

N. C. State Library

WHO WILL SHOW US ANY HOPE?

A correspondent of the Mobile Register, thus replies to the inquiry, "Who will show us any hope?" "I will, dear friend. Come with me apart. We shall together look out for the bow of promise. We will survey the sky—we will sweep the horizon with the telescopes of faith, we will pierce through the war-clouds rolling dun, and discover a world of light beyond."

"Think'st thou, drooping, fearful soul, that all this commotion—all this terror and suffering—all this conflict of nations, the tears, the anguish and the blood, have passed unnoticed and unaccounted for by Him who notes the fall of the sparrow, and feeds the young ravens when they cry for food? No, no!—He was present at every battle—saw all the hosts marshalled to the shock—permitted or commanded the result—restrained the victor from destroying the vanquished—moved with the advancing and the retreating foe—witnessed the suffering inflicted upon subject communities, and restrained the destroyer—heard every sigh, every groan, every wail of anguish, and counted the tears that were shed—received and graciously approved the supplications that went up from the homes and habitations of our people!"

He saw the end from the beginning. All that is now past, with us, was already present before it began, and no ultimate result can be attained by either one of the belligerents, but according to His will.

"What hope is in this view? Suppose He will destroy us."

Nay, but if He designed our destruction, why would He have so long protected us? For four years, fourteen hundred days, we have been defended! For fourteen hundred days we have been fed and clothed with the world shut out from us. One year of drought, one failure of the cereal harvest, and we should have been crushed. Who sent the rains? For fourteen hundred days some 250,000 Confederate soldiers have defended the land against an assailing force of 800,000 invaders. Who held the scales and determined the result? Is there any human reason why we could not be, and were not in fact utterly, beaten down and overrun the first year of the war? There is one reason—only one, and that is: Almighty God would not allow it to be done! We have rested too often and too much in mere human means, in the courage of troops, in the strength of positions, in the skill of commanders. These props have been, one by one, swept from under us! We trusted in Bowling Green and Fort Donelson. These were taken. We trusted in Vicksburg. Providence forthwith removed Johnston, and sent Pemberton to surrender it. We anticipated a powerful diversion in our favor by a movement north from the Trans-Mississippi. Providence sent Holmes there to paralyze that army. We hoped much from the skill of Johnston in Georgia. Providence removed him, and substituted another commander by whom our human confidence should be dashed and humbled! Stonewall Jackson had become our idol, and God summoned him to the warrior's rest. Our mammoth iron-clads were to open our ports. Providence touched the springs of human action, and the English Foreign Secretary had them seized! We counted on the yellow fever in New Orleans—it was forbidden to come. We invoked the storms of ocean to engulf the hostile fleets, but they abode in their caves! We looked with confidence to the interest and sympathy of foreign courts; but they have strangely stood aloof!

In all this, dear friend, we are taught, we are warned, to look to Almighty God, to recognize Him, the Lord of lords, and the King of kings. He hath wounded and He will heal; He hath brought darkness and He will bring light. He hath afflicted us—He will deliver us and restore comforts unto our land if we will permit Him to do so!—He will not give His glory to another! If we glorify Lee, He will take Lee from us. If we trust in Lee's army, He will smite that army. He does not intend that we shall be destroyed by the invading foe, but He will not allow us to boast that we have delivered ourselves by our wisdom, or by our strength. We must—we must—look to God alone, while we do our whole duty, and He will bring light out of darkness, good out of evil, peace and joy out of conflict and suffering!

Let the manifold of the country draw the sword; let women call on God; let all recognize the All-seeing Lord, and trust our cause with Him, and soon blessed peace shall pervade the land.

The army of General Lee, says the Richmond Dispatch, was never stronger, physically and morally, than at this hour. Its nerves are of iron; its spirit is lofty and resolved; it bids with rapture, the elevation of its commander to the supreme control of military movements as the harbinger of a new and brilliant career of success and glory. The causes of dissatisfaction that have hitherto existed in the internal conduct of affairs are rapidly disappearing. The right man will be everywhere put in the right place. Every element of strength in the country will be developed and judiciously handled. Other nations have seen darker days; Rome, Greece, the Netherlands, our own forefathers of '76; France, when Carnot became War Minister; England, when Mr. Pitt took the helm, and caused a reeling vessel to once feel the hand of a mighty master and ride the opposing billows in security and triumph. It is the province of such spirits, "from the nettle danger, to pluck the flower, safety." Providence raises up the man for the time, and a man for this occasion we believe, has been raised up in Robert E. Lee, the Washington of the second American Revolution, upon whom, from the beginning, all thoughtful eyes have been fixed as the future deliverer of his country.

