

FROM GEN. LEE'S ARMY.

RICHMOND, June 2.—The following has been received at the war Department:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
June 1, 1864.

To the Secretary of War:—There has been skirmishing along the lines to-day. Anderson and Hoke attacked the enemy and drove him to his entrenchments. This forenoon the enemy attacked Heth's division, and was handsomely repulsed by Cook's and Kirkland's brigades. Breckenridge and Mahone drove the enemy from their front, taking about one hundred and fifty prisoners. A force of infantry is reported arriving from the White House, extending up the Appomattox River Railroad. They state that they belong to the other's forces.

R. E. LEE.

About yesterday three divisions of the Sixth Yankee Corps, under the command of General Hoke, attacked the enemy's line, causing Clingman's brigade to give way. Anderson, with a Georgia brigade, quickly came to its aid, recovering nearly all the ground lost by Clingman. Our loss was not over two hundred, and we captured about sixty prisoners. A good many of our men were missing, but it is supposed they will yet come in.

This morning the enemy were found to have abandoned their positions in front of Gen. A. P. Hill's corps, retreating from the line nearly around to Mechanicsville. Wilcox's skirmishers pushed forward and beat them about one hundred prisoners.

An authentic version of the affair at Ashland yesterday represents that the enemy attacked Lee's cavalry near Hanover. In the morning, and pressed them back through Ashland. The Yankees then proceeded to tear up the railroad. While thus engaged, Rosser's cavalry dashed in and routed the party, capturing three hundred horses and a number of prisoners. The flying enemy was pursued nearly to the Court House.

FROM GENERAL JOHNSTON'S ARMY.

YANKEE CORPS CUT UP.—So far our work has shown splendid results. Information of the enemy's line reports Hooker's, Howard's and Palmer's corps cut up badly and very dispersed. Much so that Sherman has ordered them to not as reserve; the men being unwilling to fight in the different attacks made since the capture of their fearful losses, it would appear that they are unwilling to try our mettle again, though supplied with whiskey. This is glorious, for we are being disposed of, we have only five more to deal with.

A letter from Fort Monroe says the steamer Dictator, from Newbern and Hatteras Inlet, reports that a bottle was picked up off Hatteras on the 29th ult., containing a record of the loss of the steamer Manhattan at sea. She was from Wilmington, N. C., bound to Bermuda. A large lot of cotton was picked up off Hatteras on the 29th ult.

MOSBY AT WORK.—The gallant Mosby is said to be again at work, this time in destroying the Orange Railroad from the Rappahannock Northwards. He is reported to have burnt the bridge across the Rappahannock River, and all the bridges between that stream and Manassas, big and little. He is also tearing up the track as he goes, and is doing his work effectually. Many stragglers from the Yankee army are being picked up, the whole country being filled with them.

OUR MECHANICS.—There is a pressing demand for the artisans at home, in the foundry, the machine shops, the harness and saddlery departments, and in all the ramifications of mechanical society the feeling of necessity develops itself, and the expression of the thought is, it is no disgrace for these men to remain away from the field. The mechanic who makes the 13-inch shell at the foundry is as much the auxiliary of war as the man who puts it in the mortar. The mechanics who are at home must stay there. The pressing demands of the Government require it. It is not because they won't fight that they are not in front. If any one thinks so, and would inform any one of them within the limits of our acquaintance, he or they might be led to change their opinions. Hence, in view of the above facts, we dislike to hear men, many of whom never drew a sword or shouldered a musket, and who never intend to, constantly barking at mechanics, why don't they go to the field. The fact is, most of these gassy men are generally cowards; 'tis true there are some exceptions, but it is a fair rule to go by, and if they would go themselves they would not be so apt to see so many evils. Many of these crows are constantly yelping about the officers of the Bureau of Conscription. "They ought to be in the field." Well, we don't know of two officers of our acquaintance who were not in from one to a half dozen battles before the close of 1862, two-thirds of them have been wounded, some prisoners for months; all have suffered, for the cause.

