

THE BRILLIANT AND SUCCESSFUL RAID OF GEN. HAMPTON.

The fact was generally known in this city and beyond its limits, that Gen. Wade Hampton started on a raid to the enemy's rear on Wednesday last, for the purpose of bagging a large drove of cattle, said to be grazing at or in the vicinity of Coggin's Point, Prince George county.

At an early hour Wednesday morning, Gen. Hampton, with W. H. F. Lee's division, (Barringer's and Chambliss' brigades) and Rosser's and Dearing's brigades of cavalry, and Graham's and McGeogor's batteries of artillery, struck tents in the vicinity of Petersburg and started on his important expedition.

THE SPIRIT OF OUR MEN. The spirit of the men was excellent. Scarcely one of them but knew the object of the expedition, the favorable effects of its success, and all were cool and determined, but impressed with the importance of the undertaking before them.

THE ATTACK—ROUT OF THE ENEMY. All necessary disposition of the troops having been made, Gen. Lee's division guarding every channel of approach to prevent reinforcements coming from a distance, an attack was ordered upon the enemy just before daylight, Friday morning. His left, near Sycamore Church, rested upon a hill, well fortified and protected by abatis.

On their left, at Sycamore church, the enemy was much more strongly fortified. He held position on a hill with formidable barricades in his front. Gen. Rosser demanded a surrender, but the Yankee commandant, seemingly conscious of his ability to hold his position, returned a positive refusal, with the additional remark that he intended to fight to the last.

THE PRISONERS AND THEIR CAMPS. The prisoners captured by Gen. Rosser and Dearing belonged to the 1st District of Columbia Cavalry, commanded at the time by Major Baker. They were armed with sixteen shooters, many of which weapons fell into the hands of the captors, and were safely brought off.

CAPTURE OF THE CATTLE. The enemy having been completely routed and demoralized, it was determined to push ahead at once after the cattle, supposed to be at Coggin's Point. A way in the distance, by the faint light of the breaking day, were seen a vast herd of animals.

I have the honor to report the arrival of 2,486 head of cattle here. I have this day moved them from Coggin's Point, as the grazing in this vicinity is the finest in the country. I only fear it will not hold out long enough. The cattle are in splendid order.

There was no difficulty in securing the cattle, for such the great drove of animals grazing in the distant fields proved to be, and our gallant horsemen pushed forward to gather them in. It was a great and glorious sight, and one that did the soul good, to witness them as they came up hundred after hundred.

While Rosser and Dearing were fighting the enemy, a detachment of Gen. Lee's command dashed into an

encampment of Speer's troops, capturing some prisoners and horses, and putting the balance to flight. Speer's headquarters were at Mount Sinai Church, and, had time permitted, he would also have been routed or captured.

THE RETURN. The object of the expedition being accomplished, our force started on their return home. Generals Rosser and Dearing were in the advance of the captures, and Gen. Lee brought up the rear. The cattle stretched out for a distance of four or five miles, but were moved and guarded in the most systematic manner.

BATTLE AT BELSCHES MILL. Gen. Gregg was drawn up in battle array immediately across Hampton's road, and it was found necessary to give him battle. Rosser and Dearing were ordered to attack at once, which they did in the most determined style, forcing the Yankees back in the direction of Petersburg, one mile and a half. They retreated across a creek at this point, burning the bridge to prevent pursuit.

SAFE ARRIVAL. After the disastrous and ignominious defeat of Gregg, Hampton continued his course towards our lines, and arrived in camp without further interruption at 6 o'clock on Saturday morning. He brought every thing safely with him, losing only some 20 or 30 cattle from fatigue.

POOR KAUZ. During the return of the expedition from Prince George, Gen. Kautz followed in Lee's rear with fifteen hundred men and four pieces of cannon, but he at no time came within shooting distance. At one time Gen. Lee halted and fed and watered his animals. Kautz also halted. But we understand from good authority, that after the battle at Belsches, Kautz turned his troops loose upon the citizens of Prince George, and robbed and pillaged them generally, in revenge for our success.

HORSES CAPTURED. In the fight at Sycamore Church and Cox's Mill, three hundred fine Yankee horses were captured which will be put to useful service in the Confederate army.

THE FIGHT IN THE VALLEY. The Richmond Examiner of Thursday says: According to the best information we have been able to obtain the battle here mentioned took place two or three miles south of Winchester. Newtown is eight miles south of Winchester, and Fisher's Hill eighteen miles further up the Valley. It is a very strong position on the south bank of a creek which empties into the Shenandoah river, a cannon shot south of Sharpsburg.

