

THE DEFENCES OF WILMINGTON.

We have no idea of saying anything under this head that can tend to give information to the enemy; our object is simply to urge upon the attention of our people some considerations based upon known facts.

The importance of this town and port to the State and the Confederacy, has, we are pleased to see, been recognized at the South. Perhaps we are pleased to find that it has also been as fully recognized at the North, and that its capture has been urged by news paper correspondents, the latter generally belonging to that class who have lived and prospered among us, and have since, some more recently and some less recently, gone off to the enemy, some under false pretences, and some as known enemies.

The Confederacy wants men in the field at the points of primary importance, at what may be called "the imminent deadly breach." Lee wants men, Hood wants men, Early wants men. While such is the position of affairs in Virginia and in Georgia, much of local defence, much of the defence of places of high though not of prime importance, must naturally devolve upon local resources. The enemy concentrates and outnumbers us at cardinal points. We can hardly expect that troops in large numbers can or will be sent from these points to aid in the defence of unassisted posts. It may be said that we are all entitled to protection. That is true—to all the protection the Confederate Government can give us. But it would be folly to expect more. The people at home—the States and the people—must in some degree put their own shoulders directly to the wheel. In the case of attack, they must rally promptly to the attacked point. Previous to attack they must be organized and prepared so to rally. And if this personal service be obligatory at the required time, so also is it a matter of obligation that labor should be supplied to carry on and strengthen those physical engineering defences, which in the hour of trial may add to the efficiency of the forces whose province it may be to hold the advancing enemy in check.

We do not pretend to say what additional regular force could be supplied for the defence of Wilmington in the event of attack. We only reason from known fact, when we say that our main dependence ought to be, and we think must be, upon the State and the people of the State for men and labor. The skill of the engineer may be exhausted upon the erection of fortifications, but fortifications avail little without the presence of a force to defend and support them. It is not upon the works around Petersburg that our retention of that city depends. It is upon Lee's army. Let us have a force to maintain our communications here and our works will be all sufficient. Let the authorities and the people of the State stand ready to rally at the first bugle-note that sounds the alarm, and not only the most important part of the State is saved, but the interior as well escapes dangers, humiliations and indignities which must follow in the wake of a hostile success at this point. We suppose it natural that we should feel a somewhat special interest in the town where we live and where all our little property is located, but we urge no considerations founded upon mere regard for the town of Wilmington, apart from its importance to the State and to the general security of the people of the State in the persons and property, as well as its importance to the Confederacy.

We know that much has been done in the way of fortifying the river approach, and also that other means of defence have not been neglected, and we also know that more is projected; but common sense enables any one to see that lines extending to thirty miles or more, distant—Caswell and Bald Head—can only be rendered perfectly secure by the assistance of a force which can be moved to the support of any menaced point. From what has been said about the position of things in the field, taking public and well known facts as a guide, we may easily understand—not what we can or will get—but what it is reasonable that we should expect in the emergency of an attack. The commander here may find it a matter of necessity as well as of duty to call upon all classes of her people to come forward for the defence of their soil and their last port. If, through any failure or lukewarmness, the place should fall, it would be too late to indulge in regrets, for they could avail nothing; and it would be worse than folly—if it would be needless—to cast the blame upon the Confederate government for not doing what probably it could not do; or upon the commander here for not effecting what no man could effect. Napoleon Bonaparte himself never defeated an army by his own personal prowess, and neither General Whiting or any other man could be expected to repel an attack otherwise than by being able to oppose force to force. We say "any other man," since we know that the safety of Wilmington is a matter dearer to General Whiting's feelings than any other mere personal feelings or official sensitiveness. Besides being a devoted Confederate, General Whiting has his home in the State, and in the town, and thus presents an additional guarantee, were any such guarantee needed, that nothing that he can do will be wanting to contribute to a successful defence; yes, even though another man should be placed in the lead, or should be clothed with the laurels which that defence would bring.