[Talladega (Ala.) Watchman.

The new five dollar notes have made their appearance in small quantities in Richmond. The new issue comes out slowly and those having claims against the various departments of the government are put off from day to day for want of it, and much inconvenience and some suffering is no doubt caused thereby. We would suggest to Mr. Memminger the propriety of either an increase of force or energy, we don't know which is most needed.—Progress.

We are requested to say, for the information of all non-combatants desiring to go to Virginia, whether to visit sick and wounded relatives and friends, or for any purpose other than Government business, that peremptory instructions have been received at Department Headquarters from the War Department, prohibiting the granting of passports to them. These instructions are given with great reluctance by the War Department, and only under the pressing emergency demanding that none but combatants shall at present go to the scene of war.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

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

16.] C. W. FENTON, EDITOR. [283.

WADESBORO', N. C.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1864.

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From the Raleigh Conservative.
READ THIS.

It is a painful thing to be forced to believe evil of those of whom we would think well. It is especially repugnant to believe that a public man, occupying a high position in the politics of the State, and identified with its name and its honor, could prove false, not only to his own words, but to the cause of our suffering and bleeding country. We have, therefore, been slow to think Mr. Holden untrue to the land of his nativity, as has been charged by his political enemies—indeed, we have, on frequent occasions, defended him against this charge—and have been rather inclined to believe that his fierce and vindictive opposition to our struggling country arose rather from old party habits and a hatred to his old political friends, the secessionists, than from a want of patriotism. But, painful as is the belief it has been forced upon us by the events of the past twelve months, in such a manner, that the opinion has become almost irresistible, that the many inconsistencies of the charging and the time-sever in politics, he is willing to forsake his country, in the hour of her trial, and plunge her anew in bloodshed for the sake of personal aggrandizement.

Let the reader, who thinks this is harsh, follow us in the proof, bearing in mind what Mr. Holden has heretofore done to bring on the war and involve the State in revolution.

In the Summer of 1863, Mr. Holden began to agitate for peace, (as he had previously done for war,) and to encourage meetings of the people, which called for a Convention to take the "affairs of the State into her own hands." At the same time he specially and steadily denied that he favored reconstruction, or secession from the Confederacy.

Many good and true Conservatives began to be alarmed at the tone of these meetings, although Mr. Holden constantly assured us that no harm was intended. Finally, emboldened by the silence of those in authority, we had in the Standard of 1st Sept., 1863, in the proceedings of a meeting in Rowan and Cabarrus, a resolution, as follows:

"Resolved, that in our opinion, under the circumstances, the best thing that the people of North Carolina could do, would be to go in for the Constitution as it is, and the Union as it was."

Another held in Fredell, about one week thereafter, copied this resolution, and resolved, "That we pledge ourselves to each other to resist, to the bitter end, any such a modifiable tax," (the tythe law, and endorsing Mr. Holden.

Another held in Stanly, on the 28th August, resolved in favor of the "Constitution as it is and the Union as it was."

Another was held in Wake, "endorsing every word contained in an article signed 'David,' which appeared in the Standard of August 5th; which said article was notoriously in advocacy of reconstruction, even after the editor had suppressed, as is said, that part of it, which openly favored that doctrine.

All these meetings endorsed Mr. Holden, and called for a Convention.

Gov. Vance called Mr. Holden's attention to these things, and urged him to use his influence to stop such a dangerous tendency; and, about the same time, Mr. Hale, of the Observer, called on him, through his paper, to discontinue them. Vance appealed. They might as well have called, and really were calling, the engineers to rebuke the little wheel for going around in obedience to the impulse which his own hand imparted.

His only reply, when invoked to stop incipient treason and bloodshed, was, "Let the people speak; it is refreshing to hear them!" Still he was opposed to reconstruction, and did not want a Convention for the purpose of seceding from the Confederacy!

