

A LETTER FROM SECRETARY TRENHOLM.

The annexed letter from Secretary Trenholm was written to a gentleman in Savannah:

RICHMOND, Aug. 13, 1864.

My Dear Sir:—I have received your letter of the 4th inst., and read it with great interest. Our views have been generally of accord upon the subject of the finances, and I would willingly follow now the course you recommend if it were possible. But it is not; the recent measures of Congress are but partially accomplished; and to arrest them half way, and attempt to substitute others, would lead to a condition of things approaching anarchy. Until the regular session of Congress, nothing can be done in the way of legislation for the redress of present ills. I shall do all in my power by a prudent administration of existing laws, to sustain the credit of the Government, until Congress assemble. And having given to their measures a patient, fair and deliberate trial, I shall perhaps be listened to then with more attention; in suggesting measures of reform. For what may take place in the meantime, I am in no way responsible. But our difficulties ought not to be aggravated by this short delay; and they can become so only in one way, viz: by the people advancing the price of supplies upon the Government.

The chief outlay now is for wheat, corn fodder and meat; woolen and cotton goods; and railroad transportation. For these the Government deals with the planters, the manufacturer and the railroad companies. Nearly all its foreign supplies are now imported through its own agencies, and adds but little either to the circulation or the funded debt.

For the home purchase enumerated, and all other domestic expenditures, it is estimated that the outlay will not exceed three hundred millions from the 1st of July to the 31st of December, provided that prices are not advanced beyond those of last year. These expenditures are thus under the most absolute control of those three interests. And of these the planters are the chief in number, importance and influence. They hold the entire supply of food for the soldiers in the field and his family at home. Will they advance the prices of food and with an abundant harvest? I hope and believe they will not.

Be that as it may, it is a risk that has been deliberately undertaken by Congress, in the arrangements of the two bills, and upon them the responsibility rests. The Virginia planters have nobly done their duty, in holding public meetings and opposing any advance of the schedule prices for their productions; and we most hope that their brethren in other States will not display a smaller share of patriotism and wisdom. There is no class so deeply concerned as themselves in keeping down the expenses of the Government. They are the great property holders of the country, and upon them must at last rest the chief burden of the public debt. There can be no escape from its ultimate payment; even now the bonds of the Government in immense sums are daily passing into the hands of foreigners, and coming more and more under the protection of international obligations. And our people are thus blindly allowing the only description of security that will maintain its present value on the return of peace to pass into the hands of strangers, while they themselves are employing the large sums paid them by the Government for domestic productions, to inflate more and more the prices of all descriptions of property, only to find their supposed gains swept away by the ruinous decline that will follow the return of peace.

If the planters saw their true interests they would be first to insist upon low prices and prudent expenditures. And the proceeds of every bushel of corn would be invested by them in Government securities, that they might themselves become the receivers of the future taxes. Yours most respectfully,  
G. A. TRENHOLM.

THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

THE NOMINATIONS.

For President—George B. McClellan.  
For Vice-President—George H. Pendleton.

PLATFORM.

Resolved, That in the future, as in the past, we adhere with unswerving fidelity to the Union under the Constitution as the only solid foundation of our strength, security and happiness as a people, and as the framework of a government equally conducive to the welfare and prosperity of all the States, both Northern and Southern.

Resolved, That this Convention does explicitly declare, as the sense of the American people, that after four years of failure to restore the Union by the experiment of war, (during which, under the pretence of military necessity or the war power, the Constitution itself has been disregarded in every part, and public liberty and private right alike trodden down and the national prosperity of the country essentially impaired,) justice, humanity, liberty and the public welfare, demand that immediate efforts be made for a cessation of hostilities with a view to an ultimate convention of all the States, or other peaceable means, to the end that at the earliest practicable moment peace may be restored on the basis of the Federal Union of the States.

Resolved, That the direct interference of the military authority of the United States in the recent elections held in Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri and Delaware, was a shameful violation of the Constitution, and the repetition of such acts in the approaching election will be held as revolutionary, and resisted with all the means and power under our control.