We are pleased to see that our able cotemporary of the Raleigh Confederate feels confident in the power of the State, if put forth, to defend Wilmington, or any other menaced point. The editor of the Confederate has opportunities of knowing and judging that entitle his opinion, in the matter, to much weight. We trust that our State and Confederate authorities will work together harmoniously, and that hereafter there may be only grounds for rejoicings and for mutual congratulations and none for gloom and recriminations.

We regret to learn that Capt. Burgwyn, of Gen. Clingman's staff, who had only a few days ago returned to duty with his brigade, having recovered from a severe wound received at the battle of Coal Harbor, was taken prisoner at the engagement at Chaffin's Bluff on the 30th ult. We have not heard whether the Captain was again wounded. It is supposed that he had volunteered to lead a scouting party.—Confederate.

Robt. Ould, agent of Exchange under date of the 20th ult., gives notice that all officers and men of the Vicksburg capture of July 4th, 1863, who reported for duty at any parole-d camp east of the Mississippi, prior to September 10th 1864, are exchanged.

Mrs. Base A. Greenhow, a devoted Confederate lady, who was imprisoned in Washington some two years ago by Lincoln, was drowned recently, near Wilmington, while trying to run the blockade. She was returning from Europe.

THE FIGHTING AT PETERSBURG.

From the Express of Monday we obtain the following interesting particulars of the recent operations around Petersburg:

The enemy having effectually established himself on the Weldon road, he next advanced and fortified himself in the vicinity of the Vaughan road, one mile westward, making a feint at the time on Richmond. A pause was made for several weeks, or until his army could be reinforced to such an extent as to render it expedient and safe for another effort. Accordingly, having thrown a large body of troops to the north side of the James, and gained some advantage there, a division of cavalry was moved across the Vaughan road on Thursday to feel our position and strength, and if possible, to establish themselves. This effort signally failed, thanks to the energy and good behavior of our cavalry, who repulsed the enemy and re-established their lines, temporarily broken.

Friday, however, a more serious successful movement was executed. An entire corps of infantry, well supplied with artillery, fell upon our works on Mr. William Peeble's farm, Squirrel Level road, a mile and a half west of the enemy's original lines, and by force of numbers, succeeded, after a sharp engagement, in dislodging our troops. Fort McKee and a portion of the line of breastworks adjacent to it, fell into their hands, with one piece of artillery and a few prisoners. A brief halt was made, but flushed with their easily won victory, the Yankees soon advanced again, in the direction of the Bayton Plant road. They swarmed over Bosseau's, Pegram's, Boswell's and Jones's farms, but were struck on the latter by our forces and checked in their career. Battle was here joined and the confident enemy, meeting more than his match, was forced back in the direction of the captured works, with severe loss in killed, wounded and prisoners. Darkness ended the engagement which began late in the afternoon, with the enemy still in possession of the position gained from us on Peeble's farm and a portion of his column slightly in advance. The enemy's dead and wounded fell into our hands, together with nearly twelve hundred prisoners taken by our infantry and cavalry conjointly. In this battle the Yankee loss is said to have been very large, their dead and wounded covering the beds of their retreat. Many of these wounded have been brought to town and placed in hospitals. A large number of ambulances were engaged in this labor Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday opened gloomily in weather. The heavens were thickly overcast, and the rain fell steadily all day. But this did not put a stop to military operations on our right, as it had been determined to dislodge the enemy from his newly gained advantage, if possible. Their advance was early driven back by our infantry, who during a charge, captured about two hundred and fifty prisoners, and an assault was made upon their fortified positions on Peeble's farm. It was unfortunately repulsed. The enemy had during the night received heavy reinforcements, and had not been idle in strengthening their works. Our loss, we are glad to say, was trifling.