Further particulars of the fight. From a gentleman who left Gen. Early's army on Monday night we have some few particulars of the fight. The attack was made by the enemy on Monday morning just after daybreak. Our camp was taken completely by surprise. The enemy came upon our men in overpowering force, and his attack was so sudden and unexpected that our forces were thrown, for the while, into considerable confusion.

Gen. Rhodes was killed about ten o'clock in the morning, while in the act of rallying some portion of his division. He was struck on the head by a fragment of shell and was killed instantly—never speaking after receiving the blow.

Gen. Fitzhugh Lee was reported wounded, but it was thought not seriously. The enemy made no pursuit of our forces in their retreat. When our informant left our army had reached Eisher's Hill.

Persons having Irish potatoes, onions, sour krait, &c., to sell will confer a great favor on our soldiers in the trenches at Petersburg by furnishing them to Maj. T. D. Hogg, Raleigh; Maj. J. Sloan, Greensboro; John L. Brown, Charlotte; J. D. Brown, Salisbury; A. C. Murdock, Hillsboro; J. A. Boyden, Wadesboro; or G. H. White, Statesville.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

WADESBORO, N. C. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1864.

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.

LOOK OUT FOR THE CROSS-MARK. We send this week's paper to a large number of our subscribers with a cross (X) mark on the margin, with the number of the paper at which the term for which they paid expired.

A large number of our subscribers are due us for subscription. It is in the power of many of them to pay us in corn and provisions. They will confer a great favor if they will help us in this way. It is a matter of impossibility for us to be running over the county looking for something to eat and at the same time to give the attention to the paper it ought to have.

We would be much obliged to any of our friends, receiving letters from Early's command, if they would send us the lists of casualties any of them may contain of the fights of the 19th and 23d. We have seen one letter containing a partial list of casualties in Co. C, 14th Regt., but we do not deem it prudent to publish it.

REMEMBER THE SOLDIERS. We are requested by Mr. J. T. Gaddy, Co. K, 26th N. C. T., to state that he will leave this county on the 5th of October, to rejoin his command, and that if any one wishes to send anything to members of his company—particularly something to eat, and by all means vegetables—they will have the articles nicely packed in boxes and sent to his house.

LIST YOUR TITHES.—Attention of "all whom it may concern," is invited to the notice of Messrs. Robinson and Knight, who have reason to complain that the farmers have not been as prompt in attending the appointments at the respective precinct rendezvous as they should have been and in listing their wheat, oats, rye, hay and wool.

YANKEE PRISONERS.—For a week or two past we have had reports of large numbers of Yankee prisoners being gathered in the neighborhood of a certain point in South Carolina, and that through carelessness on the part of the guard or remissness somewhere, several hundred of them had been permitted to escape. Report further said, to ease the public mind, that the greater portion, if not all, of the escaped had been recaptured.

The one brought in Monday night had succeeded in divesting himself of all traces of Yankee clothing and getting others in their place assimilating to the Confederate uniform. Written directions were found upon him, as to the points he was to avoid and the route he was to take to reach Knoxville, Tenn. These papers were given him at or near Society Hill, S. C. The name of the party who gave them is known and has been sent to the proper authorities.

We deem it our duty to tell our people to be unusually vigilant at this time, and arrest every man they see passing about as an escaped Yankee prisoner who cannot give a good account of himself. They should not look for evidence of the nationality of the party in the clothing he may be wearing, for no doubt, becoming emissaries among the slaves, many of them will think it their duty to do, they will be aided by the slaves in changing their clothing and passing through the country. Look to your bags, bridges, and cotton if you have any on hand, for no doubt efforts will be made to fire these; and, look to your negroes that they are not corrupted, and that your potato patches and smoke houses are not robbed.

