

THE ARGUS.

FRANK DARLEY,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

WADESBORO, N. C. [318]
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1865.

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

ADVERTISING—\$3 00 per square for first insertion, and \$2 00 for each subsequent insertion. Obituaries over five lines \$2 00 per square. [Ten lines make a square. Single advertisement of less than ten lines counted a square.]

Before the war the price of bacon in this State ranged from 10 to 15 cents per pound, and corn from 75 cents to \$1 25 bushel—bacon bearing the relative value of about twelve pounds to the bushel of corn. The Board of Appraisers in this State, under the impression act, assess corn at \$5 per bushel and bacon at \$8 per pound—causing the latter article to bear the relative value of one pound and two-thirds to a bushel of the former.

Taking their cue from the appraisers and from Government agents, holders of both corn and bacon, when they sell for money to others than the Government, require from \$15 to \$30 per bushel for the former article, and from \$4 to \$12 per pound for the latter.

Can any one tell us why this difference should be now in the price of the two articles to what it was formerly? Is there any just reason for it? We think there is not. As matters now stand the raiser of both corn and hogs is stimulated to withhold his corn from sale in order that he may get the enhanced price for it when turned into bacon. Can nothing be done toward reform here? There certainly is a great necessity for it, for the great difference in prices we have pointed out is operating injuriously to the Government and oppressively upon the non-producer.

THE SITUATION AT WILMINGTON.

The situation below remains pretty much the same as at our last report, the enemy making no further demonstration than occasionally shelling our lines from his gunboats in the sound and the river. Despatches report the enemy are awaiting orders from Washington before beginning further operations. It is reported that the enemy are committing depredations in the county of Brunswick; also, that citizens of South Carolina, who live contiguous to the State line, are going into Savannah, via the Georgia road, with cotton and other commodities and selling them to the enemy for gold and greenbacks.

Anson County has but twenty-four Justices of the Peace—seventeen of whom are between the ages of 50 and 75, and none of the remainder under 35. All of them were appointed previous to 1861. If she has any more, they must have been appointed at the present session of the Legislature, and no return of made to the County Court Clerk's office.

At the beginning of the war the voting population of the county was about 1,000. With so large a population we doubt that another county in the State can show a better record in regard to the number of its Magistrates.

COMMISSIONERS FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

It is understood that Messrs. Pool, Carter, Person, and Hall have been appointed by the Legislature, in secret session, to go to Richmond, to confer with the President relative to peace and the general interests of the Confederacy. A dispatch from Richmond states that they arrived in that city on the 30th ult., and had an interview that night with the delegation from this State in Congress.

The Salisbury Watchman of the 1st says: "It is confirmed that the tories are in some force at Piedmont Springs, in Burke county but have made no advance. Reports as to their numbers are conflicting."

A Watchman of a previous date says these tories have been assembled to operate with Kirk, who is reported to have marched with some force of cavalry and infantry, from East Tennessee, in this direction.

CAROLINA FEMALE COLLEGE.

The second term of this institute began on the 23d ult., under very favorable auspices. It is already nearly filled up to its ability to accommodate boarders, there being room only for some ten or fifteen more.

The term ends on the 24th of June, instead of the 4th of that month as heretofore published by us.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Alex. Y. Lee, Cheraw, has a very fine mare to sell. She is young, without faults, and perfectly sound.

Capt. Goodloe is in quest of several mules, belonging to the Government, that have strayed or been stolen.

Messrs. Mauney, McAllister & McCausless will, on the 2d of next month, sell, at public auction, all the machinery (iron and steel) left of the ruin of their factory; also, lots of other articles desirable to be had at this time.

A Washington telegram, published in the Yankee papers, says the subject of the exchange of prisoners is now in the hands of General Grant, and there is good reason to believe that a full exchange will soon be effected.

The Wilmington Journal says Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell have at last gone off for Washington. Although they go informally, still we cannot doubt that they go by the invitation of Lincoln. They evidently carry with them the best wishes of both armies for the success of their mission. In these both people join. If there be any truth in the statements of the Richmond Inquirer, and such positive statements from the Inquirer are entitled to such consideration, then some marvellous change has come over the spirit of Lincoln's dream, for we have no doubt of Blair's being an unofficial envoy of Lincoln's, fully advised of his views, and not exceeding his wishes. If Blair was willing to go so far as represented, the matter simply rests with ourselves—depends upon our own firmness; and if firm, we can obtain, or perhaps command our own terms. There are influences working in our favor, the precise character of which we can only approximately estimate, but the power of which we may, if we choose, already sufficiently appreciate.

