

### GLORIOUS NEWS FROM PETERSBURG—THE ENEMY DRIVEN BACK WITH A LOSS OF THREE THOUSAND PRISONERS!

About 9 o'clock a. m., Thursday, the enemy in heavy force of infantry and cavalry, appeared at Guley's farm, about six miles south-east of the city, and three miles east of the railroad, and throwing forward a strong line of skirmishers, advanced at once towards the road at the Yellow Tavern. They soon encountered the pickets of Gen. Dearing's cavalry brigade, who fought them as they retired in the direction of the Tavern, where Gen. D's reserves were encamped. Gen. Dearing deployed his men in the most skillful manner, and checked the advance of the Yankee troops, but finding himself opposed to very large odds, was compelled to give back gradually. His troops behaved in the most gallant manner, and fought in a style highly creditable. From 9 o'clock until 2 p. m., he engaged the enemy, fighting them step by step all the way from the Tavern to Davis' farm—two miles nearer the city.

It was during this period that a portion of his command made a gallant and successful charge upon the Yankees, and brought off nearly two hundred prisoners—among them one Lieutenant Colonel and eight commissioned officers.

About two o'clock, the enemy in their advance towards the city, had reached a point just beyond Davis' house, and thrown their skirmishers forward through the corn-field about one hundred yards beyond. They were held in check here by Dearing's cavalry until reinforcements arrived. The enemy here occupied both sides of the road—their left extending several hundred yards to the right of it, and their right resting away off to the left amidst the thick woods and undergrowth.

Our line was formed some four or five hundred yards in front of the field occupied by the Yankees, and in the finest of spirits, and with steps as elastic and willing as though they were marching to a feat. Our men strode forward to the contest. The enemy's skirmishers were met and quickly driven back upon their first line of battle, which in turn was hurled in confusion upon their second line, and that upon their third. Pressing still forward amidst the crash of cannon and the roar of musketry, this third line was quickly broken and almost routed, and the whole Yankee force—consisting of four divisions, commanded by Gen. Warren, (of the Fifth corps) in person, was driven back for three quarters of a mile.

Our loss in this affair is not inconsiderable—but very few killed. Three hundred wounded have been sent to the hospitals and more are yet behind. Four or five hundred, at the most will cover the aggregate. In prisoners the enemy lost about two hundred, and our commands about thirty.

About five o'clock, a brisk artillery fire was opened upon the enemy by our batteries at Davis' farm, which was vigorously replied to. The enemy's shells cut several of Mr. Davis' fine grove trees down, and injured his residence considerably. This shelling was but the prelude to a charge on our part, in order to dislodge the enemy from a position on the left of the road, considered important to us. The work was entrusted to one of our best fighting brigades, and executed in the most brilliant manner. Subsequently the enemy charged back, but were repulsed.

Skirmishing, which at times broke out quite lively, continued until seven o'clock, when it subsided into a monotonous picket firing.

#### DAMAGE TO THE ROAD.

From the best information we are enabled to gain, the enemy has torn up from one and a half to two miles of the Weldon road, commencing at the Yellow Tavern and coming this way. What they have done or may do beyond that point, it is impossible to say. It is feared, if they had not touched the track there, up to dark that they inflicted heavy damage last night. We shall probably learn to-day the full extent of the injury inflicted on this line of our communication.

#### REPORTED RAID THROUGH DINWIDDIE.

It is reported that while the enemy's infantry was engaged in operating and fighting on the Southern road, a body of cavalry crossed over through Dinwiddie county, on a raid towards the Southside road. We could not ascertain positively that this was the case, but it seems to be the impression that some such movement has been put on foot by the enemy.

#### PRESENT POSITION OF THE ENEMY.

The enemy still occupy the Southern road with their batteries planted along the line as far down as the Yellow Tavern. Their lines extend on either side, but on the left reach across to the Plank road. They were engaged yesterday afternoon in throwing up breastworks as a matter of protection against the rebels. The battle will probably be renewed this morning unless the Yankees disappeared last night.

