

sonable force, with the expenditure of money and labor, supposed to be within the means of the government; that the same was not done, and the defenses constructed were wholly inadequate for its protection from an attack, either by land or water; and the committee have no difficulty in assigning as the cause of our disaster and defeat, on the 8th of February, the want of necessary defenses upon the Island, the adjacent waters, and upon the mainland upon the Tyrell side; the want of necessary field artillery, armament and ammunition, and the great and unpardonable deficiency of men, together with the entire want of transportation, by which the whole command might have been conveyed from the Island after the defeat at the battery. But the committee have had much difficulty in locating the responsibility for the neglect of this exceedingly important point, owing to the fact that the command of that Island has been transferred so frequently from one military commander to another, between the time that the Confederate government became responsible for the coast defenses of North Carolina and the attack upon that Island upon the 7th of February, 1862. That Island, upon the fall of Hatteras, was taken possession of by Col. Wright under instruction from Gen. Huger, and the principal defenses constructed under the authority and direction of Gen. Huger, who assumed jurisdiction over the Island, although it was within the military command of Gen. Gulin. Afterwards Brig. Gen. D. H. Hill was assigned for a short time to the immediate command of that post, who immediately entered upon his duty, made an examination of the defenses in person, and was making active preparation for putting the Island in a state of defence, when he was suddenly superseded, and Brig. Gen. Branch given the command. It does not appear in evidence that General Branch ever visited the Island, or made any move towards its defence. He, however, was superseded by Brig. Gen. Wise, about the 1st of January, 1862, who immediately proceeded to the Island in person, about the 6th of January, spent several days in a reconnaissance of the Island and its defenses, and in examining the adjacent waters, with a view of constructing obstructions in Croatan Sound to prevent the passage of a hostile fleet; and from that moment up to the 7th of February, the committee are satisfied, that General Wise has devoted his whole time in a zealous, energetic and indefatigable effort to place that Island in a state of defence, and has done all and every thing in his power, with the means he had at his command, to effect this important object. At Norfolk, upon the 2d of January, on his way to Roanoke Island, he met an express from Colonel Shaw, (who was then in the immediate and temporary command of the Island) to Gen. Huger, informing him of the defenceless state of the Island, and urging the necessity of strengthening Fort Bartow, by mounting other guns, obstructing Croatan Sound and making requisitions for ammunition, powder, and other things necessary. General Wise endorsed and approved of the requisition, and seconded the demands of Colonel Shaw.

Gen. Wise arrived at Roanoke Island upon the 6th, and assumed command at that point upon the 7th of January, 1862. After making a reconnaissance of the Island and its defenses, Gen. Wise, on the 12th of January, informed Gen. Huger, "that Roanoke Island was in a defenceless condition and in presence of a very formidable enemy's force. The Burnside expedition is reported to have sailed. Independent of that, the force now at Hatteras inlet, can pass or take Roanoke Island, and pardon me for saying that, I respectfully differ from the opinion you expressed in your orders of today, that to prevent the enemy's gunboats from passing the marshes at the south end, will also prevent any landing. Batteries at the marshes are vitally essential to prevent the gunboats from passing into Croatan Sound, they will not prevent the landing on the south and east end of the Island. At least 5,000 infantry are needed on the Island, and a considerable force, say 1,500 men, are needed on the beach, and if the enemy pass Roanoke, 5,000 at least are necessary to fight them on the tongues of land and on the North side of Albemarle Sound. We need on the beach and on the Island at least 8 field pieces and the carriages and caissons necessary. We require 32 horses for the artillery. We need at least 6 heavy pieces at the south end marshes and two at least at Fleetwood point." On the same day General Wise addressed the Secretary of War, in which he says, "It is very important that my Legion should be forwarded as speedily as possible. The defenses of Roanoke Island, which is the key of all the rear defenses of Norfolk, and its canals and railroads, is committed to my charge, and I have just returned from a reconnaissance of that point. I am now utterly defenceless. No preparations have been made there at all adequate. General Huger has given me a large authority to do whatsoever is necessary, and has advised what he deems proper in my command; but we have very limited means and not half time enough to prepare to meet an enemy, who is now almost in immediate presence, in a very formidable force. Twice the number of my Legion is necessary, and I beg that the place of my 3d regiment may speedily be filled or that it may be restored." On the 15th January, 1862, General Wise writes to the Secretary of War: "I am sure you will not judge me impudent, when I inform you that I returned from Roanoke Island to Norfolk last Saturday. I hastened back after a short reconnaissance to Headquarters and apprised the