During the day, Hampton succeeded in gaining a point on the left flank of the enemy, some seven or eight miles from town, which being discovered, a portion of his command was attacked. This was about four o'clock p. m., and the discharges of artillery and musketry could be distinctly heard here. Our men being somewhat hotly pressed, were compelled to retire slowly, but reinforcements coming up, they reformed and in turn drove the enemy to their works, capturing two hundred prisoners, and otherwise inflicting severe loss.

Saturday closed, with the enemy still in possession of our lost works, but no further advance; and our troops in good spirits.

The number of prisoners captured on Friday and Saturday, will amount in the aggregate, to seventeen hundred.

But little was done yesterday morning, except some heavy skirmishing by the opposing infantry forces. Our troops fell back from the scene of Saturday's fight, during the night, and the enemy yesterday afternoon advanced his line some few hundred yards. His pickets at one time occupied the houses of Dr. Bisseau and Mr. Oscar Pegram, one mile distant from Peeble's farm, but were shelled out by our artillery. These houses, we understand, were somewhat damaged by shells from our guns, but it was necessary to dislodge the Yankees.

The Yankees yesterday took a portion of our picket line near W. W. Davis' house three quarters of a mile west of the Weldon railroad, capturing twenty prisoners. In the afternoon they were driven back and our line re-established.

Information was received yesterday, that on Saturday night a train of artillery was crossed on the pontoon bridges from the north to the south side of the James. It is not believed that any infantry troops have as yet been recrossed.

Our losses during the last three days' fight in this vicinity, will not exceed five hundred from all cause. It was surprisingly small. On the other hand, the Yankee loss is known to have been large—but little less, if any, than five thousand, including prisoners.

A BRUSH WITH YANKEE GUNBOATS.—The Goldsboro' State Journal gives an account of quite a spirited little brush between a small detachment of troops and some of the Yankee gunboats which attempted to go up the Scuppernon river, in which the Yankees came out second best. On attempting to ascend the river, two boats were attacked and forced back by Lt. Sharpe, commanding Capt. Pitt's company of cavalry assisted by two pieces of artillery under Lt. Williams of Lee's Light Battery and Lt. McWatson of the 50th N. C. T., with thirty infantry.

One of the boats got aground about seven hundred yards from the shore, at the mouth of the river, where she was well peppered, for some time, by both our artillery and sharpshooters, one shot striking her near the water line. So hot was the fire upon this craft, that the Yankees were all driven from their gun.

Three more gunboats at length came up to their relief and opened fire on our little party, who courageously held their ground and fought them till the approach of night, and scarcity of ammunition admonished them to retire beyond range of the enemy's guns.

We had three men slightly wounded and our howitzer was somewhat damaged by a shell.

The enemy's loss has not been ascertained, but it must have been considerable, as their wooden gunboat was aground and under the fire of our artillery for some three hours and it was well ascertained that every man had to seek shelter below from the deadly aim of our sharpshooters.

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS.

WADESBORO', N. C. [801.]

THURSDAY:.....OCTOBER 13, 1864.

Subscription—\$5 00 a year, in advance. Six months—\$3 00.

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. If they wish to renew their subscriptions they will be prompt in notifying us.

WILMINGTON.

We republish this week, from the Wilmington Journal, an article upon "The Defences of Wilmington," as not only possessing general and State interest, but as relating to a matter in which we in this section have considerable local interest. It, says the Confederate, "the enemy is really meditating an attack on Wilmington, (and the indications are to this effect,) it is not only reasonable to expect, but it is absolutely certain, that its defence must fall upon the force at our command, within the limits of the State. And we say again, if properly prepared and well organized and thrown to Gen. Whiting's assistance, in time, we have abundant force to meet any that the enemy are likely to spare out of his present resources. We concede to Gen. Whiting the feelings and desires attributed to him by the Journal—and the public welfare appeals to every citizen to give him ready assistance, in whatever way that assistance may be asked. We are not ignorant of the difficulties under which this officer has labored, and he has been much abused for seeming acts of harshness, where the necessities of the service were compulsory upon him. If he shall be able to save Wilmington when the trial comes, it will be due in no small degree to the firmness of purpose with which he has resisted public clamor, when to have yielded would have been to surrender the only means of making Wilmington defensible.