#### FROM THE PETERSBURG EXPRESS.

**THE BATTLE ON FRIDAY—HEAVY BATTLE ON THE WELDON RAILROAD—THE ENEMY ATTACKED AND FORCED BACK—THREE THOUSAND PRISONERS CAPTURED—SEVERE LOSS INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY.**

This occupation of one of our main lines of communication with the South was, of course, not to be permitted without an effort to dislodge the enemy. Accordingly, all arrangements having been completed, Gen. A. P. Hill, commanding Mahone's and Heth's divisions, attacked them between the hours of three and four o'clock. Gen. Mahone commanded the troops to the left of the railroad, and Gen. Heth those to the right. The attack was opened by Mahone, and was speedily responded to by Heth on the right, and the battle raged furiously.

On the right, Gen. Heth, with the gallant brigades of his divisions—Davis', Walker's and Archer's—struck the enemy's picket line in the corn-field a short distance beyond Davis' residence. These were quickly forced back upon the first line of breastworks, held by a formidable force. With a cheer the Confederate troops bounded forward and swept over the obstruction, pressing the Yankees back with severe loss into their second line, and charging onward forced them thence with an equal lack of ceremony. Bitten from their works and defeated in every effort to retain them the Yankees retreated to their main line of entrenchments, into which they had been driven on the previous evening. This line having been greatly strengthened, proved too strong to be stormed, and our troops were checked in the face of the slaughter which threatened a further advance.

In the meantime, Gen. Mahone, Clingman's, Colquitt's and his own former brigade, had struck the right of the Yankee lines and captured eight hundred prisoners. Pressing forward with his usual energy, he drove the enemy before him, successfully charging them wherever they made a stand. Finding them strongly entrenched, however, in the thick woods op-

posite Davis' farm, it was determined to dislodge them by a flank movement. Clingman's and Mahone's old brigade engaged them in front, while by a circuitous route Colquitt's (Georgia) brigade was thrown on their flank. The movement proved a brilliant success, and caused scarcely any loss to our troops.

Colquitt's men were upon the Yankees almost before they were aware of such close proximity of the rebels, and surrender or fighting under fearful disadvantage was the alternative. Crawford's crack division, of Warren's (5th) corps, here fell a helpless victim to rebel strategy, and the greater part of two brigades—numbering over two thousand men—threw down their arms and surrendered. The prisoners were quickly placed under guard and sent to the rear, where they were formed into line and marched to Gen. Hill's headquarters.

The battle still progressed successfully until the enemy was driven back to the position from which he advanced in the morning. At dark our lines were close up to his works, and occasional volleys of musketry showed still farther fighting.

Among the prisoners taken, is Brig. Gen. Hays, of Massachusetts, several Colonels, and other field officers of less grade. Gen. Hays was brought into the town last night.

We regret to state, however, that General Clingman was painfully, though not seriously, wounded.

The battle for the possession of the railroad will probably be resumed this morning, and it is believed the enemy will not only be dislodged, but disastrously defeated. This expedition will turn out in the end, to be the greatest disaster that has yet happened to Grant in this department.

It is also stated that several hundred more prisoners have been taken, thus raising the number above 3500.

### CAVALRY SKIRMISHING AND FIGHTING—DEFEATS OF THE ENEMY.

**PETERSBURG, August 25.**—Our forces engaged and drove in the enemy's skirmish line in front of Bermuda Hundreds this morning, capturing some fifty prisoners. The engagement lasted but a short time. Our loss was small. For several days past the enemy have been picketing in front of Bermuda Hundreds with negroes. In front and on the line of the Weldon Railroad there has been little or no change.

The enemy have been busily engaged to-day shifting their forces from their right to their left.

Butler's cavalry engaged the enemy's cavalry ten miles below, night before last, and repulsed every effort they were making to drive in our picket lines. Our loss was small. Heavy firing was heard some distance down the line of the Weldon Railroad for the last hour. The cause was unexplained.

#### NORTHERN NEWS.

### LINCOLN ABOUT TO OFFER AN ARMISTICE.

**PETERSBURG, August 25.**—The New York Herald of the 22d received, has a letter from Niagara Falls, which states that Judge Black, Attorney General under Buchanan, and Hay, Lincoln's Private Secretary, have had another interview with Messrs. Clay, Holcombe and Co., and that Lincoln is about to offer an armistice and propose a meeting of Commissioners in Baltimore or some other border city.