Resolved, That the aim and object of the Democratic party is to preserve the Federal Union and the rights of the States unimpaired, and they hereby declare that they consider the administrative usurpation of extraordinary and dangerous powers, not granted by the Constitution; the subversion of the civil by military law in States not in insurrection; the arbitrary military arrest, imprisonment, trial and sentence of American citizens, in States where the civil law exists in full force; the suppression of the freedom of speech and of the press; the denial of the right of asylum; the open and avowed disregard of States' rights; the employment of unusual test oaths, and the interference with, and the denial of, the right of the people to bear arms, as calculated to prevent the restoration of the Union and the perpetuation of a government deriving its just powers from the consent of the governed.

Resolved, That the sympathy of the Democratic party is heartily and earnestly extended to the soldiers of our army who are, and have been, in the field under the flag of our country, and, in the event of our attaining power, they will receive the care, protection, regard and kindness that the brave soldiers of the Republic have so nobly earned.

Resolved, That the shameful disregard of the Administration to its duty in respect to our fellow-citizens who now are, and long have been, prisoners of war in suffering condition; deserves the severest reprobation and scorn alike of the public and common humanity.

Correspondence N. C. Argus.

FROM THE 4TH CAVALRY.

PETERSBURG, Aug. 31, 1864.

Since the fight last week in which North Carolina soldiers as usual acted a most conspicuous part, the lines around Petersburg have been remarkably quiet. It is true, on the 29th, the enemy shelled the city most furiously. Huge shells have been howling and hissing through the air. Ponderous solid balls have been falling upon the roofs of houses and crushing their way to the basement. A few citizens perhaps have been rendered homeless and houseless by Monday's operations, yet it is generally supposed that this class of individuals have made enough to refit once again, and so long as the army is not losing its thousand per diem all is said to be quiet. Even during the most quiet day here, since the 15th of June, men have been killed in our breastworks. He who values his life, never, even in the stillest time, ventures a peep over our fortifications.

From late Northern papers we have gathered some hints concerning the great Chicago Convention. McClellan, it seems, is to be the nominee—provided he can stand on the platform to be formed and fashioned by this assembly to which the eager gaze of so many are turned. We have long wished for peace yet on the very threshold of this so called peace convention we must say we expect it not from that quarter. Lincoln will, we doubt not, before two weeks, send commissioners to Richmond to offer peace if we will return to the Union with slavery abolished. Such terms will be rejected without hesitation. If by any possibility the Democratic party seizes the reins of Government in the North we will offer peace to return to the Union with our institutions the same as before the war. This offer too will be rejected; whether wisely or not it is not for me to say. Under no circumstances will the North offer peace with independence to the South—and nothing short of independence will be accepted. Consequently the war must go on. New levies will be made, and the next September will find us still confronting the foe. The North and South left to themselves will never come to terms till both sides are exhausted, and like the dream published some time since in Richmond papers—"Fifty years hence will be seen a squad of eighteen men commanded by a Corporal with baggage in one wheel-barrow." From the peculiar movements of this squad the passer by asks what they are going to do. "This, sir, is the army of Northern Virginia. We are manœuvring for position. We expect to whip the enemy in a few days and we'll then have peace. The army of the Potomac has the advantage in numbers, position and transportation, having one Sergeant and twenty-three men and two wheel-barrows; but we have the advantage in the cause for which we are contending and the bravery of our troops." Such a conclusion is almost, we regret to say, inevitable, and he who speculates seriously on the termination of the war will find himself embroiled in a maze of doubts, more intricate than the labyrinthine walks where the mythical gods and goddesses only could revel. Our trust is in the long, lean thread-bare soldiers ready at any moment to face death in a thousand forms. All we ask is a sufficient quantity of meat, bread and clothing, and we can stay in the war as long as the farmers can support us; though in common with all mankind we long to repose our weary limbs once more in the old homesteads. We would like to hear again the silvery tones of the beautiful of earth. We would like to sit at a table laden with all the luxuries of peace and civilization. A roof to protect us from storms would be most acceptable; as also a pillow for our heads. Yet if it is required we can and will follow the soldier's life till we are called away by sickness, minnies or shell, or perhaps pass through this dark and gloomy period safe in limb and body.

Most respectfully, GAMMA.

BIG "SKEER" IN MEMPHIS.

SENATORIA, Aug. 27.—Memphis was a scene of a terrible excitement on Tuesday. A worse scare than that of Sunday was caused by reports of the advance of Dick Taylor, Loring and Forrest, on the north, east and South sides of the city.

