning begun to dispel the darkness of a drizzly night, when, after the three cheers which we knew to be the precursor of a charge, and a brief scattering fire on our right, we were astonished and mortified to see the troops in that direction pouring out of the works in the woods, showing that the enemy had there broken a passage. The enemy poured their concentrated masses through the gap, and moving on the flank with great celerity, were swiftly driving all before them in panic and confusion.

Instantly Pegram's and Gordon's brigades were formed a few hundred yards to the rear of, and at right angles to, the line of works. All saw that a crisis was upon us. If we failed the consequences would be disastrous in the extreme.

In this exigency, Gen. Lee rode forward in front of our line, his position being opposite, at the time, to the colors of the 49th regiment of Pegram's brigade, and only a few yards from where your correspondent stood. Not a word did he say, but simply took off his hat, and as he sat on his charger I never saw a man look so noble, or a spectacle so impressive.

At this interesting moment, our gallant Gordon, spurring his foaming charger to the front seized the reins of Gen. Lee's horse, and turning him around, said "General, these are Virginians! These men have never failed! They never will! Will you boys?" Loud cries of "No!" "No!" "Gen. Lee to the rear!" "Go back!" "Go back!" "Gen. Lee to the rear!" burst from along the lines; and as one led the General's horse to the rear, Gen Gordon gave the command, "Forward Charge!" And with a shout and yell the brigades dashed on, through bog and swamp and briers and undergrowth, to the breastworks. The enemy struck with dismay start to flee, but we were upon them like a storm, and their first line of battle withers before our impetuous onset and the cool marksmanship of our men. "Hurrah! the works are ours!"

RESOLUTIONS IN REFERENCE TO A BASIS OF PEACE.

Resolved, by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, That whilst we regard the present war between the Confederate States and the United States, as a war of self-defence, on the part of the Confederate States, yet we do not hesitate to declare, that, for the sake of humanity, it becomes our government, through its appropriate constitutional departments, to use its earnest efforts to put an end to this unnatural and unchristian work of carnage; and to this end we earnestly recommend that our government, after signal successes of our arms, and on other occasions when none can impute its actions to alarm, instead of a sincere desire for peace, shall make to the government of our enemy an official offer for peace, on the basis of independence and nationality, with the proposition that the doubtful border States shall settle the question for themselves, by conventions to be elected for that purpose, after the withdrawal of all military forces of both sides from their limits.

Resolved, That we believe this course, on the part of our government, would be hailed by our people and soldiery as an assurance that peace will not be unnecessarily delayed, nor their sufferings unnecessarily prolonged.

Resolved, That while the foregoing is an expression of the sentiments of this General Assembly respecting the manner in which peace should be sought, we renew our pledges of the resources and powers of the State to the prosecution of the war, defensive on our part, until peace is obtained upon just and honorable terms, and until the independence and nationality of the Confederate States is established.

THE EXEMPTION OF STATE OFFICERS.

The following preamble and resolution introduced in the House by Mr. McKay, of Harnett, having passed both branches of the Assembly, we suppose all persons embraced therein will be exempt from conscription. We could have wished that the resolution could have embraced all engaged in Agricultural pursuits but we mean no reflection upon the wisdom of the Legislature:

WHEREAS, The fearless and free discharge of the duties of the officers of the State is essential to the preservation of its sovereignty; and whereas, Congress has no power to Conscript State officers, and this General Assembly has already by an Act, declared certain officers, and employees of the State exempt,

Resolved, That this State demands exemption from conscription of all civil and military officers thereof, and also all county Surveyors and Jailors, and all and every class of officers named in the act passed by this General Assembly at its adjourned session in 1863, and ratified the 14the day December, 1863.

MAJ. GEN. D. H. HILL.