#### GOOD NEWS.

### BATTEE AT BEAMS' STATION, NEAR PETERSBURG—THE CONFEDERATES VICTORIOUS.

**PETERSBURG, Aug. 26.**—The affair on the Weldon railroad, Thursday, was very gallant and successful in its results. While the enemy's cavalry, under Gen. Spears, were engaged tearing up the track several miles beyond Beams' Station, Gen. Hampton attacked and forced them back behind their infantry supports. Hampton dismounted his men and fought their infantry, gradually and steadily pushing them back until they reached their strong works, 1 mile this side of Beams', capturing about 800 prisoners. At 6 o'clock in the afternoon, Gen. Hill attacked the enemy's fortress, and after a short but sharp fight took them, capturing a large number of prisoners, and 9 pieces of artillery. The enemy fled in great confusion. Col. Pegram, of Richmond, turned the captured guns upon the enemy with great effect. The number of prisoners will probably reach 2,500. Brig. Gen. Butler was captured. The prisoners belong to Hancock's corps and have been brought to town. Our cavalry acted with conspicuous gallantry.

#### GEN. LEE'S OFFICIAL DISPATCH.

**RICHMOND, August 26.**—The following dispatch was received to-night:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VA., August 26, 1864.

Hon. James A. Seddon.—General A. P. Hill attacked the enemy in his entrenchments at Beams' Station, yesterday evening. At the second assault he carried the entire line. Cook's and McKee's North Carolina brigades under Heth, Lane's N. C. brigade and Wilcox's division under Comber with Pegram's artillery, composed the assaulting column. One line of breastworks was carried by the cavalry, under Gen. Hampton, with great gallantry, who contributed largely to the success.

Seven stand of colors, 2,000 prisoners, and nine pieces of artillery are in our possession. The loss of the enemy in killed and wounded is reported heavy. Ours relatively small.

Our profound gratitude is due to the Giver of all victories, and our thanks to the brave men and officers engaged. [Signed] B. E. LEE, General.

As there appears to be some misapprehension about the additional tax of one-fifth imposed at the late session of Congress, we direct the attention of Collectors to the law on the subject:

*An Act to raise money to increase the pay of Soldiers.* The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That upon all subjects of taxation under existing tax laws, there shall be assessed and levied a tax equal to one fifth of the amount of the present tax on the same subjects for the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, which tax shall be payable only in Confederate Treasury notes of the new issue, and shall be collected at the same times with the other taxes on the same subjects, under the laws now in force.

Sec. 2. The money arising from the tax hereby imposed shall be appropriated, first, to the payment of the increased compensation of the soldiers under the act passed at the present session. Approved June 10, 1864.

**CAUGHT.**—A deserter, dressed in ladies' apparel was caught on the Southern train, last evening, just before leaving for Columbia. He said, after being arrested that he belonged to the 12th Alabama regiment. [Ch. Bulletin.]

## NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

This Argus is the people's rights doth an eternal vigil keep—Noseothing strain of Mala'sson can hull his hundred eyes to sleep

27 J C. W. FENTON, EDITOR. [295.]

WADESBORO', N. C.

THURSDAY:.....SEPTEMBER 1, 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.

#### HOME GUARD AND EXEMPTS.

We learn that all "bonded agriculturalists" are liable to duty in the Home Guard, now called into service.

Men assigned by Examining Board to "light duty" and not yet put to that "duty," will likewise be claimed by the Home Guard officer: until called for by Confederate authorities. It is earnestly to be hoped that the citizens composing the "Guard" may soon be allowed to return home. The "Guard" will leave on Monday next.

For the Argus.

NICHOLSONVILLE, N. C., Aug. 30th, 1864.

**EDITOR ARGUS:** After a few month's delay, I again raise my pen to drop you a few lines, and as the Argus has many readers perhaps a few lines occasionally from the beautiful upland-country of Western North Carolina, may not prove uninteresting to some of them, at least. It is true, in a country like this, there can be little of interest to communicate beyond the immediate neighborhood; but however, your correspondence will endeavor not to get tiresom in speaking of local matters.