In anticipation of the probable assault, (whether it come or no) both the General of Description and Keerves, and Ad't Gen. Gatlin, have it in their power to "pave the way" towards making the defence of the State complete. We would be glad to chronicle some active and vigorous movement in the State military department, towards making the force under its command efficient and ready. It is to be hoped that these troops are not to be possessed of the idea, that they are only for the catching of deserters. Though this is an important duty, and one which ought always to be performed in an orderly and energetic manner, yet much more serious duties may devolve upon them; and we hope that such organizations are being adopted, and such preparations made, as will secure from them valuable service—to their own honor and the good of the State.

We repeat assurance to our people, that the State has the means of successful defence within herself—if she employed it with energy.

P. S.—Since the foregoing was put in type we learn from Northern accounts that a naval attack upon Wilmington is preparing—that the land force is in readiness, and that the fleets are gathering.

The probability is that Farragut will command the naval forces, as we perceive that he is about to be, or has been, ordered to the command of "the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron," and that Admiral Lee, who has been in command on the North Carolina coast, has been ordered to relieve Farragut at Mobile. From these changes it is inferred that the attack on Mobile is to be abandoned—at least for the present.

IMPORTANT ORDER TO DETAILED MEN. Adjutant General Cooper has issued General Order No. 76, revoking all details heretofore granted under the authority of the War Department, to persons between the ages of 18 and 45 years—and all such detailed men, together with those who hold furloughs or temporary exemptions by reason of pending applications for detail, are to be promptly assembled at Camps of Instruction, and assigned among the armies for service—excepting such as are employed in manufacturing, providing, collecting and forwarding munitions and other indispensable supplies. All men recommended for light duty, who are unassigned, will at once report to the Camps of Instruction.

As will be perceived, by reference to the head of this column, we have advanced the price of subscription for the Argus to \$5 00 per year. It is unnecessary to say why we do this; enough that we are reluctantly forced to it. The cause each of our subscribers knows and feels operating every day. If it is said that the figure is too high, we would respectfully request of you to apply the rule that is so much in vogue now—days of twenty for one and you will find, "according to old prices," we will be getting but twenty five cents a year for the paper.

We regret to learn, and with sorrow announce, that Lieut. John F. Fort, of this county, commanding Co. A, 31st N. C. T., was killed, in the attempt to re-take Fort Harrison from the enemy, on the north side of the James; near Richmond, on the 30th ult.

Another Yankee prisoner, who had escaped from Florence, was picked up in this county on Saturday morning last, and turned over to the authorities at Cheraw, S. C., to be returned from whence he escaped.

We had a severe frost in this neighborhood on Saturday and Sunday nights, damaging the peas somewhat.

Owing to the oppressive and tyrannous general order of Adjutant General Cooper—forARRANTOUS we cannot help but characterize it—relative to soldiers corresponding with their relatives and friends, but very few letters have been received in this county from Anson men with Early's command, and they with details so meagre, that although more than three weeks have elapsed since the fights in the Valley, near Winchester, definite information from not more than one half of those rumored to have been killed, wounded or captured will not be allowed to continue much longer, and that the fears of the anxious ones in our midst will soon be relieved.

Through the courtesy of a friend we have been put in possession of the following list of those wounded in Co. A, 23d N. C. T., on the 19th ult., near Winchester: J. R. Richardson, Alex. Duren, J. W. Mendow, Spender Short, J. W. Munnerlin, Thos. Phillips, Thos. Rorie, and R. M. Allen. To what extent they were wounded our informant does not state. Capt. Bennett carried twenty men into the fight.

The 23d was engaged from daybreak until dark without cessation, and after Colonel Blackhall was wounded and captured the command of the regiment devolved upon Capt. Bennett. Twice during the fight Capt. B. was called upon to surrender, and each time he sent back an appropriate and defiant answer. At Fisher's Hill the Captain is reported to have gone through the fight safe, and to have behaved very gallantly.

