

NORTH CAROLINA ARGUS. WADESBORO, N. C. [306]. TUESDAY.....NOVEMBER 15, 1864. Subscription--\$5.00 a year, in advance. Six months--\$3.00.

THE LAND OF PLENTY, LOW PRICES AND LIBERALITY. Georgia, we think, if she has earned no other title, during the war, has well earned the above. Every now and then we see some quotation from the papers of at what a low figure this or that necessary of life can be purchased in that State, and of what is being done to help those who cannot well help themselves to eke out an existence. In glancing at the last Albany Patriot, our attention was arrested by the following quotation of prices: We have heard of several sales of corn at \$2.25, but we cannot safely quote it at less than \$4@55.00. Flour is high, ranging from \$100 to \$135 per cwt; corn meal \$5@56; cow peas \$3 per bushel; ground peas, \$8 to \$10; fodder, \$3.50 per cwt; wheat, oats and rye, none in market; meat is high, but steady; fresh beef, by the quarter, 65 for fore and 75 for hind; pork, \$1.00 per lb; mutton and kid, \$1.25; bacon, so long supposed to have been "played out," is now hunting purchasers at \$3.00 per lb. The Government Commissary at this place bought 5000 lbs last week at one yard osnaburgs per lb. This is at a rate of about \$1.00 per lb. to the Government, but our stores are retailing osnaburgs at \$3.50 and bacon at the same. Hams and shoulders demand the same price as sides. Lard, \$3.00; tallow, \$3.50; butter, if rising, but it was sold the past week at \$5.00, though we had to pay \$5.00 last Saturday. Sweet potatoes have tumbled down from \$8.00 per bushel to \$2.50, and there are more now offered for sale here than one citizen can consume. As if the above were not enough to give a fellow a fit of blues, when he contrasts what he has to pay for some of the articles enumerated in these parts, just look at the following from the same issue of the Patriot: We, (the publisher) thought the editor was extremely liberal the other day when he gave us a bag of flour; but Capt. W. J. Lawton has surpassed him, as he rolled into our office last Monday a barrel of extra fine Syrup. Capt. Lawton has made this year about two hundred barrels of syrup, most of which he has given the Government, and sold to poor people at cost. If all our rich planters would imitate his example, there would be less cause for the poorer class to doubt the patriotism of the lords of the soil in South-western Georgia. We hope the little "Patriot" will have a glorious time among their "sweets," "licking lasses candy, and swinging on the gates."

CONGRESS--THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Congress met in Richmond, on the 7th inst, pursuant to adjournment. The message from the President was received and read. Owing to our limited space we have to content ourselves with a synopsis of it. It begins with a review of the military operations since the adjournment of Congress in June, and recognizes the protection of Providence in enabling us successfully to withstand the utmost efforts of the enemy for our subjugation.

We have recovered Texas from the enemy and Arkansas, with the exception of a few fortified posts; nearly the whole of Northern and Western Mississippi, Northern Alabama, and Western Tennessee are again in our possession. All attempts to penetrate from the coast have been baffled. In South-western Virginia successive armies have been routed. A portion of Eastern Tennessee has been re-conquered by our troops.

The enemy's main army, after a series of defeats and constant repulse of repeated assaults, is still engaged in an effort to capture Petersburg. The army of Sherman having succeeded in obtaining possession of Atlanta, is unable to secure any ultimate advantage from this success. Had we been compelled to evacuate Richmond as well as Atlanta, the Confederacy would have remained defiant as ever. No military success of the enemy can accomplish the destruction of the Confederacy, nor save the enemy from constant drain of blood and treasure which must continue until he shall discover no peace attainable unless based on the recognition of our indefensible rights.

No change in the conduct of foreign affairs can be announced. The recognition of our independence is withheld from us on the assumption that recognition would be valueless without intervention. We wish no intervention. We know ourselves fully competent to maintain our rights and independence.

Peace is impossible without independence, and it is not to be expected that the enemy will anticipate neutrals in the recognition of that independence.

The total amount of the public debt, on the first of October was eleven hundred and twenty-six millions of dollars. No additional appropriations are required for meeting the needs of the public service up to the first of July, as the unexpended appropriations exceed the estimates for that time.

The Secretary of the Treasury recommends that the faith of the Government be pledged that notes shall ever remain exempt from taxation; that no issue be made beyond that already authorized and that a portion of the receipts from taxation and the tax in kind be pledged to the gradual redemption of the entire circulation.