The most delightful showers that ever descended to gladden the parched earth, have for four or five weeks visited this portion of the country, and the green corn fields with their marshalled host of stalwart stalks, panoplied in deepest green, each bearing a precious burden, to fill the heart of the farmer, with the bright promise of a bountiful crop, that we have enjoyed for many years. The industry of the farmer has been most richly rewarded, and all may rejoice that there will be bread enough for all. The mast top is most plentiful, the oak, the black-jack, the hickory and the walnut already bend beneath their precious stores, and will yield wonderful contributions for the benefit of the rising generations of folkers, and thereby save heavy demands on the corn crib of the farmers.

The wheat harvest has been most abundant and yielded an ample supply I think for all. It has been saved without any injury or damage from rain, and the flour made from it is of that snowy whiteness, tinged with a slight rich yellowish hue, which is the admiration of the baker.

The result of the recent gubernatorial election in the Old North State has given much satisfaction here, and I may say was hailed with delight to all her sister States and throughout the Confederacy. Thus the traitor has "caved in" and I would advise him to sell out and move to Mexico.

A few lines on the death of George C. McSwain, a member of Co. D, 56th Reg., N. C. T., who was mortally wounded in the battle of the Wilderness, on the 5th of May, and died in the Hospital at Gordonsville, on the 28th, in the 19th year of his age, and since his remains have been brought home and were entered on the 12th of August, in the Boiling Spring's cemetery near his mother's side. He enlisted in his country's great and glorious defence March 7th, 1864, and fought only in one important battle in Virginia; but has left behind him a name worthy of renown. His comrades in arms testify to his gallant conduct while in battle; to his social and pious deportment while in camp, and deeply regret his loss. As a son, he was obedient and devoted—as a brother, he was kind and affectionate—esteeming the friendship and confidence of all who knew him. The writer can hardly realize that George is no more; but 'tis true, he is gone to the courts of eternal felicity—never to hear the booming of cannon and the clash of artillery—never to endure the deprivations and hardships of camps, and we have the assurance he now sweetly sleeps in a soldier's grave. "We mourn not as those who have no hope," but look forward to the day when parting is felt and feared no more, and where peace and delight forever flow.

Our friend Joseph Green, who has been sick in the hospital, died in Charlotte on his way home. He will be interred to-day in the Boiling Spring Cemetery.

A. J. S.

**DETAILED MEN, APPLICATIONS FOR DETAILS, &c.**—We publish to-day another order from the Bureau of Conscription in regard to applications for detail. There seemed to be such misunderstanding about the previous order that it has been revoked, and the one we now publish issued in its place. The following is the construction of the new order:

If the District Enrolling Officer approves an application for detail, he is authorized to grant a furlough of sixty days for the purpose of ascertaining the decision of the Bureau of Conscription. If he disapproves the application, he is directed to order the applicant to camp. In the meantime, the applicant has the privilege of appealing from the decision of the District Enrolling Officer, but must go to camp to wait

decision. Applications for detail must be made through the county or local enrolling officers, as heretofore.

Where applications have heretofore been made, and the papers passed from the hands of the District Enrolling Officers into those of the Commandant of Conscription for the State, the said Commandant is instructed to either approve or disapprove the application and pursue the same course which District Enrolling Officers are directed to pursue, viz: if he disapprove the application he orders the applicant to camp immediately, but if he approves it he grants a furlough of sixty days.

Those who have made application for detail will now soon learn whether they are to remain at home or go to camp. The order is perfectly plain and we refer those interested to it.

We take the following from a private letter from a member of Co. K, 20th N. C. T., dated

IN LINE OF BATTLE, NEAR PETERSBURG, VA., August 24th, 1864.