no adequate preparation whatever to meet the enemy, and to forward all the means in my reach as speedily as possible, to make the key of all the rear of Norfolk, with its canals and railroads, safe. Inside of Hatteras inlet I found 24 vessels of light draft, eight of which at least are steamers, said to carry four guns each. They are, at farthest, but 30 miles from Roanoke Island, and can reach there any four hours or less, to attack five small gunboats under Capt. Lynch and four small land batteries, wholly inefficient. Any boat drawing seven feet of water, or less, can pass the Croatan Sound as far off as 1 1/2 miles from any battery, and the enemy's guns can silence our batteries there in a very short time. Neither battery is casemated, and our men now there are untrained to heavy pieces mounted on navy carriages. The moment the enemy passes Croatan Channel, the North landing river, North river, Pasquotank, Chowan, Roanoke, Alligator, and Scuppernon rivers, and the Dismal Swamp and Albemarle and Chesapeake canals will be blockaded effectually, and Norfolk and Portsmouth will be cut off from supplies of corn, pork and forage. The force at Hatteras is independent of the Burnside expedition. No matter where the latter is, the former is amply sufficient to capture or pass Roanoke Island in any 12 hours. Let me say, then, sir, that if we are to wait for powder from Richmond, until we are attacked at that Island, that attack will be a capture, and our defeat will precede our supply of ammunition. The case is too urgent for me to delay speaking this out plainly at once;" and in another part of the same letter, he says: "We want ammunition and men. In a word, almost every preparation has to be made. Delay is defeat now at Roanoke Island; and with present means, Capt. Lynch and I combined cannot guarantee successful defence for a day. I beg, sir, that you will urge this upon the Navy Department, and believe that I am not superserviceable in this urgency."

Gen. Wise, finding that his written appeals for aid in the defenses of the Island to Headquarters at Norfolk and to the Department at Richmond were neglected, and treated with indifference, repaired in person to Richmond, and called upon the Secretary of War, and urged in the most importunate manner, the absolute necessity of strengthening the defenses upon that Island, with additional men, armament and ammunition. The Secretary of War replied verbally to his appeals for reinforcements, that he had not the men to spare for his command. Gen. Wise urged upon the Secretary that General Huger had about 15,000 in front of Norfolk lying idle in camp for eight months, and that a considerable portion of them could be spared for the defence of the rear of Norfolk, and especially as his (General Wise's) district supplied Norfolk and his army with army with nearly or quite all of his corn, pork and forage, that reinforcements at Roanoke Island were as absolutely necessary to the defence at Norfolk as forces in its front, and that particular or special posts should not be allowed to monopolize nearly all the men, powder and supplies." In reply to all his urgent appeals for the means of defence, General Wise on the 22d January, received the following military order No. 17:

"Brigadier General Henry A. Wise, Provisional Army, will immediately proceed to Roanoke Island, North Carolina, and assume command of the Confederate States troops at that place.

By command of the Sec'y of War,
(Signed) JOHN WITHERS,
Asst. Adjt. General."

It is apparent to the committee, from the correspondence on file of Gen. Wise with the Secretary of War, Gen. Huger, his superior officer, the Governor of North Carolina, and other persons, that he was fully alive to the importance of Roanoke Island, and has devoted his whole time and energies and means to the defenses of that position; and that he is no way responsible for the unfortunate disaster which befel our forces upon that Island on the 7th and 8th of February. But the committee cannot say the same in reference to the efforts of the Secretary of War and the Commanding officer at Norfolk, General Huger. It is apparent, that the Island of Roanoke was important for the defence of Norfolk, and that Gen. Huger had under his command at that point upwards of 15,000 men, a large supply of armament and ammunition, and could have thrown in a few hours a large reinforcement upon Roanoke Island, and that himself and the Secretary of War had timely notice of the entire inadequacy of the defenses, the want of men and munitions of war, and the threatening attitude of the enemy. But General Huger and the Secretary of War paid no practical attention to those urgent appeals of General Wise, sent forward none of his important requisitions, and permitted General Wise and his inconsiderable force to remain to meet at least fifteen thousand men well armed and equipped. If the Secretary of War and the Commanding General at Norfolk had not the means to reinforce Gen. Wise, why was he not ordered to abandon his position, and save his command; but upon the contrary, he was required to remain, and sacrifice his command, with no means in his insulated position, to make his escape in case of defeat. The Committee, from the testimony, are therefore constrained to report, that, whatever blame and responsibility is justly attributable to any one for the defeat of our troops at Roanoke Island, on the 8th of February, 1862, should attach to Major General B. Huger and the late Secretary of War—J. P. Benjamin.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

B. S. GAITHER, Chairman.

THE NEW ARMY BILL.

This important measure has passed both houses of Congress. For the information of our readers, a large majority of whom are interested in its provisions, we append a copy of the bill, as follows:

A Bill to be entitled "An Act to further provide for the Public Defence."