We have received from "Gamus," an esteemed friend and correspondent, a member of Co. A, 4th N. C. Cavalry, a lengthy account of Gen. Hampton's raid upon Grant's beef, in which the 4th was a participant. We regret to say that it was received so late and our space is so limited that we cannot give the letter this week. We feel it our duty however, to make room for the following extract, giving the casualties in Co. A:

Lieut. J. P. Kendall, Co. A, 4th N. C. Cavalry, was killed in a charge on the morning of the 16th. We have known him long, ever since our entry into the service, and we have known no one more brave and strictly conscientious in the performance of his duty. Strictly a war man he practiced what he preached, and with a recklessness of life he dashed himself among the foremost upon the foe. This has been his ruling trait—a stubborn bravery that Yankee prowess could not overcome. We shall miss his familiar face. Death may strike those we do not know and we feel it not; but when the fatal shaft brings low a comrade we feel it deeply, and extend to his bereaved family our earnest sympathy though we know them not. Private E. C. Doster of the same company was also killed—a brave, honest, upright, and worthy man. Wounded—James Gray, W. F. Curlee, Robt. Lockhart—the last slight in arm.

THEIBLE EFFECTS OF LIGHTNING.—We learn that on Saturday afternoon last, about five o'clock, Mr. Nelson Low, who lives in this county, between Lilesville and the Grassy Islands, had three children (boys) killed from the effects of lightning—aged respectively 17, 14 and 7. It appears that at the time they were killed no rain had fallen immediately in their neighborhood, and that two of the children were sitting in the door watching the play of the lightning as the cloud was passing, with the third lying behind them on the floor, near the door. Their mother was somewhere about the house. She was considerably shocked by the stroke that killed her children. When she recovered her first thought was of her children, and when she went to look after them, she saw the one that had been lying on the floor, still in that position with his clothes on fire. She put the fire out, and found him dead. The other two had fallen from the door outside—one lying on his face, the other on his side, and both dead.

"J. B. V." wishes to know what has become of Argus's "hundred eyes" that were wont to figure at the head of these editorial columns. "J. B." is informed that the said "hundred eyes" complained to us that they were tired of looking after the "people's rights" with nothing to eat, and that they desired to go on a hunt for corn, bacon, chickens, eggs, anything that would sustain the inner man, and nourish their mental vision. These being very "tight" times we let them go, of course. We understand they met with such poor success in the first week of their hunt after the articles named that they have turned their attention to young puppies, rats and mice, they being informed that said articles are much esteemed as food among the Celestials.

THE CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER.—Jno. D. Hyman, Esq., has withdrawn from the Editorial chair of the Conservative, and the paper is to be conducted hereafter by J. B. Neathery & Co. A gentleman of learning and ability has been secured as permanent Editor, but a few weeks must elapse before he can enter on the discharge of his duties. His name is not given.

Riley Cagle, of Montgomery county, Co. E, 16th N. C. Regiment, a notorious deserter and robber and the murderer of an old man named Simmons, has been on trial for a considerable time at Petersburg. Witnesses had to be sent from Montgomery county. He was finally convicted, and was shot on the 13th of this month.

Gen. Beauregard, (says the Raleigh Confederate, of the 19th,) was in this city last Friday. We did not see him on our streets, and understand that he spent most of his time with Gov. Vance. On his arrival at Greensboro the cars were closed round by a throng of citizens of all ages and both sexes, to catch a glimpse of the immortal hero. Being waited upon, says the Greensboro Citizen, Gen. Beauregard presented himself at the car platform and after the band finished a patriotic air, he made them all a handsome, encouraging, conversational speech. He said we had been crowned with many victories; that we must look for some reverses; that every rose has its thorns and we are, ever and anon, to feel them; that he never desponds even in the midst of the most terrible battles, that all is going well at Richmond and Petersburg; that we must endure, hope and fight, and our independence will be vouchsafed by the wise and beneficent Ruler of the Universe.

REGISTRATION OF EXEMPTS AND DETAILED MEN.—The War Department has ordered the registration of all male white persons between the ages of seventeen and fifty years who are not now actually in the field or in the reserves, and also of all boys who will attain to the age of seventeen within the next twelve months, with the month in which they will become seventeen. The grounds of exemption or detail will also have to be given.—Under this order, Captain Coke, the enrolling officer for this district, will proceed with the registration without delay.

Gen. R. C. Gatlin, Adjutant General has given the following explanation of a recent order from his office: Ministers of the Gospel of the several denominations in the States charged with the duties of such ministry, are exempted by law from enrollment in the Guard for Home Defence. They cannot be required to perform duty in that organization.

In a dispatch to General Bragg, General Hood says he is very much gratified at the feeling now existing among the officers and men of his army, and that they are in better condition for battle than at any time since they crossed the Chattahoochee. It is said that within a few days the price of corn in Columbia, South Carolina has declined from \$25 to \$12 a bushel. Beef, bacon and other articles of prime necessity, have declined considerably.