Alarmed for the peace and honor of the State, Gov. Vance thought it his duty to warn misguided men from their dangerous course, by issuing a proclamation; but, before doing so, he sent for Mr. Holden, and told him, in the presence of two distinguished gentlemen, who had come to counsel with him by invitation, that if Mr. Holden would agree to throw the weight of his influence against these threats of treason and bloodshed, and seek to direct the efforts of the people for redress of their grievances into the regular channels pointed out by custom and law, that he would abstain from issuing any proclamation; that the people had the right to meet together and consult for the common good, &c; but that when they threatened violent resistance to the laws, he felt bound to interfere. To all this he refused compliance; and, true to his old instincts, which lead him into bloodshed and revolution and, as we fear, untrue to his country, he began, from that day to war, insidiously and stealthily, upon Gov. Vance.

Of the many arguments, in his paper, for twelve months past, favoring secession and reconstruction, in every possible way, except directly and openly, we now say nothing—it is not necessary.

The crowning evidence of this dark and damnable plot against the peace, the honor, the independence, and the blood of our people, covered, as it has been by so many denials and protestations, is at length in our hands. It will astonish many and open the eyes of not a few, who have followed Mr. Holden so far, believing that his opposition to everything which tended to the support of our cause, was from a real and patriotic zeal for the rights and liberties of our people.

Read the certificates of Messrs. Horton, of Watauga, and Hampton and Welborn, of Wilkes, and

Gentry, of Ashe. They are all members of the House of Commons, than whom more loyal and respectable gentlemen, in every department of life, do not live in our State—and all of whom belong to Mr. Holden's own party, or rather that which was his party; for we feel well assured that he will soon be disowned by all true Conservatives.

We will add that we have other collateral evidence in this behalf, which we may produce, if it becomes necessary.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
RALEIGH, N. C., May 27th, 1864.

Gov. VANCE—Dear Sir: I have learned that in your speech at Smithfield, and also at Hillsboro', that you charged W. W. Holden of favoring a Convention for the purpose of withdrawing the State from the Confederacy. As I understand that you made this assertion partly on my authority, I feel called upon to state what I heard Mr. Holden say in regard to that matter. I recollect on one occasion, during the session of the Legislature, last November, in the Commons Hall, near the fireplace to the left of the Speaker's desk, of hearing W. W. Holden say, that "the Legislature should call a Convention of the State immediately, and take the State out of the Confederacy," and, "says he, 'mark my prediction, in less than six months you will see that I am right.' I was surprised to hear the remark from him. And, as soon as I took my seat, I asked Col. Gentry, who sat just behind me, what he would think of a man, if he was to hear him say, that 'the Legislature should call a Convention immediately, and withdraw the State from the Confederacy?' He then asked me who had made such a remark, and I told him.

Col. Wm. Horton, who was sitting near, remarked that he heard him make the same declaration.

Yours truly,
W. W. HAMPTON.

RALEIGH, N. C., May 26th, 1864.

Gov. VANCE—Dear Sir: I learn that on Monday last, at Smithfield; and perhaps again, at Hillsboro', on Tuesday, you charged that Mr. Holden's motive for favoring a State Convention, is to take the State out of the Confederacy. And I further understand that you made this charge upon my authority in part.

Unpleasant as it is to me at all times to occupy the position of a witness, nevertheless, as this thing is now before the public, I deem it my duty to state what I distinctly understood Mr. Holden to say. During the previous Legislature, one morning, (I do not recollect the precise day,) in the Commons Hall, between the Speaker's desk and the fireplace, on the left, Mr. Holden was in conversation with several gentlemen, but whom I do not recollect at present, as I did not notice particular at the time. I happened to be near and overheard something that was said about the Confederate government, but what particular subject was spoken of I did not understand, but I heard Mr. Holden say: "this Legislature ought to call a Convention and take the State out of the confederacy. Mark my prediction—you will see before six months from this time that I am right." This is the substance, and I think the identical language he used; and I do not think that I am mistaken, as he turned his head and looked me directly in the face as he spoke. Maj. Hampton of Wilkes, was present, at the time, and spoke of this matter to Col. Gentry, of Ashe, and myself, on the same day, while in our seats.