The excitement at the hotels and on the wharf was ludicrous. The waiters at the hotel could not be persuaded that they were safe.

A large crowd took refuge under the bluff. Strong men offered large sums for boats to take them off.

A report spread that the Confederates had planted batteries on the Arkansas shore, the crowd rushed terror-stricken, back to the city, realizing that there was no place of safety. Officers took refuge on boats. The militia turned out in large force. The excitement lasted several hours.

A great many arrests have been made in Memphis since Forrest's visit, on suspicion of giving information to him.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Gov. Bonham calls upon all the citizens of South Carolina, able to bear arms, to enroll themselves at once for the purpose of assisting to retrieve the disaster at Atlanta. He concludes his appeal as follows:

Citizens of South Carolina! You entered this contest resolved to live free or perish. Your brothers, sons and fathers of the army and State reserves are already in the field. Place yourselves by their sides, and make good your determination that no foul minion of the despot Lincoln should ever place, with impunity, his unhallowed foot-print on the soil of your State. Make them rue the day they attempted to efface you from your heritage and give it to others. The ray of hope which some sanguine persons supposed they saw in the Chicago Convention has gone out in the darkness. Be not deluded. There is no prospect of peace from that quarter. Peace is to be obtained alone, under the blessing of God, through your fortitude, your sacrifices and your own strong arms.

The Standard learns from Dr. Deems, who has just returned from Moore and Montgomery counties, that he was very successful in those counties in his efforts for the Orphan Fund. The people of Montgomery subscribed \$22,000, and of Moore \$10,000 to the Fund.

REMOVED.—Gen John H. Winder, we learn from the Richmond Enquirer, has been removed from command at the post of Andersonville, Ga., for "incapacity and inhumanity to prisoners." This officer gained some notoriety in Richmond, where he held an important office under the Government until recently, and hailed from Maryland.

The Northern papers say that Charles F. Beavers, of Loudon county, Virginia, a member of Mosby's company, who was hung last week in Washington, met his fate with unbending composure.

Brownlow's paper says that the late federal jury, sitting at Knoxville, found six hundred and sixty bills of indictment for treason.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

29.] WADESBORO', N. C. [297.

THURSDAY.....SEPTEMBER 15, 1864.

ADVERTISEMENTS—\$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.

The latest letters received here from our troops in the Valley of Virginia, state that there was a considerable engagement (almost a battle) with the enemy on the 26th ult., and heavy skirmishing on the 27th and 28th; but no casualties among the troops from Anson.

Rev. W. C. Power, Chaplain 14th N. C. T., will please accept our kindest thanks for his attentions. The list of casualties he sends us, in Co' C, 14th Regt., at Charlestown, on the 21st ult., we published last week, from another source.

We learn from the Chattanooga Rebel that Col. George B. Myers, 24th Mississippi Regiment, was killed, near Atlanta, on Wednesday, the 28th ult. Col. Myers was born and raised in this county, and was a son of Absalom Myers, formerly of this county, but now a citizen of Mississippi.

Gen. A. P. Hill, in his official report of the fight at Ream's Station, gives as his own losses in cavalry, artillery and infantry 720 men killed, wounded and missing; while the losses of the enemy, in captures to us, were—twelve stands of colors, nine pieces of artillery, ten caissons, 2,150 prisoners, 3100 stands of small arms, and thirty-two horses. He says nothing and furnishes no estimate of the enemy's killed and wounded. These no doubt amounted to as many, if not more than the prisoners we took.

One of our wounded soldiers, who is an inmate of General Hospital, No. 7, Raleigh, wishes us to call attention to an official at Marion C. H., S. C., whom he designates as "a smart and economical postmaster," and relates the following to show how the said official has earned the flattering designation applied to him:

"I wrote my wife a letter, directed to Morven, N. C. It arrived in Cheraw, S. C., and was there remailed to Marion C. H. The postmaster at Marion takes a sheet of paper worth 25 cents, an envelope 25 cents, a postage stamp 10 cents, and writes to my wife to inform her there was a letter remaining in his office for her, and if she would send him 10 cents he would send it to her. See how economical he is!