Referring to the report of the Secretary of War, the President says the exemption from military duty of persons in certain specified pursuits or professions is unwise and indefensible in theory. Discretion should be vested in the military authorities, so that sufficient numbers of those essential to the public service might be detailed to continue to exercise their pursuits or professions, but exemption from service of entire classes should be wholly abandoned.

Various recommendations of the Secretary of War are referred to and approved, among which is the reorganization and consolidation of reduced regiments. In regard to prisoners of war, the President says, each government will hereafter be allowed to provide necessary comforts to its citizens held captive by the other. The subject of employing negroes in the army is discussed at some length. The President speaks out from those who advise a general levy and arming of slaves for the duty of soldiers, but recommends the employment of forty thousand in the army as pioneers and engineer laborers, in addition to duties heretofore performed. He favors the acquisition for public service of the right of property in the labor of the slave. Government engaging to liberate the negro on his discharge, after service faithfully rendered.

The President closes by reiterating the willingness of this Government to negotiate for peace. Peace is manifestly impossible unless desired by both parties to this war, and a disposition for it among our enemies will be best and most certainly evoked by the demonstration on our part of ability and unshaken determination to defend our rights. Let us then, resolutely continue to devote our united, unimpaired energies to the defence of our homes, our lives and our liberties. This is the true path to peace. Let us tread it with confidence in the assured result.

November 9.--In the Senate, several resolutions were submitted and referred to the appropriate committees. The subject of the delay in paying troops was incidentally discussed and a purpose evinced to adopt at an early day a bill to secure prompt payment in future.

In the House a multitude of propositions were introduced. Mr. Foote submitted a resolution that the recommendation in the President's Message, for detaching editors and their necessary employees, publishing newspapers, is one which the House can by no means approve. He declared that without the freedom of the press there could be no freedom of the people. The press was recognized in all countries as the bulwark of public liberty. The destruction of its independence would reduce us to the most degrading servility the world ever saw. The army would not be strengthened, but force and tyranny would be inaugurated. He was no friend with the press, and sought not even its favor; he was governed solely by public considerations in the resolutions submitted.

Mr. Barksdale defended the President. He denied that he desired to "trammel the press. Here, under the very shadow of his office, the press is free as air. He moved the reference of the resolution to the military committee.

Mr. Foote resumed the expression of his views at considerable length and with great emphasis. Mr. Barksdale's motion was agreed to. The House resolved itself into secret session.

Nov. 10.--In the Senate the bill introduced as a war measure, extending schedule prices for the army to all citizens of the Confederate States under heavy penalties, was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The Senate went into secret session, after which it adjourned.

In House, on the special order resolutions, relative to the employment of negroes in the army, Chambers, of Mississippi spoke one hour and a half in opposition to the policy. Foote next obtained the floor. House then went into secret session.

Nov. 11.--The Senate is not in session to-day, it having adjourned over until Thursday.

The House went into secret session after the announcement of the Special Committee, to enquire into the expediency of making an appeal to the several States relative to the number exempted as State officers.

Col. William J. Clark has been appointed commandant of the post at Raleigh.

Rev. Dury Lacy, D. D., has been transferred from the Chaplaincy of the Hospital at Wilson to the post Chaplaincy of Camp Holmes and Hospital No. 8, in Raleigh.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOSS OF THE ALBEMARLE.

The following letter, professing to give the facts as to the loss of the Albemarle, is copied from the Raleigh Confederate:

HALIFAX, N. C., Nov. 3, 1864.

Messrs Editors.--As several false reports are in circulation relative to the loss of the "Albemarle," and a disposition manifests itself to make the officers responsible for the shameful and dastardly conduct of the army pickets, I deem it my duty to lay the facts before the country.