We are not sanguine that this visit of Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell to Washington will once result in a settlement. It may, but we rather think it will not. But it is plain to us that the time is bound to eventuate in a peace and that as good a day as any we are now weak kneed or listless to the counsels of those who are, we may patch up a peace by the sacrifice of all for which the Confederacy has been fighting during the last four years. We may patch up a peace by which we will acknowledge that the best blood of the South has been shed in vain. We may patch up a peace that will deliver the South over once more to the fraternal embraces of those who have desolated her hearthstones, destroyed her property, debauched her slaves, insulted her women and children, and murdered her old men. On the contrary, by a little more firmness, a little more sacrifice, a little more suffering, a little more true patriotism, we will certainly become the arbiters of our own destiny, free to carve out for ourselves such a future as God and our consciences may give us. One way or another, sooner or later, this must be the destiny of the Confederacy. Without it—without independence—we have no future, no destiny, and it is useless to talk of "getting the best peace you can," &c. Without independence there can be no peace. With independence once conceded, we would be as unwilling as any to protect the war by higgling over minor matters.

It is true we here are threatened with devastation—with present loss of property—with many ills. Others have suffered the same and have stood firm. We trust that North Carolinians will not stand less firm than Virginians. The Valley of the Shenandoah has been ravaged by the Yankees worse than the Plateau was by the French, and yet the people of the Valley are as true now as at the first. If this attempted negotiation for peace serves to encourage our people by showing them that they begin to approach daylight, and have only to persevere a little longer, then it may be a blessing. If, on the contrary, its failure should plunge them into despondency or turn their minds toward peace at any cost, then it will turn out to be an unmixt curse. Will not our brave soldiers who have so often and so long withstood the shock of the enemy's hosts endure now a little longer, and crown their glorious career with an equally glorious termination? Will they who have so nobly endured, now falter when the goal of their great race is in sight, when the reward of their great exertions is within their grasp? Will they abandon the cause for which so many of their brave comrades in arms have laid down their lives? We cannot and will not believe it. Their own fame—their tried courage—their patriotism forbids it. Oh, let no man stab his own reputation or jeopardize his country's honor by straggling or desertion.

The Richmond Whig states that John Perry and George A. Spencer, South Carolinians, attached to Gary's brigade, and acting as scouts, have been arrested on the charge of piloting refugees to the Yankees lines. They were arrested in the very act of bargaining with an individual to pilot him through. It is also said a large contraband letter mail was found upon them. It is supposed that through these parties, and such as these, the enemy has been put in charge of information relative to affairs in the South, and has been regularly posted in regard to all our movements of troops around Richmond. The Charleston Courier, speaking of these arrests, says:

It is well known that there has not been a change made in the disposition of troops around Richmond during the past three months—that information of the fact did not immediately find its way to Grant's headquarters. The correspondence between Grant and Butler, relative to the first expedition to Wilmington, revealed this fact. But no one could imagine how the Yankee Lieutenant General became so well posted. It is now apparent. We hope our officers will be more cautious in the selection of scouts. Too much care and circumspection in this respect cannot be observed. Unreliable men, who would betray their trust for a few pieces of silver or gold, have in their power to place our cause in extreme peril. Let Grant know the intentions and movements of Gen. Lee, and the game is in his own hands. Disastrous results are inevitable, and our fate already sealed.

Reports from the Valley of Virginia represent that troops from Thomas's Army are passing over the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. No doubt they are to reinforce either Grant or Sherman.

President Davis is again suffering from an attack of neuralgia. Although confined to his house he is not prevented from attending to his business.

Gen. Lee's nomination as General-in-Chief was confirmed by the Senate on the 20th ult.

DEPARTURE OF OUR COMMISSIONERS FOR WASHINGTON.

Gen. Grant sent in a flag of truce on Tuesday, 31st ult., announcing that our Commissioners would be received at 5 P. M. Accordingly at that hour, Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell proceeded out on the Baxter road, and under flag of truce, entered the enemy's lines in front of Wise's brigade of Gen. Bu-rod Johnson's division. They were received by Col. Hancock of Gen. Grant's staff, and conducted to a special train of ours awaiting in the rear.

The Commissioners were entertained at Grant's headquarters. Mr. Stephens' servant was permitted to accompany them.

Col. Hancock, assistant agent of exchange, accompanied the Commissioners as Secretary.

During the passage of the Commissioners, the fastworks of the enemy as well as our own, were loaded with soldiers witnessing the novel event.