"I wish the people generally to know of this generous hearted postmaster. The enrolling officer is particularly requested to hand him over. No such patriotic, generous hearted men should be allowed to remain out of the army."

FROM THE 14TH N. C. T.

The letter we gave last week from a member of Co. C, 14th N. C. T. should have been dated the 24th ult., instead of the 29th. This week we are permitted by a friend to make another extract from a private letter from another member of the same company, dated the 26th, near Shepherdstown, speaking of operations in the Valley in which the 14th was engaged, for two days preceding the writing of the letter. After speaking of pushing the enemy to Maryland Heights, the writer says:

"There we came to a halt. Matters were tolerably quiet until the 24th when we had a considerable little muse. The 14th was on reserve picket, about one quarter of a mile from the picket line, and about three quarters of a mile in front of the main body of troops. The enemy seems to have conceived a plan to capture our entire picket line, which they might have done, but for lack of confidence on their part. They made two feints on the left, then threw a column against the Division on the right of Rojes, when that Division got up and dusted. Our regiment was sent over and deployed as skirmishers, to check the enemy's move, and did it with the aid of three or four shells. The enemy went back, leaving a good deal of blood and evidences of loss. In our regiment, Capt. Pool, Co. E, and Sergt. Griffith and Private Hugh Rawley, Co. G, were killed. Jesse Halthcock, Co. H, Corpl. Jones, Co. F, and Nat. Wilson, Co. A, were wounded; Halthcock's thigh broken. A few others were slightly wounded. The enemy's plan to flank us with infantry and cavalry failed. The shells checked the cavalry, and we the infantry.

"Yesterday morning, Anderson took the front, and we came here skirmishing with the cavalry a good part of the distance. I understand the enemy lost heavily.

"We (the infantry) are lying by to-day; but our cavalry is over the river, judging from the heavy firing in the direction of Funkstown."

From the Richmond Sentinel.

OPERATIONS IN THE VALLEY.

WINCHESTER, Sept. 4, 10 A. M.—An engagement occurred at Berryville, in which Kershaw's division attacked the enemy's 6th corps, and drove it out of a line of breastworks at Berryville, with comparatively small loss on our side. In Wofford's and Kershaw's brigades the loss is very slight, probably not more than a hundred. Another brigade, name not heard, lost rather more. Total loss, probably 300. Wounded men who have just come in here report that all is quiet at Berryville this morning, and that the enemy is believed to have left.

A drawn fight took place near Bunker Hill, between a part of Lomax's cavalry division, and the cavalry of the enemy. Harry Gilmer is wounded in the neck, but is doing well. A cavalry fight also occurred about 7 miles from this place, on the Valley Pike, in the direction of Newton. I have not heard the result. Our infantry is here and at Bunker Hill.

Sixteen wagons were captured on yesterday from Vaughan and Johnston's cavalry.

[We learn through another source, that a body of the enemy's cavalry started on a raid up the Valley, towards Staunton, but were brought to bay at Cedar Creek, a few miles from Strasburg, where both sides were dismounted, and in line of battle on Sunday. The enemy subsequently retired down the Valley, abandoning their enterprise.—SENT.]

From the Augusta Constitutionalist of Sep. 4. THE GEORGIA FRONT.

From all the sources of information now accessible to us, the following will be found to be a very nearly accurate account of the last few days on the Georgia front.

On the 30th inst., the following official dispatch was received in Richmond and published that day in our columns:

ATLANTA, Aug. 28th, 1864.

Hon. James A. Seddon: "The enemy have changed their entire position—the left of their line resting near the Chattahoochee, about Sandtown, and their right extending to a point opposite and near the West Point Railroad, between East Point and Fairburn. They hold all the crossings on the Chattahoochee, but not with a continued line.

"Dispatches from Gen. Wheeler, of the 19th, reports the capture of Dalton, with large quantities of stores, about two hundred prisoners, and 200 mules. "He destroyed three trains of cars and twenty-five miles of railroad. His command is in good condition. J. B. HOOD, General."

From this dispatch it will be seen that the enemy's line; which prior to the 28th had extended North-east and South-west along the course of the Chattahoochee to the North of Atlanta, was so far changed last week as to place their left at Sandtown, a point on the Chattahoochee, nine miles west of the city, and their right at East Point, five miles south of Atlanta and at the junction of the Atlanta and West Point and Macon and Western railroads. From Sandtown to East Point is a distance of eight miles, and for that distance the Yankee line extended at the opening of the present engagement.