I was officer of the deck from 12 to 4 o'clock, a. m., the morning of the catastrophe. About three o'clock a. m., I discovered the torpedo boat at a distance of between two and three hundred yards coming up the river. I immediately gave the alarm, and opened fire on her with the watch with small arms, which was kept up till she surrendered. The watch, which, consisting of six men, doubled that night by order of the Captain, were on the alert and did their duty; the crew were at their quarters as quick as they could shake off slumber and rush up from the berth deck. The statement that no one slept aboard is an infamous falsehood; the executive officer always slept aboard and so did the crew, except a few, who, with the other officers, slept on and by the wharf, right alongside the vessel, and as was tested by experiment, got to quarters as soon as those who slept on the small, dark, and contracted berth deck. I can testify that everything was done that was possible to prevent the catastrophe, as far as the officers and men of the "Albemarle," are concerned, and am far from willing that they should be made to shoulder the crime of the pickets and the remissness of the Montgomery True Blue Artillery. There was one picket post on the river bank about a mile and a half below the ship, another picket was stationed on the wreck of the "Southfield," about three-fourths of a mile below, posted with the special view to protect the "Albemarle," and prevent a surprise. They gave no alarm, sent up no rocket, fired no musket, but allowed the torpedo to steam by within thirty yards as stated by the Yankee prisoners, without giving any warning of her approach. There can be but one opinion as regards the pickets on the Southfield; they were asleep, and if ever exchanged deserve death. The Yankees state that they sent a row boat back and captured them while the attack was going on, and the loaded muskets left by them on the deck prove the statement true. When Col. Wortham was in command, the pickets on the "Southfield" had been several times found asleep, and complaint loud and deep had been made about it, but criminal indifference or mercy punished not the offence. Thus was the "Albemarle" shamefully sacrificed by drowsy soldiers, and the Cerberus that kept the Yankee hordes from Plymouth, destroyed. Very respectfully,

LORENZO D. PITT, Master's Mate, U. S. N.

THE LOSS OF THE ALBEMARLE. Capt. A. F. Warley, commander of the Albemarle, in his official report to the Navy Department, says that the night being exceedingly dark, he had the watch doubled on the Albemarle, and took extra precaution to prevent mishap. About 9 o'clock a boat was discovered coming towards the vessel; it was hailed but gave no satisfactory answer. All hands were mustered as quickly as possible and a fire of musketry directed to the boat, which, owing to the darkness, was ineffectual. The after gun was loaded with grape and fired, but could not be sufficiently depressed to take effect. The boat struck under the port bow and exploded a torpedo, smashing a hole in the Albemarle just under the water line, our men pouring upon them a heavy fire of musketry. The officers in charge of the torpedo boat instantly surrendered and were sent ashore. The pumps were set to work, but could not save the vessel, and she went down in a few moments, only her smoke stack and shield remaining visible above the water. Captain Warley says, further, that he received no notice from the picket boat below, nor did the artillery on the shore give him any assistance.--Dispatch.

THE YEAR'S WORK.

The Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel, referring to the near approach of the time when "Winter will lay his benumbing hand upon the armies of both belligerents," says: "The close of the campaign witnesses the Southern armies more powerful and defiant than at its commencement, and the Southern people more united and determined, if possible, than at any former period since the beginning of the war." Referring to the results of the campaign, our contemporary adds that, "instead of narrowing the limits of the rebellion by this year's operations, they have been extended. The enemy have a larger field to subdue than they had at the commencement of the campaign. Arkansas and Western Louisiana have been wrested from them, and have to be conquered. The rebellion has broken out afresh in Missouri, and the invincible and unconquerable Price, disputes its possession with Rosecrans and his Dutch Militia. Our army at this moment re-occupies Northern Georgia after being flanked out of it by Sherman, and threaten to expel the Federals from Atlanta, with a fair prospect of success. Richmond is not taken, nor likely to be taken. The gallant and glorious army of Virginia inspired by its great leader with unyielding valor and stubbornness, still confronts Grant with unbroken ranks and defiant scorn, and without the slightest idea of defeat."

From the South Carolinian.

BLUE STONE AT TEN CENTS.

Mr. Editor: Excuse the heading. I republished, two years ago, in your paper, a remedy for smut from Stevens' Book of the Farm. I fear it gained but little attention. Since then, (two years) I have tried it, and have been as free of smut as when I used blue stone. Here it is: Put, say a bushel of wheat, in a basket, dip this in a vessel containing a sufficient quantity of urine, and stir with a paddle five to ten minutes, until it is thoroughly wet, take it out and let it drip awhile and then turn it out on the floor or hard ground, roll it over with a little lime or ashes until it is dry enough to sow; then sow. Stevens thinks, if it is kept in the urine too long, it would destroy the vitality of the wheat. I have heard of a few others who have made the trial, and, so far, I have heard of no failure. This will reach the most of our farmers before they are done sowing wheat, so that they will have a chance of giving a trial. Surely the high authority of Mr. Stevens entitles it to a fair trial, and he prefers it to blue stone. FRANKLIN.

THE YEAR'S WORK.