The bill of the House of Representatives to abolish the fifteen negro clause; to take from the President and Secretary of War the power to make details and exemptions, except of mechanics and artisans in the employment of the Government; to revoke all exemptions and details heretofore granted by the President and Secretary of War; and to revoke the exemptions of mail contractors not personally engaged in performing the contracts; was recommitted by the Senate to the Military Committee, with instructions to inquire into the expediency of bringing in a more liberal bill. There is a strong disposition on the part of the Senate to preserve, untouched the present exemption law.—Rich. Dispatch.

It is stated that Commander Raphael Semmes, of the Alabama, has been made a Rear Admiral, and will take command of the James River squadron, in place of Commodore Mitchell, now commanding.

Lieut. J. Taylor Wood, C. S. N., has been promoted to the rank of Captain, for meritorious services.

A letter from Calcutta to the London Times, says that not less than sixty thousand persons were drowned or otherwise killed by the late terrible cyclonic storm which swept that country.

THE ARGUS.

FRANK DARLEY,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

9] WADESBORO', N. C. [32]

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1865.

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 advertisements of less than ten lines counted a square.]

A FURTHER ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF SUBSCRIPTION.

In self defence we are compelled to make a further advance in the subscription price of this paper. After this issue we shall receive no subscription for a longer time than six months—the price for which will be FOUR DOLLARS.

Those who have subscribed at former prices will have the paper furnished for the time contracted for. February 16, 1865.

THE SITUATION.

Sherman has been checked in his march towards Charlotte, and is moving east in the direction of Cheraw. This report we have from different sources—both from Charlotte, semi-official, and from South Carolina.

This (Tuesday) morning, we have a reliable report that some portion of his command, perhaps his advance, was skirmishing with our troops, yesterday afternoon, at two o'clock, on the Scotch road, within six miles of Chesterfield C. H. His object, no doubt, is to try to capture Cheraw, where he has probably been led to believe there are valuable stores; and if successful he will then push on towards Fayetteville and Raleigh. If unsuccessful he will turn his course towards the coast, and will try to reach it either at Charleston, Bull's Bay or Wilmington.

His successful march, north, we have reason to believe has been brought to a termination; and his escape to the coast, we hope, is doubtful. We are aware of heavy concentration of troops going on, and favorite Generals are in command, which lead us to look very soon for the best results.

P. S. Tuesday, 5 p. m.—A messenger, dispatched from this place towards Chesterfield C. H., this morning to obtain, if possible, reliable information as to the whereabouts of the enemy, has just returned. He was in the village of Chesterfield at noon and learned that the enemy were on two roads south of the village, the Poplar Grove and Camden roads, one four and the other six miles from Chesterfield, apparently moving north. Last night they burned two mills on the Poplar Grove road, and camped in the neighborhood.

P. S. No. 2.—Wednesday 10 p. m.—A gentleman who put up at Chesterfield C. H. last night, has just arrived, and reports from official sources no enemy within six miles of the village at a late hour last night. Some scouts had shown themselves on the Poplar Grove and Scotch or Camden roads during the day, but disappeared towards night.

The stories about the enemy being at Monroe and at points within this county are all *losh*, and belong to the sensation order.

Charleston has been evacuated by our forces, and Gen. Hardee, in command of the garrison and the other troops that were engaged in its defence on the outposts, is in a position to meet Sherman in his movement north. As to his exact position and the strength of his command it does not become us to speak; but we feel satisfied that they are sufficient to give the enemy a severe blow, if not whip him, if he comes within striking distance.

Wilmington has also been evacuated, and we have reason to believe that the troops engaged in its defence have been moved up in position where Sherman will hear from them, too, before long.

We are reliably informed that an engagement took place on Friday afternoon last between our cavalry under Young and a portion of the enemy, near Flat Rock, Kershaw District, S. C., in which the enemy were considerable worsted. Our forces took some fifty-seven prisoners and damaged the enemy's wagon train, and recaptured a large number of horses and mules which had been stolen from the citizens by the Yankees.

We also learn that subsequently Gen. Butler's cavalry got up with the enemy somewhere in the same neighborhood, killed and wounded a great many of them, took some three hundred prisoners, and captured and destroyed a portion of their wagon train.

The army that Gen. Beauregard has been confronting the enemy with since he fell back from Columbia, we have reason to believe has recently been much strengthened in men and material. It is no doubt information that he has received of this that has induced Sherman to change his course and direct his steps a little more northerly than he was doing last week.

It rains, and it mists, and keeps things damp generally. With the exception of one day it has been at it for a week—with a fair (?) prospect of keeping at it a week longer. Of course it is very muddy. Who wouldn't be a soldier—a member of the Home Guard especially.

Fifty-five "gentlemen in blue," captured by Young's cavalry, passed through this village on Tuesday, properly guarded to a place of safety.