The Express of Wednesday, pays the highest compliment to the skill and efficiency of this distinguished officer, and says that to no one of the gallant defenders of the city of Petersburg do they owe greater obligations than to Major General D. H. Hill. The Express says—we have the assurance of persons competent to pronounce an opinion in the matter, that it was chiefly due to the indefatigable activity, the professional skill, and the characteristic gallantry of this able and veteran soldier, that Butler's Expedition against Petersburg, were so successfully frustrated. We have the greatest pleasure in making this acknowledgment of, gratitude to Gen Hill, as the service he rendered us was the voluntary impulse of his own patriotic heart.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

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

15] C. W. FENTON, EDITOR. [282.

WADESBORO', N. C.

THURSDAY.....JUNE 2, 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 the Argus.

WILMINGTON, May 21st, 1864.

Dear Mrs. ——: I am commissioned by the ladies to return you their warmest thanks for your kind remembrance of them and of the work in which they are so actively engaged. Through you, they also desire to express their gratitude to all those who may have assisted you in sending such a valuable donation to the soldiers. The barrel, box, &c., came to hand this morning, and the articles were most judiciously selected. We were glad the flour was not made into bread, as we are still using the bread sent by the Rockingham ladies. We packed the barrel and larger box with empty bottles and returned them to the Railroad this noon. Only one suggestion the ladies would like to make. If you could raise a coop of chickens, or any kind of poultry, it would be so acceptable. Very few wounded men have come as yet—but many sick and convalescent, ones receive the attentions and food so gratefully, that it would do your heart good to see them. The President spends every morning at the Depot, giving her personal attention. A large room has been secured at the Depot and nicely fitted up with beds, &c., for those who require rest as they pass through. D.

Capt L. A. Johnson and the twenty men accompanying him in a scout, and who, it was feared, had fallen into the hands of the enemy, have arrived safely at Petersburg. In a charge on the 21st, on a negro picket post, Lt. Sibley was badly wounded in the thigh—flesh wound. No other casualties.

We are requested to say that the Anson boys, prisoners at Point Look Out, are all well and in good spirits.

VIEWS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES ABROAD.—We are indebted to the courtesy of a friend, says the *Guardian*, for extracts from his foreign correspondence, which we lay before our readers with much pleasure. They are from merchants in England:

Many of us in London are looking with intense interest to the great battle that must take place between the armies of General Lee and Gen. Grant, and sincerely trust that in it you may be so entirely victorious as to break the power of the invaders of your country.

Amid all the boastings and lies of the Yankees, we are still able to see that you have so far this year, had nothing but success, and most sincerely hope that it will continue to the end of the war.

The present Ministry hold their offices by a most precarious tenure, and may, at any time, have to give way to one more favorable to the Confederate States.

I hold a considerable amount of Confederate securities, and am glad to inform you that they have been steadily rising in value for months past, and if you are successful in beating Grant, I believe that they will soon be at par, for the British merchants know very well that no other country on the globe have such recuperative resources as the Southern States; and that you will, if victorious in the present contest, be able to pay every dollar of your debt.

DIED.—We are sorry to learn of the death of Wm. D. M'Pherson, who was reported wounded a few days since, in this paper. He was wounded on the 12th inst., and died on the 16th.

This is a severe stroke to his parents, as he was the last of a happy family circle the members of which have, one by one, been taken hence.

Fayetteville North Carolinian.

Now we ask, in all seriousness, says the Raleigh Confederate, would it be safe; would it be prudent; would it be wise; would it be just—nay, would it be honorable—for the people of North Carolina to exchange their "model Governor"—their "good and faithful servant"—for the political renegade and apostate, W. W. Holden? who has been on every side of every question—has belonged to all political parties—first a coonskin" Whig; then a Democrat; then a secessionist; then a Union man; then the "last dollar and last man" war man; then an anti war man—then a *peace* man—"every thing by turns, and nothing long"—who has betrayed every party to which he ever belonged. Such is W. W. Holden, who now has the effrontery to say that he is a *Conservative*, and the unblushing impudence to ask old line Whigs and those who belonged to the "American" organization, whom he abused and slandered so outrageously, to vote for him for Governor!