When I wrote you last I was inside of the trenches, within a very short distance of the Yankee "blow-up." We remained in there ten days from the time we went in. We had three of our Company wounded in there, viz: John Poplin, in hip; Sidney Barber, (on Saturday last,) severely, in head; Elijah Hildreth, severely, in head. The last named had only a few day's previous returned from home on a wounded furlough, and was still unable for duty on account of it, and received this last wound as we were marching out of the breastworks. The Yankees having taken possession of the Weldon Railroad a few days previous, we were marched from the breastworks down the railroad, (we were relieved on Saturday night at the breastworks) and early the next morning formed line of battle about four miles below Petersburg, and the order being given to advance we moved forward and soon came in contact with the Yankee skirmish line and taken possession of it. The rattle of musketry told us that Mahone's (Anderson's, formerly) Division was at work on our right trying to turn the enemy's flank. For sometime the rattle of small arms was very severe, in the meantime, the artillery joined in and we knew that the ball was fully opened. Our company, (K,) was sent out to reinforce the skirmish line—the enemy's artillery poured a deadly fire of shell into our ranks while at this temporary halt; waiting, I suppose, on Mahone. Our boys had no shelter at all from the shells; but after awhile the order came and we moved forward charging the Yankees out of their breastworks and taking possession, which brought the brigade within a very short distance of the enemy's battery, or batteries for they had any amount of artillery planted on the hill which they used with all their might. We expected to have this battery to charge but Mahone found the enemy's works impregnable, consequently, we remained where we were until after dark when we fell back to the old fortifications near Petersburg. We are now throwing up breastworks about a quarter of a mile outside of the original breastworks. Our company lost no men in the charge. The Regiment lost six. Co. B, (Union county) had four killed and several wounded. C. H. H.

**SUCH IS WAR.**—It is sad indeed to contemplate the afflictions of some families as the result of our war for independence. The following, which we find in a Lynchburg paper, is only one of many such cases to be found throughout the country.

An humble family living on the outskirts of Lynchburg has suffered more by the war than any other that we know of. Four grown sons, all they had, constituted the gift of the poor and aged parents laid upon the altar of their country. It was more than they could afford to contribute to a cause that, result as it may, will probably leave them to poverty and want in their old age. One son died of disease in the service; another was killed at Shepherdstown while protecting the retreat of the army from the bloody field of Antietam; the third was lost at Gettysburg and the fourth and last died in camp near Petersburg a few days since. The distressed father was indebted to kind friends for the means required to bring his son home for burial.

The attention of the kind and patriotic is called to this case as one eminently worthy of consideration and sympathy. The stricken pair need assistance, and any pecuniary aid rendered to Isaac Butterworth will be gratefully appreciated.

#### A FIGHT WITH DESERTERS.

We are informed that Mr. W. W. Parker, of this county, having lost several sides of leather from his plantation in Nash county near Rocky Mount, ascertained that it was stolen by deserters. He thereupon applied to the proper source for a force to arrest them, which he readily obtained. He immediately repaired with his force consisting of a few of the reserves, to his plantation and made a search for the deserters, but failed to find them. It seems that the deserters got wind of his movements, and ambushed him and his force upon the road leading from his plantation to his home in this county, and when Mr. Parker and those with him passed by them, he was fired into by deserters, whereupon a fight between them took place—about thirty shots having been fired between the contending parties—Mr. Parker was wounded, a buck shot having passed through the fleshy part of his arm—no other damage done to the party with Mr. Parker. None of the deserters were captured, but it is thought that several of them were wounded. Mr. Parker's force was only four, that of the deserters six.

Such things are becoming to be a crying evil in our country—the only remedy for it, is to visit summary punishment upon these miserable recreants when taken.

In connection with this matter we will state, that a few days ago some of the militia officers of this county captured a deserter in this county, who was promptly delivered to Lt. Daryl the Enrolling officer of this county; who also promptly started him to Raleigh under guard—we are informed that he escaped from the guard at Goldsboro' and is again at large. *Tarboro' Southerner.*

Colonel John B. Murchison, of the Eighth North Carolina regiment, died in a Northern prison on the 7th of June.

John Morgan, says the Asheville News, is reported at Bull's Gap, East Tennessee, with a heavy force.

A Confederate force, over 20,000 strong, has occupied Morgansfield, Ky., and is now menacing the border towns of Indiana. Gen. Carrington has made a requisition on Gov. Morton for 25,000 men.