Owing to the crowded condition of our columns last week, we had not time to call attention to the important orders published among our advertisements—particularly to General Orders Nos. 2 and 3 from Gen. Lee. We do so this week, and we cannot do it better than in the words of the *Raleigh Confederate*, which says:

"General Lee exhorts his gallant and brave comrades, who with him, have borne so long, so patiently and unrepiningly, the hardships and vicissitudes of war, still to stand by their colors, and yet further to respond to the calls of honor and duty. He plainly tells them of the choice which lies before them—war or object submission? He does not tell them of any hopes of reconstruction—that the people can select to go back with their rights into the Union, if they choose; but he tells them that only the choice of object humiliating, destructive submission is left to them, unless they fight for independence. He then appeals to them by their lineage—by their descent from a free ancestry—to maintain the inheritance of liberty which descended to them from their fathers. General Lee addresses his soldiers in the language of stern, recognizable truth, without equivocation or passion, that they cannot barter manhood for peace, nor the right of self government for life or property."

"This language of Gen. Robert E. Lee addresses itself not only to his comrades in arms, but the whole people. And which will you believe, people of North Carolina? This veteran patriot chief, who left high position, wealth, and ease in the old government, and at your call, came to share with your children the struggle for independence—who has dwelt in tents since the war began, foregoing all comforts, except such as the soldier enjoys—who has exposed his person in battle, and who, for his great integrity and uprightness, holds the reverence of this nation, and the admiration of other people—whose name is read, with honor and respect, all over the world; or, believe the base and cowardly, or the timid and ignorant, who tell you that you can return to the Union, and be protected in your property? Gen. Lee, in telling his soldiers, tells you, that there is no alternative but submission or war."

"After this exhortation, Gen. Lee addresses himself to the deserters and absentees without leave, 'who have abandoned their comrades in the hour of peril.' He warns them sternly, as they have not heretofore been warned, that a last opportunity is offered to them to wipe out their disgrace, and escape the punishment of their crimes. By the authority of the President, he offers pardon to all who shall return, or report, according to the orders, within 20 days, except those who have deserted to the enemy, or those who have once been pardoned."

"We see, in this appeal of Gen. Lee, a determined resolve; that mercy shall now give place to justice. Ye wives, who have husbands absent from their posts; who have deserted because you have written to them to come home, take care! You are aiming the deadly bullet at the heart which is dearest to you. Ye fathers, mothers, sisters, kin, who connive at the desertion of your children and brethren, be warned, lest ye contribute to their destruction. Be assured that laws more stringent, and more inexorably executed, will soon be put in force to bring in deserters. Their names will be published in the journals, stuck up at your Court Houses, and if no worse fate befall them, they will hereafter bear forever the record of infamy. Whoever, then, has a relation or friend, who, under any bad influence, or for any cause, has abandoned his post, we counsel you to use your best exertions to induce his return within the limit of the offer of pardon."

"And, to all citizens, we would say: It is the interest, as well as the duty of all, to urge deserters and absentees back to their duty. Only think! If those who are absent from our army were now with Beauregard, Sherman would be driven discomfited and driven from South Carolina. If Gen. Lee had his absentees back, not all the hordes of Grant could save him from destruction. But for desertion, and improper absenteeism, the reverses which have befallen us would never have happened. Our victories would have been more decisive; and in all human probability at this very day, our cause would have been gained."

Everything is at sixes and sevens with us this week. The Yankees have left the direct route to Charlotte, and are moving south of us, it is supposed on Cheraw. Consequent upon this change of route of the enemy, and apprehending that this county may be brought within the line of march of one of his columns, or one of his raiding parties, this community is laboring under considerable excitement, (a great deal of it, we think, unnecessary.) We are ordered out under arms (ourselves and one other in the office.) It is raining hard, with no prospect of ceasing until we have performed our tour of duty. The mud is about ankle deep, and getting deeper. Our mails are all out of order and behind time. We have nothing to eat, and no chance of buying anything. Under these circumstances our readers must overlook the shortcomings of this paper, and sympathize with us in our misery.

In pursuance of General Orders No. 2 Adjutant General's Office, Raleigh, the Home Guard of this county reorganized on Thursday last by electing the following officers:

First Class—W. L. White, Captain; A. Niven, First Lieutenant.

Second Class—George A. Smith, Captain; W. H. Mills, First Lieutenant; J. C. Harrell, Second Lieutenant; J. C. Yeates, Third Lieutenant.

The following flag of truce letter was received by the Sheriff of this county, Gideon B. Threadgill, who has handed it to us for publication. The deceased party, Daniel Edwards, was not a citizen of this county, nor do we know what county Philip Melvin is Sheriff of. With the hope that Sheriff Melvin may see the letter and convey the painful information it contains to Edwards' relatives and friends, we respectfully request that the press of the State copy it.