The Augusta Chronicle and Sentinel, referring to the near approach of the time when "Winter will lay his benumbing hand upon the armies of both belligerents," says: "The close of the campaign witnesses the Southern armies more powerful and defiant than at its commencement, and the Southern people more united and determined, if possible, than at any former period since the beginning of the war." Referring to the results of the campaign, our contemporary adds that, "instead of narrowing the limits of the rebellion by this year's operations, they have been extended. The enemy have a larger field to subdue than they had at the commencement of the campaign. Arkansas and Western Louisiana have been wrested from them, and have to be conquered. The rebellion has broken out afresh in Missouri, and the invincible and unconquerable Price, disputes its possession with Rosecrans and his Dutch Militia. Our army at this moment re-occupies Northern Georgia after being flanked out of it by Sherman, and threaten to expel the Federals from Atlanta, with a fair prospect of success. Richmond is not taken, nor likely to be taken. The gallant and glorious army of Virginia inspired by its great leader with unyielding valor and stubbornness, still confronts Grant with unbroken ranks and defiant scorn, and without the slightest idea of defeat."

ADVERTISING--\$2.50 per square of ten lines for first insertion and \$1.75 for each subsequent insertion. Obituaries over five lines \$2.00 per square.

* RAGS! RAGS!! Will our readers save and send to us all the cotton and linen rags and scraps they can get together? Send them if there is only a pound--each pound helps us to make up a lot for the mill. The saving of rags may seem a small matter to some, but to those engaged in newspaper publishing it is of the utmost importance; and if it be too small a matter for some, let them turn the business over to their negroes. We would like to procure from one to two thousand pounds of rags between this and Christmas.

Some of our exchanges are discussing the "Nigger Question" in a new phase--the policy and expediency of arming 250,000 of them to help us fight our enemies. We think the discussion a useless and mischievous one--useless, because nothing can come of the movement, the sound sense and feeling of our people being entirely against arming negroes--and mischievous, because our enemies will seize hold of it to make use of it as an argument of a confession on our part of exhaustion and weakness. We have not commenced this article, however, to enter the lists with these discussionists. We have commenced it to call the attention of our authorities to a "Nigger Question" of another color.

The grading of the Cheraw and Coalsfield Railroad has progressed so far from Cheraw as to be pretty well up into this county. The laborers engaged in the grading are a lot of some seven hundred negroes, that were removed from the South Carolina coast, just after the fall of Port Royal into the enemy's hands, to keep them out of the grasp of the enemy, all belonging to one estate. The owners finding it difficult to get anything for their negroes to do, and being pretty hard run to feed them, hired them to the C. & C. R. R. Co., simply for "their bread." So far as the Company is concerned, with the exception of an allowance of meat about once a month, the negroes have been kept at work on corn meal, peas, potatoes, and rice. Being what are known as "coast negroes," and always having plenty of fish and oysters, and not using much meat, it was thought they would not need as much as negroes raised higher in the country. But since coming into this section they have acquired a considerable taste for it, and the farmers and planters in the neighborhood of the line they are at work on have suffered in consequence, losing their hogs to such an extent that their stock of hogs is nearly broke up.

Now, what we desire to know is, whether some steps cannot be taken to remove these negroes from the road and scatter them about on plantations, where they will be under proper white management, and where, while making their own bread and meat, they will at the same time help to make a surplus that will go towards feeding our armies or soldiers' families. It is no use to keep them on the road, for the road, even if it should be graded through to the Coalsfields will never get the iron necessary to lay the track so long as the blockade of our ports is maintained as rigidly as it is, to be of any use to the Government during the war.

To let them remain where they are without sufficient force to police them, they will go but from one step of degradation to a lower and corrupt the negroes upon the plantations coming within their reach. If our Courts can do nothing to break up this nest of evil we hope the Legislature at its next session will take the matter in hand and remove it.

SECOND-CLASS HOME GUARDS.

Adjutant General Gatlin has issued an order, calling out the Second Class of Home Guards, to be sent without delay to Brig. Gen. Leventhorpe, to relieve the first class whose term of service will soon expire. The following named Field and Staff Officers are ordered to repair to Goldsboro', and report to Brig. Gen. Leventhorpe for duty with the second class: Lieut. Col. T. H. Brem, Mecklenburg; " " K. Murelison, Harnett; " " R. R. Ibric, Chatham; Major W. C. Drake, Warren; C. F. Dowd, Wake; B. Settle, Rockingham; C. Dowd, Moore; L. G. Hiegl, Cabarrus; A. Summers, Guilford; Surgeon W. C. McDuffie, Cumberland; J. B. Robertson, Johnston; T. W. Kegn, Rockingham; Assistant Surgeon A. G. Lee, Sampson; " " F. M. Rountree, Greene; " " J. H. Branch, Halifax; Assistant Q. M. W. T. Pummer, Halifax; " " L. P. Tyson, Moore; " " W. B. McKay, Harnett.