The taking up of this new position, of course, necessitated an abandonment of his works North of the city by Sherman, and they were accordingly relinquished, seven heavy siege guns being spiked and left. Besides these a large number of muskets, some forage, clothing, two thousand raw beef hides well dried, and a large amount of miscellaneous property was left behind, arguing a great degree of haste on the enemy's part in the execution of this last manœuvre.

On arriving at this new line Sherman immediately proceeded to make Sandtown his base of operations, and began entrenching as usual. From this point a force was sent out to lead the Western & Atlantic road thither, and other troops set to fortifying strongly on the Atlanta and Western road. This fortifying was carried on down the line of this road as far as Fairburn. Having thus gotten things in trim between the 28th and morning of the 31st, a heavy force of the enemy, consisting of five or six corps, advanced to the eastward at that time upon the line of the Macon and Western road. At first it was believed that Rough and Ready was the point aimed at, but it was afterwards ascertained that the enemy were making, in two dense columns of infantry and artillery, preceded by all the available cavalry at Sherman's disposal, for Jonesboro' on the Macon and Western road, twenty miles this side of Atlanta and directly in the rear of that city.

All Wednesday morning skirmishing continued in the neighborhood of that place, and at length about 2 p. m., the engagement became general between the main body of the enemy and Generals Hardee and S. D. Lee's corps, which had been detached by Gen. Hood to check the advance. Accounts are conflicting as to which side began the attack, but from the fact that the enemy had arrived in the neighborhood of Jonesboro' in time to throw up two lines of breastworks, it is almost certain that our troops moved first to the charge.

By the impetuosity of their attack, the enemy were routed out of their defences and both lines of entrenchments taken by our troops. The enemy were, however, heavily reinforced, and our troops not being sufficiently supported, were forced to relinquish the ground they had won, and by nightfall both parties retired to and slept in their original positions.

Our loss is represented as having been exceedingly severe as may be judged from the fact of one company of the 22d Ga., which went into action with two officers and twenty-six men, losing two killed and twenty-three wounded—only three escaping unhurt. The other companies also suffered severely. Up to date of writing no further particulars have reached us.

On Thursday morning, the 1st inst., the battle was again renewed, though with what success is not known, no telegrams having on that point been received, and the Macon papers failing to come to hand as usual.

The latest news as we go to press confirms to some degree the report that Gen. Hood had re-united his forces and driven Sherman back.

The true state of the case may be that as a result of the fight at Jonesboro', our forces have taken position on the Georgia road and checked the enemy's advance at some point thereon. Our men are well supplied with provisions, and in the best of spirits. The cavalry horses are also in good condition, and we see no reason for the excessive despondency to which some have given way.

No fears, we are assured, need be entertained of a raid as subsidiary to the enemy's advance, a fact which of itself proves that Sherman feels he has no force to spare.

THE PRESS ON THE FALL OF ATLANTA.

The press, generally, seems not discouraged at the fall of Atlanta, and we trust the people will take courage from their tone, and instead of giving way to gloomy thoughts and speculations, betake themselves to a cheerful performance of those duties which the crisis demands. The Richmond papers all look on the fall of Atlanta as but of small consequence, and some of them even express the hope that it may be turned to advantage. The Examiner and Whig both think that things might have been different had Johnston retained the command, and these speculations amount to but little now—it is too late.—Progress.

KILLED.—A negro boy, the property of Eben Hearne, Albemarle, was shot by a young man named Harris, driver of the hack between this place and Cheraw, S. C., Friday night last, and instantly killed. Harris has run away, and it is thought will aim to go to the army. Officers of the law were in pursuit of him on Saturday.

The circumstances of the case as related to us are unfavorable to Harris; but for fear of doing him injustice, we will not recite them. He will doubtless have to answer at the bar of justice for his crime. He is young; and we are surprised a person of his appearance should have committed so dreadful a crime, except under circumstances of an extraordinarily aggravated character.—Sal. Watchman.

The Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel says that our loss of engines and cars by the fall of Atlanta was heavy, amounting to six of the former, and ninety-eight of the latter destroyed.