☞ There were, a few days since, eleven men from Anson in the hospitals at Raleigh, wounded at Plymouth and in Virginia—W. P. Lee, M. C. Liles, —— Baily, J. W. Thomas, —— Hudson, —— Harrington Peace Institute—H. D. Kendall, G. W. Turner, G. Carpenter, —— Sanders and —— Lockhart. None wounded dangerously.

Bermuda Hundreds is near the mouth of the Appomattox River on its Western bank, and but ten miles from Drewry's Bluff. It is also within two or three hours march of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad. It is in Chesterfield county, and 55 miles from Richmond by water and about 40 miles by land.

PAPER.—The Charlotte Democrat very truthfully says: Whilst prices are generally declining we are sorry to know that there has been no decline in printing paper, but on the other hand there has been a recent advance from $1 to $1 50 per pound, for a dingy looking, coarse and inferior article. This advance is caused by the scarcity of material of which paper is made, and the small number of paper mills in the country. We should not be surprised if paper advanced still further, if so the price of newspapers must go up, or the proprietors must involve themselves in debt to serve the public with news. Thus far, the advance in the price of newspapers has borne no proportion to the advance on all other articles. Editors, generally, can, certainly say, with truth, that they have not made money out of the war, but have lost considerable, although, we suppose, everywhere their number of subscribers have largely increased. For our own part, we can say that we get more subscribers than we want. It cannot be truthfully said of southern Editors that they encouraged the war because they profited by it pecuniarily.

COMPANY H, 43D N. C. T., NEAR JAMES RIVER, VA., May 19, '64.

MY DEAR FATHER: It is with a feeling of great thankfulness to an all wise God, that I pencil these few lines to you, amid the roaring of the cannon and musketry from our skirmishers in front of us. After a very hard fight on Monday, we succeeded in driving the enemy from his works around Richmond and now have them under the cover of their gunboats on the river. The fight was a very desperate one our boys charging, then the Yanks charging us, something unusual for them. Our loss was pretty heavy in killed and wounded, worse than the enemy, because we had the works to charge. Our company lost two killed, Sergt. Hamilton and Jacob Thomas. Wounded, J. M. Hammond, slight; Martin Kelly, badly; M. R. Kendall, M. R. Seago, L. Treadaway, Wm. Hildreth, Wm. Rodgers, not serious; Edmond Dutton, Sergt. Ragans and M. Horne, wounded slightly, but did not carry the field, John Covington, C. R. Hinson, George Hairy and Andrew Hooks missing and supposed to be captured. The company numbers now 37 guns, the rest of us are all well. We have a line of works extending from Richmond to Petersburg, and have the Yankees between us and the River. They had got nearly to Richmond, you may say they were at the gates. Butler is in command here. Whether he is going to charge our works in front of him, time will only tell. I suppose Lee and Grant have had some very hard fighting and uncle Robert is too hard for him. I understand he had changed his position and admits a loss of 75,000 killed, wounded and missing since the fight commenced. Our loss is said to be very heavy. Our cause must be right, for we have been contending against great odds here and there. The Yankees are making a most desperate effort, but they will not succeed. They have destroyed railroads and bridges, but they will soon be repaired. We had some trouble with the Yanks and railroad in getting to Petersburg.

We are in a bad fix about clothing; having no baggage, so we are all black and dirty. I hope this thing will be over soon, for we have been marching and fighting some two months, that is, since we left Kinston.

H. C. B.

CASUALTIES IN CO. C., 14TH N. C. REGT.

NEAR SPOTSYLVANIA C. H., VA., May 15th, 1864.

MR. EDITOR: I propose to furnish you with the casualties of Co. C, 14th Regt N. C. T., in the recent engagements near Spotsylvania C. H., Va.