We learn that D. T. McLaurin, was the only member of Co. A, 4th N. C. Cavalry that was wounded or in any way injured in the fight of the 27th at Petersburg. Mr. McL. was badly wounded through both thighs.

A contract has been made in London to supply the Confederacy with several thousand tons of railroad iron.

VICTORY IN THE CROXTON NATION.

We learn through the Texas papers that official information from Gen. Cooper's headquarters, Indian Territory, state that on the 18th ult., Gen. Standwater commanding the 1st Indian and Gano's brigades, attacked the enemy's post at Cabin Creek, and after a six hours' fight drove the enemy away, capturing a train of over 250 wagons and 120 prisoners. Our loss was slight. The enemy's loss in killed, wounded and missing, is over 1200. The blow will be severely felt by the enemy.

IMPORTANT ORDER.

The War Department, under date of Nov. 1st., has issued the following among other orders:

I. All soldiers hereafter furloughed at Department or Army Headquarters, or at Hospitals, by reason of disability resulting from wounds or sickness, will retain their commands at the expiration of the time originally allowed, unless in the opinion of a Medical Examining Board, their condition is not such as to permit them to make the journey without serious detriment to their health. All now absent are required to return at the expiration of their present furloughs, except those unable to travel. The certificate required above will be promptly forwarded to the company commanders.

II. Generals commanding Reserve Forces in the several States, are charged with the execution of this order. They will cause to be collected and forwarded without delay, to their respective commands, all men who come within the provisions of the preceding paragraph, that they may be discharged, retired or assigned to active or light duty, as circumstances may justify.

The old issue of Confederate currency must be exchanged for the new soon, or on the 1st of January next every dollar of it will be worthless. We urge it upon the people to send it in to be exchanged, or if the depositaries cannot exchange, let it be deposited on certificate as soon as possible.

FORREST'S OPERATIONS.

A dispatch from opposite Johnsonville, Tenn., Nov. 5, via Corinth Nov. 7, says:

Major General Forrest on yesterday achieved another great victory. He placed a battery above Johnsonville, and moved up his artillery from below. He caught at Johnsonville three gunboats, ten transports and about twenty barges. He planted his batteries at night and opened yesterday with eight pieces, and after an engagement of ten minutes the gunboats were set on fire and consumed. His batteries then opened on the transports and barges all of which were set on fire and destroyed. The engagement was terrible. The enemy opened with forty howitzers from forts and gunboats. Not a man faltered under the storm of shell.

Since last Sunday Gen. Forrest has captured and destroyed fourteen transports, four gunboats, twenty barges, thirty-two pieces artillery, over twenty thousand tons freight, and over three millions of dollars worth of stores. Our loss was only ten wounded. Johnsonville is still burning. The immense amount of freight on shore, covering several acres, will all be consumed, as it is now burning and the enemy cannot extinguish the fire as our batteries command the banks.

THE BLOCKADE.

The London Index furnishes a statement "in part," of the imports of cotton and tobacco into England, from the Confederate States, from the 1st of September to the 1st of October. The total quantity of cotton received during that period is reported to have been 14,534 bales, the value of which, in round numbers, is about \$1,000,000. Of the vessels, twenty-five cleared from Matamoras, the quantity brought by them being about five thousand bales. These figures will serve to give an idea of the inefficiency of the blockade, which nations, pretending to conform to a very strict code on the subject, consent to consider binding. The time will come when these nations will find the precedent they are now establishing exceedingly inconvenient.--Rich. Whig.

VICTORY IN THE CROXTON NATION.--We learn through the Texas papers that official information from Gen. Cooper's headquarters, Indian Territory, state that on the 18th ult., Gen. Standwater commanding the 1st Indian and Gano's brigades, attacked the enemy's post at Cabin Creek, and after a six hours' fight drove the enemy away, capturing a train of over 250 wagons and 120 prisoners. Our loss was slight. The enemy's loss in killed, wounded and missing, is over 1200. The blow will be severely felt by the enemy.