From a list of casualties in the 14th Regiment, in the fight at Fisher's Hill, on the 22d ult., furnished to the Confederate by G. T. Stronach, acting Adjutant, we find the following among Stronach and Anson men:

Field and Staff—Missing: Lieut. Jas. C. Marshall, Adjutant. Co. C.—Wounded: Private John Bowman, severe in head. Co. H—Wounded: Privates Noah Morris, in foot; James Morris, severe, in side. The regiment had 9 wounded, with 18 missing.

From the 13d we have nothing in addition to what we gave last week.

The Governor's Council, pursuant to call, met in Raleigh on the 5th inst. A. G. Foster, of Randolph, was elected to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of R. P. Dick, and P. H. Winston, in place of J. R. Stubbs, resigned. Col. J. D. Hymas, of Henderson, and Henry Nutt, of New Hanover, were appointed members of Internal Improvement Board. The Council declined to recommend a call of the Legislature at present.

Frank I. Wilson, of Raleigh, is about to publish a new book, entitled "The Battle of Great Beth-el." See advertisement.

OFFICIAL VOTE FOR GOVERNOR. Whole number of votes polled, 72,561; of which Governor Vance received 58,070; W. W. Holden 14,491. Vance's majority, 43,579. In 1862, there were 73,007 votes polled. In 1864, 72,561.

CASUALTIES IN ANSON COMPANIES, IN FIGHTS NEAR RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG.

BATTLE FIELD, CHAFFIN'S FARM, October 2, 1864. Dear Argus: Through you I furnish to our friends at home the following list of casualties in Co. B, 31st N. C. T., on the 30th ult., in the charge to re-take Fort Harrison, which had been captured by the enemy on the 25th. We went into the charge with 20 men. The list below shows with what result: Capt. J. T. Bradley, missing, supposed to be captured; also Sgt. J. N. Deberry. Killed—Sgt. J. N. Hancock. Wounded—T. C. Cappel, slightly, in hand; W. D. Crump, slightly, in foot; John Deas, slightly, in arm; W. V. Hatcher, in head; B. P. Liles, in hand; E. M. McGugan, in hip; J. H. Mask, in arm; T. J. Poplin, in side; D. M. Pratt, slightly; W. D. Parker, slightly; J. B. Parker, slightly; J. S. Staton, slightly, in hip. A PRIVATE, Co. B.

HEADQUARTERS 26th N. C. T., October 4, 1864. Dear Argus:—For the information of their friends, you will please publish the following list of casualties in Co. "K" 26th N. C. T., on the 30th of Sept, and 1st Oct: Sept. 30th.—Killed: Private B. F. Braswell. Wounded: Private J. F. Wadsworth, severely, right thigh broken. Oct. 1st.—Killed: none. Wounded: Lt. J. A. Polk, in neck, slightly. Very respectfully, J. S. HENRY, Lt. Comd'g Co. "K" 26th N. C. T.

THE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA. The next annual meeting of this body will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, on Wednesday, the 9th day of November next. Yielding to the suggestions of some of its members, I recalled the appointment for its meetings at Atlanta, with the hope that a favorable turn in the affairs of the Confederacy might soon offer a more auspicious season for its assembling. That hope has failed. The war is raging, with little prospect of a speedy abatement. In the meantime, the interest of the rising generation should not be overlooked. I, therefore, invite the friends of education to assemble in Charlotte. The committees appointed at the meeting in Columbia will, it is hoped, attend to the matters entrusted to their charge. Any male citizens of the Confederate States, who may be engaged in the profession of teaching, or who has, in any way, identified himself with the educational interest of the country, may become a member of the Association: in the following manner, to-wit: He must be nominated at an annual meeting, by a member of this body, elected by a majority of the votes then present, and sign this Constitution. J. L. REYNOLDS, President of the Association.