Wounded—1st Lt. W. A. Liles, slightly, on left cheek.
W. H. Saunders, left leg, flesh wound.
W. C. Threadgill, severe, left leg.
W. L. Strickback, severe left leg.
W. D. McPherson, left breast—since dead.
Stephen Gaddy, right leg.
Jas. Bingham, in body.
G. A. Morton, slightly.
Peter Morton, left hand.
A. A. Waddill, severely, left ankle.
Jas. S. Smith, in right hand.
Miles Threadgill, slightly, in leg.
A. B. Morton, in left leg.
J. H. Alford, wrist.
S. J. Watkins, face.
J. A. Henry, head.
E. F. Billingsley, killed.
Kirkhead Taylor, do.
E. J. Smith wounded and prisoner.
J. A. Smart, side and shoulder.
A. D. Lilly, missing, supposed to be killed.

I have seen most of these at Field Hospital. Some have been forwarded—all are doing well. The company musters yet twenty-three (23) guns. Col. R. T. Bennett, wounded in face, but is still with his Regt. This is conceded by all to have been the most sanguinary and stubborn engagement of the war.

The Yankee dead and wounded lay in front of our works in heaps. Such slaughter never was witnessed. The fields made green by spring were made blue with Yankees, by Confederate lead and steel. Our loss in killed small—wounded heavy. Yankee loss supposed to be 40,000. Yours, H. B. H.

For the Argus.

FROM THE FORTY-THIRD N. C. T.

NEAR HALF WAY HOUSE, BETWEEN PETERSBURG AND RICHMOND, May 17th, 1864.

C. W. FENTON, Esq: *Dear Sir:* I have only time to write you a note. We are banging heavily on the rear of the retreating columns of the enemy who is crouching under cover of his gunboats. Yesterday morning at early dawn found us in line of battle in front of his breast works. Our brigade opened the fight and soon it became general all along his front. After a desperate fight he was compelled to fly, leaving in our hands a battery of four pieces and about 4000 prisoners. The fighting was of the most desperate character. I send you a list of the killed and wounded in the three Anson companies for publication.

Company I,—Killed; Corpl J. F. Ratliff.

Wounded; Kirby R. Pope, in breast, badly; P. H. Gardner, in neck and side, badly; Joseph Moore, badly, in arm; William H. Price, arm broke; H. W. Gaddy, in arm, slightly; E. F. Henry, in foot, slightly; H. H. Wilson, in arm, slightly; J. N. West, in face, slightly; Eli Ratliff, in thigh, slightly; Thos. L. W[illegible] in head, slightly.

Company K,—Killed; none.

Wounded; George Tice, mortally; W. J. Lenard, amputated at knee; J. B. Dees, in breast, slightly; Spencer Vaughn, in leg, badly; Washington R. [illegible] in leg, badly; E. T. Harrington, in hand, severely; Henry Haney, in arm, slightly; Corpl Calvin Griffin, in hand, slightly; John C. Sikes, in arm, badly; W. Watkins, in hand, slightly.

Missing; Sergt T. J. Caudle, Privates A. T. Tuel, William Vaughn, John T. Meeks, A. D. Green.

Company H,—Killed; none.

Wounded; Sergt A. L. Hamilton, mortally; [illegible] died; Privates—Martin Kelly, thigh broke; M. R. Kendall in arm, ulna resected; L. L. Treadaway, [illegible] broke; Jacob Thomas, in side, mortally; J. M. Hammond, in side, very slight; William Hildreth, in hand; M. R. Seago, slightly.

P. S.—Butler had massed his forces on our line of defences near Drewry's Bluff, and the battle was fought in that vicinity and along the Turnpike leading from Richmond to Petersburg.

In haste, yours truly, L. L. POLK.

FIELD HOSPITAL, RANSEUR'S BRIGADE, May 20th, 1864.

MR. EDITOR: The following is a list of the killed and wounded in Co. "C," (Anson Guard) in the series of engagements from the 6th to the 20th ult., inclusive.

Killed—Privates Ed F. Billingsley, Martin V. [illegible] son, Burk Taylor.