We take the following relative to the movements of the Commissioners after passing Grant's lines, from Northern news telegraphed to the daily press from Richmond:

RICHMOND, Feb. 4th.—A special dispatch to the Herald of the 2d from Washington, says: "We have had sufficient peace rumors today, and it is exceedingly difficult out of the mass of contradictory statements to arrive at the truth."

The facts appear to be these: The delegation from Richmond were admitted within the lines yesterday, and today started down James river on an army transport. They were stopped at Fortress Monroe, and Edward started from Annapolis at noon to meet them. There is reason to believe they will not come to Washington at present; but any negotiations or conference in regard to settlement of difficulties will be conducted at Fortress Monroe by Seward, in behalf of the Government.

An Annapolis correspondent of the Baltimore American of the 1st, announces the arrival there that morning of Seward, accompanied by a private Secretary, who immediately left for Fortress Monroe on Grant's despatch steamer, to meet the rebel commissioners.

DAY OF FASTING AND PRAYER.

The following proclamation has been issued by His Excellency the President of the Confederate States: "The Congress of the Confederate States have by a joint resolution invited me to appoint a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, with thanksgiving to Almighty God."

It is our solemn duty, at all times, and more especially in a season of public trial and adversity, to acknowledge our dependence on His mercy, and to bow in humble submission before His foot-stool confessing a manifold sins, supplicating His gracious pardon, imploring His Divine help and devoutly rendering thanks, for His many and great blessings which He has vouchsafed to us.

Let the hearts of our people turn contritely and truthfully unto God; let us recognize in His chastening and the correction of a Father, and submitively pray that the trials and sufferings which have so long been heaped upon us may be turned away by His merciful love; that His sustaining grace be given to our people, and His divine wisdom imparted to our rulers; that the Lord of Hosts will be with our armies and fight for us against our enemies; and that He will graciously take our cause into His own hand and mercifully establish for us a lasting, just and honorable peace and independence. And let us not forget to ascribe unto His holy name the thanks and praise which are so justly due for His great goodness, and for the many mercies which He has extended to us amid the trials and sufferings of protracted and bloody war.

Now, therefore, I, JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Confederate States of America, do issue this my proclamation, appointing FRIDAY, the 10th day of March, next, as a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, (with thanksgiving) for invoking the favor and guidance of Almighty God; and I do earnestly invite all soldiers and citizens to observe the same in a spirit of reverence, penitence and prayer.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Confederate States, at Richmond, this twenty fifth day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty five.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

By the President: J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

THE COMMISSIONERS SENT TO WASHINGTON.

The Richmond Sentinel says the circumstances under which Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell have gone to Washington are as follows:

Blair having sought unofficially a confidential interview with President Davis, departed for Washington with assurances that our President would be willing at any time to send agents or commissioners to Washington to confer about terms of peace, if informed in advance that said commissioners would be received. On Blair's recent visit to Richmond he brought the consent of Lincoln to receive and confer with any agents informally sent with a view to the restoration of peace. Those gentlemen who left yesterday were therefore selected by the President, and have gone without credentials, merely as informal agents, to see whether it be possible to secure a conference for peace on any basis which may serve for obtaining so desirable a result.

Married.

On the 26th of January, by S. W. Cole, Esq., GEORGE A. SMITH, Esq., to Miss ROVENA, youngest daughter of Capt. J. H. Sullivan.

Sale! Sale!!

HAVING HAD OUR FACTORY BURNED, WE will sell, on THURSDAY, 2d day of March, 1865, for cash, all the Ruins, consisting of STEEL, WROUGHT and CAST IRON, some of which will be very useful to other Manufacturers to repair up with; also FOUR FINE MULES, THREE ROAD WAGONS and GEATS, a lot of TOBACCO, CORN, WHEAT, BACON, PEAS, LARD TALLOW, SALT, MOLASSES and FACTORY FINDINGS: (Easier Leather and Cloth), a set of BLACKSMITHS' TOOLS, and many other articles too numerous to mention.

All persons indebted to us, or having claims against us, are respectfully requested to settle up before the day of sale.

Our place is situated five miles south of Troy, on Little River, in Montgomery county, N. C.

MAUNEY, McALLISTER & McCANLESS.

Feb. 2, 1865-218-24

JOB WORK NEATLY EXECUTED AT THIS OFFICE.

Fine Mare for Sale.

THE SUBSCRIBER OFFERS FOR SALE A FINE BAY MARE five years old, and sound in every respect. She is a most excellent animal under the saddle and will work in harness.

ALEX. Y. LEE.
Cheraw, S. C., Feb. 7, 1865-318-11

Strayed or Stolen.