SECOND DIVISION, U. S. GEN. HOSPITAL, FORT MONROE, VA., Jan. 24, 1865.

MR. PHILIP MELVIN—
High Sheriff of Anson county, N. C.

Sir: I regret to have to inform you of the recent death in this hospital of Daniel Edwards, of Co. K, 40th N. C. Reg't., who was wounded in the head and taken prisoner at Fort Fisher, on the 15th. The ball entered the left side of the head, remaining in. He was brought into this hospital Jan. 22d, and died the next day. It will gratify you to know that all possible attention was given him during his illness here.

He was buried in the Hampton Hospital burring ground, with the usual military and religious ceremonies, and his grave is marked by a white head-board, with his name, company, regiment and date of death plainly marked upon it.

I am, sir, very respectfully your ob't serv't,
CHAS. A. RAYMOND,
Chaplain 2d Division, U. S. Gen. Hospital,
Fort Monroe, Va.

In obedience to orders from Gen. Lee, Gen. Joseph E. Johnson has assumed the command of the army of Tennessee, and the troops in the department of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. In his first general order dated Charlotte, 23d inst., he says:

"He takes this position with strong hope, because he will have in council and in the field the aid of the high talents of the distinguished General whom he succeeds. He exhorts all absent soldiers of the army of Tennessee to rejoin their regiments and again confront the enemy they so often encountered in northern Georgia, and always with honor."

We have received from the publishers, Wm. B. Smith & Co., Raleigh, N. C., a copy of "The Deserter's Daughter," by W. D. Herrington, 3d N. C. Cavalry. It is neatly printed for the times. The tale is spun out to 27 pages. Price \$2 by mail.

We have not had time to look through the tale, and are therefore not able to present to pronounce upon its merits.

A Richmond dispatch of the 22d inst., says the exchange of prisoners is progressing rapidly.

CONGRESSIONAL SUMMARY.

Feb. 20.—In the House, Mr. Perkins reported back from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, a preamble and resolutions, a condensed report of which reads as follows:

Whereas the Congress of the Confederate States has been desirous of an honorable settlement, by negotiation, of all matters of difficulty between the Confederate States and the United States and to this end sent three Commissioners in February, 1864, to Washington, to negotiate friendly relations between the two Governments and, whereas, these having been refused reception, the Congress of the Confederate States in June, 1864, adopted and published to the world a declaration of its continued desire for an honorable peace, to which the only response from the Congress of the United States was a rejection, by large majorities, of all proposals for an amicable settlement of existing difficulties; and whereas, President Lincoln has recently announced to three thousand citizens that the authorities of the United States would hold negotiations with the Confederate States or any of them separately, that no treaty except such as a conqueror grants to a subjugated people would be extended to the people of these States; therefore Resolved, That while Congress regrets that no ultimatum is left to the people of the Confederate States out to continue the war, or submission to the terms peace alike dishonorable, it accepts in their behalf the issue tendered them, and solemnly declares an alterable determination to prosecute the war with the United States until that power should desist from efforts to subjugate them, and the independence of Confederate States is established.

The second resolution compliments the army for various patriotic resolutions recently adopted.

The third resolution invites the people to assemble public meetings, and renew their vows of devotion to the cause of independence.

The fourth resolution pledges Congress to pass most energetic measures to secure our ultimate success.

Mr. Gilmer offered the following additional resolution:

Resolved, That notwithstanding all this, we believe the Confederate States would consent, 1st, to a separation between the U. S. and C. S., each one perfectly free and independent of the other, their rights, taxation, trade, transit, &c., to be fairly agreed 2d, that all debts created to be settled by Convention to which each party should be at liberty to send delegates, each being its own judge as to the manner of election, and each party paying its own expenses, the privileges to be clearly defined and secured, each section to have one vote, binding on part, only when ratified by Congress.

Each resolution of the committee and amended proposed were ordered to be printed. The House resolved itself into secret session on the negro bill.

In the Senate, the appropriation bill passed the bill abolishing the office of Provost Marshal, except within the army in the field.

Feb. 22.—The Senate passed the bill to more fully prevent and punish absentees, and deserters from the army. After secret session, adjourned.

In the House a message was received from the President, in response to a resolution of inquiry, that a telegram from Hardee relative to the fact that he had destroyed the cotton in Savannah. He stated that cotton was stored in cellars and garrets and its destruction would have involved that of the city.

The Senate bill increasing the number of men was passed. The tax bill was further con-

Northern papers of the 20th have news from Carolina derived from Richmond papers. The read—"Glorious news!—Charleston evacuated old flag over Sumter again."

Admiral Buchanan arrived in Richmond, on the noon of the 22d, by flag of truce boat.

Roger A. Pryor has been released from Fort on parole. It is presumed he will be exchanged.