Very respectfully yours, &c.

WM. HORTON,
Watauga county, N. C.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,
RALEIGH, N. C., May 27, 1864.

Gov. VANCE—Sir: Having been called on to state my recollection of a conversation held between myself and Mr. Hampton and Horton on the subject to which this communication refers, I make the following statement:

During the adjourned session of the Legislature last November, Maj. W. W. Hampton, the member from Wilkes county, came to my seat in the House, and stated to me that he heard W. W. Holden make the following declaration that morning relative to the duty of the Legislature, to wit: "That the Legislature should at once call a Convention and take the State out of the Confederacy. Mark my expression—before six months you will see I am right." During the conversation between myself and Maj. Hampton, Col. William Horton, of Watauga, joined in the conversation, and stated that he heard W. W. Holden make the same declaration that morning.

Very respectfully,

J. M. GENTRY,
M. Ho. Com's from Ashe county.

House Commons, May 27.

I certify that I heard the conversation referred to between Col. Gentry and Maj. Hampton, and that according to my recollection Col. G's statement is substantially correct.

E. M. WELBORN,
M. Ho. Com's from Wilkes.

For the Argus.

FROM THE FIFTY-NINTH N. C. CAVALRY.

MAY 23d, 1864.

Mr. Editor: The cavalry of this army has had small opportunity of displaying their valor with the infantry, though every order from Beauregard has been promptly obeyed. The first day of the fight, Gen. Devereux made a circuit in rear of the enemy, capturing nearly two hundred. He was then sent on the South bank of the Appomattox, where he has taken several Yankee negroes, and I regret to say no prisoners of that color had been reported by his command. Some of our newspapers seem to fancy the idea of butchering negroes after they are captured; but most of the soldiers take a different view of the case. It causes negro troops to fight with desperation. Two days since, in a charge made by Lt. Sibley, with his company upon a negro picket post, one negro, after he was entirely surrounded, and receiving sabre cuts on all sides, shot the Lieutenant in the thigh, giving him a very severe flesh wound, and using his bayonet on Lieut. Wall, till J. H. Johnson, dismounting in front of the Yankee breastworks, beat his brains out with his musket. If the negroes were taken prisoners and made to work on our fortifications, after capture, instead of being killed or exchanged, they would surrender at the command. Now they all know they will be slain, and they fight as long as they have breath. We are civilized beings, or at least make pretensions to civilization, and I think we should remember all its observances. Self interest, if nothing more, demands it.

Gen. Beauregard is steadily, though slowly, driving Butler's forces before him, declaring that this neck of land is too small for two armies.

GAMMA.

For the Argus.

FROM THE FORTY-THIRD N. C. T.

HANOVER JUNCTION, VA., May 25th, 1864.

Editor Argus—DEAR SIR: In a list of casualties sent to you while in pursuit of the enemy on the South side, I was so hurried by orders that I omitted to give the missing from Co. H, in the engagement at Drewry's Bluff.

Privates John Covington, G. W. Haire, Andrew Hooks, C. R. Hinson, were sharpshooters and supposed to have advanced too far, as the enemy's position was concealed by a dense fog. W. C. Rogers was supposed to have been captured but has since reported to a hospital, wounded.