ESCAPED FROM A DROVE OF ANIMALS, BEING BROUGHT HENCE FROM ROBESON COUNTY, N. C., about the 19th December, ultimo, TWO MULES, coupled together with ropes—the one medium sized, Bay Mule, about (12) twelve years old, in good order and strongly saddle marked; (this mule was impressed by me from Mr. Peter Smith, below Lambertson.) The other a small light Bay Mule, about (7) seven years old and thin, being the mule impressed from Solomon Oxedine, near Moss Neck Depot, Robeson county.

These Mules escaped from my drive, at night, near the Richmond county line, below Laurel Hill.

Also two Mules that escaped or were taken from my lot at this place on the 26th December last. The one a small horse Mule, bay and neatly trimmed. A description of the other not remembered, but they are both supposed to have been branded C. S. upon the left shoulder.

A suitable reward will be paid for any information that may lead to the recovery of either or all of these mules.

J. B. GOODLOE, Capt. & A. Q. M.

Ansonville, N. C., Jan. 25th, 1865-318-19.

Notice.

ALL PERSONS INDEBTED TO ME BY ACCOUNT, will please call and close up immediately.

A. L. JACKSON.
Lileville, Jan. 25th 1865-316-18.

Certificate Lost.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CERTIFICATE No. 521 for Four per Cent. Certificate to the amount of \$500, issued March 28, 1864, to me by H. B. Hammond, U. S. Depository, Wadesboro, N. C., has been lost, and that application will be made for a duplicate.

W. T. WILLIAMS.
January 20, 1865-316-21

Strayed,

FROM MY LOT IN COLUMBUS COUNTY, ON the 3rd Jan 1865, a medium sized BAY MARE, 3 years old, and when last heard from had crossed the White Marsh, making her way back in the direction of Ivey's Bluff, Robeson county. Said Mare was traced for by me on the 21st December 1864, from a gentleman of S. C., who said his name was Turner (Christian name not recollected,) and that he lived up near the mountains in S. C. Said Mare was in fine order when she left, has a small star in her forehead, well built, mark of the collar on her shoulders and the left petlock a little larger than the right, well built, also a scar on the left jaw bone caused by the hater buckle.

Any person taking up said Mare and addressing me at Gum Swamp, Columbus county, will be liberally rewarded. Any information tending to her whereabouts will be thankfully received.

R. D. SESSIONS.
Jan. 9, 1865-316-18*

Carolina Female College.

THE SECOND TERM OF THE PRESENT COLLEGIATE year will commence January 23, 1865, and close 24th June. Instruction thorough. Board good. Pupils charged from time of entering to the close of the session. No deduction except in cases of protracted sickness.

For further information address,
Rev. J. R. GRIFFITH,
Dec. 12, 1864-310-47 Ansonville, N. C.

Black Hawk Messenger!

THIS CELEBRATED HORSE WILL STAND THIS, the SPRING SEASON, at WADESBORO, and at other points to be determined hereafter. Those desiring to patronize him will make up their Clubs and notify THOS. H. THREADGILL, who is our regular Agent.

Terms—\$15 in specie, or its equivalent in produce or Confederate currency.
HALL, SMITH & CO.
Jan. 17, 1865-315-23.

FOUR PERCENT CERTIFICATE LOST.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT CERTIFICATE No. 494, for Four per cent Confederate Bonds to the amount of \$300, issued to me by H. B. Hammond, U. S. Depository, Wadesboro, N. C., dated March 28th, 1864, has been lost and application will be made for a duplicate.

W. L. LEBBETTER.
Jan. 2, 1865-318-18.

Notice.

THE UNDERSIGNED WILL TAN HIDES AT HIGH MOUNT TANNERY for ONE THIRD OF THE LEATHER or its equivalent in money, if the Hides are brought in in time.

J. C. CARAWAY.
Jan. 2, 1864-313-25.

CARD NOTICE.

THERE IS NOW ANOTHER LOT OF COTTON and WOOL CARDS (ready for use) for distribution to soldiers' families, at \$10 per pair. Agents will please call for them.

H. A. DOWD,
A. O. M. N. C.

MASONIC NOTICE.

THE REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS OF KILWINNING Lodge, No. 61, F. & A. M., will hereafter be held at 3 o'clock, P. M.

J. C. McLAUCHLIN, Sec.
June 13, A. L., 5864. 274-47

CONFEDERATE PRIMER AND SPELLER.

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE OR AT THE STORE of H. A. CRAWFORD. Single copies \$1.50.

RAGS! RAGS!!

HIGHEST PRICE PAID FOR CLEAN COTTON and Linen rags at the Argus Office, or by P. SIMMONS, our Agent at Ansonville.