Wounded—James Brigman, mortally, since dead; William D. McPherson, mortally, since dead; Lieut. W. A. Liles, in face, slightly, now on duty; Sergt W. McGregor, in leg, flesh wound, severely; Sergt A. Smart, in side, severely; Corpl A. B. Morton, hip, slightly; Corpl Jule A. Henry, in head, slightly; Privates; Joe H. Alford, in wrist, severely; Stephen H. Gaddy, in thigh, flesh wound, severely; George Morton, in hand, severely; Peter F. Morton, in hand, slight; William H. Sanders, in leg, flesh wound, severe; James S. Smith, in hand, slightly; Ed J. Smith, in knee, severely; William L. Strickback, in thigh, flesh wound, severe; Miles Threadgill, shocked by shell not serious; William C. Threadgill, in thigh, flesh wound, severe; Adolphus A. Waddill, in ankle, slight; Thomas J. Watkins, in mouth, painful; Atlas D. Lilly, missing. Total: killed on the field 3; mortally wounded, since dead, 2. Wounded, 17; Missing, 1—23.

Col. Bennett was struck on the mouth which seriously affected for a time the power of speech though he was off the field but a few hours.

This company carried into the action 42 or 43 muskets. Comment is unnecessary.

Yours, &c., W. C. POWER.

FROM THE TWENTY SIXTH N. C. REG'T.

BATTLE-FIELD, SPOTSYLVANIA, C. H., May, 19th, 1864.

This is the fifteenth day of the fight and there is no prospect of its ending soon. Both armies are fortified within a few hundred yards of each other. We have whipped the Yankees in every engagement, but old Grant does not like to give up that he is whipped. We had to stand a very heavy shelling yesterday, and the Yankees (at least their officers did) tried to charge our breast works again, but the soldiers would not come, the first volley from our boys caused them to fly back to their entrenchments in great confusion, the officers following them and cursing at a terrible rate. We have done some very hard fighting but our loss is very small taking everything into consideration. We have had two as good soldiers killed from our Company as ever pulled trigger on a Yankee—Riley Baker and John Adcason, and about fourteen wounded; the most of them slight. Among the most serious are W. J. Leard, in foot; W. H. Broadaway, in arm; J. A. Ingram in hand, and A. A. Caudle, in leg. I have been struck twice myself, once with a spent ball on my arm but did not enter, and had a little hole plugged in my right breast, bruising it considerably. I could not carry a gun but returned to the Regiment and am acting as Sergt. Major.

We've looking for a shower of shells over here every minute. I suppose the Yankees think if their men can't charge us out of our breast-works that they will shell us out of them. Well, perhaps, they will, but I do not think so, although they can give us fits.

Frank Braswell had the tip end of his thumb shot off, but is well now and doing duty.

Yours in haste, H. H. C.

CASUALTIES OF COMPANY K, 26TH N. C. REGT.

In the several engagements with the enemy since the 5th May, 1864, to 21st May.

Killed; John Adcason, May 5th; Riley Baker, May 10th.

Wounded; May 5th; Lt. J. L. Henry, slightly, in hip—still on duty.

May 5th; Sergt W. H. Broadaway, in arm.

May 6th; Corpl H. H. Crowson, slightly in breast—still on duty.

May 10th; Corpl H. C. Dumas, slightly on head—still on duty.

May 5th; Private W. C. Allen, in hand.
" " " B. F. Braswell, slightly, in hand—on duty.
May 5th; Private J. W. Burns, in head.
" 6th " A. A. Caudle, in leg.
" 5th; " L. E. Horne, thumb off.
" " " J. A. Ingram, finger off.
" " " J. F. Lee, in head.
" " " W. J. Leaird, in foot.

Missing; May 5th; Thos. Brewer

J. A. POLK,
A. Adj't. 26th N. C. Reg't.

An attempt was made by some of the Yankee prisoners confined at Salisbury to escape on Tuesday night last, but the vigilance of the guard prevented the success of their scheme.