Yesterday, in a skirmish, Private B. I. Lee, Co. I, slightly wounded in left hand, and Wm. Curlee missing; supposed to have been captured. While at work in the entrenchments, on the same evening, Milton Terry, Co. I, was struck by a chance shot, from the enemy's skirmishers; which entered his head, killing him almost instantly. No further casualties in the Anson companies. No regular engagement has taken place here, and it is rumored that Grant is changing his base to the one occupied by McClellan on the Peninsula in 1862. We are strongly fortified and the noble men composing Lee's army never have been more confident than they are to-day. Grant's men are evidently very much demoralized. If he goes to the Peninsula it is a virtual acknowledgment of his defeat on his chosen ground. He could have reached that line without firing a gun. He may now be compelled to occupy it as a fresh starting point, in his "on to Richmond," after a loss of "not less (Gen. Ewell says) than 60,000 of his best troops" with the remainder, for the most part, dispirited and demoralized. - We have occasional skirmishing and artillery firing along our lines.

On the skirmish line, an incident occurred yesterday which exhibits something of the metal that belongs to the invincible veterans of this army and which drives them with such irresistible impetuosity and effect against largely superior numbers. On the day before we had constructed a line of breastworks, but abandoned it during the night for the better position which we now occupy. This line immediately became "the bone of contention" between the sharpshooters. During the evening the enemy advanced in force and took possession of the line occupied by companies A and F of our Regiment who had been thrown forward as reinforcements. As the firing grew thicker, one of the boys gave that "regular Confederate yell," peculiar to them in time of battle, and instantly it was taken up and rang along the line, and all thinking the order to charge had been given, plunged forward through the dense undergrowth until, emerging into the open ground, they (the two companies above mentioned) found themselves within a few feet of the breastwork and it filled with a Yankee line. Immediately the Yankees began the waving of hats, handkerchiefs, and calling to the boys to come on, thinking our men after seeing their situation would of course surrender. The boys seeing these signs of surrender, thought the same thing and went forward to bring off their prisoners. They came out and all began to "mix up" promiscuously to interchange friendly salutations, shaking hands, &c; when Lt. Postick, discovering some of them being bayoneted, (of course to take off their prisoners) ordered one of them to drop his gun. Until this interesting moment in the proceeding, each party thought itself "master of the situation." The Yankee stepped back, leveled his gun and swore he would blow his brains out; but in an instant he and numbers of his comrades were struggling in death. A hand to hand fight ensued and after severe fighting these two small companies were left masters of the field, with a loss on their part of two killed and six wounded, while the 170th New York Reg't., left sixty-nine killed and how many wounded we do not know, as it was now near dark and they removed their wounded, only those lying near the line. Respectfully,

L. L. P.

P. S.—Our Regiment again with Daniel's Brigade and our friends will please address us accordingly.

L. L. P.

For the Argus.

FROM THE FORTY-THIRD N. C. T.

ON THE PANHANDLE RIVER, NEAR MECHANICSVILLE, VA., May 31, 1864.

EDITOR ARGUS—Dear Sir: As I know great anxiety exists among our friends at home, I feel it my duty to communicate as often as practicable any casualties, changes in our condition, &c., that may occur.

Yesterday was another bloody day for our Regiment. Rode's Division was sent to attack the enemy's left flank. We formed line, charged their outer line of rifle pits, carried them—drove them in confusion for nearly a mile, when we encountered a destructive fire of shell and canister, and found their infantry strongly protected by breastworks. The object being, we presume, to secure the line we now occupy and to ascertain his strength, we lay on the field until dark under a most furious shelling. The following is a list of the casualties, embracing good men and brave soldiers.

Co. H, 43d N. C. Reg't—Wounded; Lt. H. C. Beeman, severely, in left foot, amputated; Sergt. B. A. Gray, flesh wound, right thigh; Private B. F. Haire, flesh wound, in left arm; David Hough, flesh wound, in left arm; H. M. Ingram, wounded and left in enemy's lines; James Mosely, in abdomen, left in enemy's lines, supposed killed; Thomas Lingle, very slight, in ankle; A. B. S. Ruscoe, flesh wound, right breast; P. W. Watson, right hip; B. C. Hildreth, flesh wound, left arm.