In view of the exigencies of the country, and the absolute necessity of keeping in the service our gallant army, and of placing in the field a large additional force to meet the advancing columns of the enemy now invading our soil. Therefore

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States do enact: That the President be and he is hereby, authorized to call out and place in the military service of the Confederate States, for three years, unless the war shall have been sooner ended, all white men who are residents of the Confederate States, between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five years at the time the call or calls may be made, who are not legally exempted from military service. All of the persons aforesaid who are not now in the armies of the Confederacy, and whose term of service will expire before the end of the war, shall be continued in the service for three years from the date of their original enlistment, unless the war shall have been sooner ended: Provided, however, That all such companies, battalions, and regiments, whose term of original enlistment was for twelve months, shall have the right, within forty days, on a day to be fixed by the commander of the brigade, to reorganize said companies, battalions, and regiments, by electing all their officers, which they had a right heretofore to elect, who shall be commissioned by the President: Provided further, That furloughs not exceeding sixty days, with transportation home and back, shall be granted to all those retained in the service by the provisions of this act beyond the period of their original enlistment, and who have not heretofore received furloughs under the provisions of an act entitled "An act providing for the granting of bounty and furloughs to privates and non-commissioned officers in the Provisional Army," approved 11th December, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, said furloughs to be granted at such times, and in such numbers, as the Secretary of War may deem most compatible with the public interest; and Provided, further, That in lieu of a furlough the commutation value in money of the transportation herein above granted shall be paid to each private, musician, or non-commissioned officer who may elect to receive it at such time as the furlough would otherwise be granted: Provided, further, That all persons under the age of eighteen years, or over the age of thirty-five years, who are now enrolled in the military service of the Confederate States, in the regiments, battalions and companies hereafter to be re-organized, shall be required to remain in their respective companies, battalions and regiments for ninety days, unless their places can be sooner supplied by other recruits not now in the service, who are between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five years, and all laws and parts of laws providing for the re-enlistment of volunteers, and the organization thereof into companies, squadrons, battalions, or regiments, shall be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That such companies, squadrons, battalions, or regiments organized or in process of organization by authority from the Secretary of War, as may be within thirty days from the passage of this act so far completed as to have the whole number of men requisite for organization actually enrolled, not embracing in said organizations any persons now in service, shall be mustered into the service of the Confederate States as part of the land forces of the same, to be received in that arm of the service in which they are authorized to organize, and shall elect their company, battalion, and regimental officers.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That for the enrollment of all persons comprehended within the provisions of this act, who are not already in service in the armies of the Confederate States, it shall be lawful for the President, with the consent of the Governors of the respective States, to employ State officers, and, on failure to obtain such consent, he shall employ Confederate officers, charged with the duty of making such enrollment in accordance with rules and regulations to be prescribed by him.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That persons enrolled under the provisions of the preceding section, shall be assigned by the Secretary of War to the different companies now in service, until each company is filled to its maximum number, and the persons so enrolled shall be assigned to companies from the States from which they respectively come.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, That all seamen and ordinary seamen in the land forces of the Confederate States, enrolled under the provisions of this act, may, on application of the Secretary of the Navy, be transferred from the land forces to the naval service.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, That in all cases where a State may not have in the army a number of regiments, battalions, squadrons, or companies, sufficient to absorb the number of persons subject to military service under this act, belonging to such State, that the residue or excess thereof shall be kept as a reserve, under such regulations as may be established by the Secretary of War; and that at stated periods of not greater than three months, details, determined by lot, shall be made from said reserve, so that each company shall, as nearly as practicable, be kept full. Provided, That the persons held

in reserve may remain at home until called into service by the President. Provided, also, that during their stay at home they shall not receive pay. Provided, further, that the persons comprehended in this act shall not be subject to the rules and articles of war until mustered into the actual service of the Confederate States; except that said persons, when enrolled, are liable to duty; if they shall willfully refuse to obey said call, each of them shall be held to be a deserter, and punished as such under said articles. Provided, that whenever, in the opinion of the President, the exigencies of the public service may require it, he shall be authorized to call into actual service the entire reserve, or so much as may be necessary, not previously assigned to different companies in service under provision of section four of this act. Said reserve shall be organized under such rules as the Secretary of War may adopt, provided the company, battalion, and regimental officers shall be elected by the troops composing the same; provided the troops raised in any one State shall not be combined in regiments, battalion, squadron, or company organization, with troops raised in any other State.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, That all soldiers now serving in the army, or mustered in the military service of the Confederate States, or enrolled in said service under the authorizations heretofore issued by the Secretary of War, and who are continued in the service by virtue of this act, who have not received the bounty of fifty dollars allowed by existing laws, shall be entitled to receive said bounty.

SEC. 8. Be it further enacted, That each man who may hereafter be mustered into service, and who shall arm himself with a musket, shot-gun, rifle, or carbine, accepted as an efficient weapon, shall be paid the value thereof, to be ascertained by the mustering officer under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War, if he is willing to sell the same, and if he is not, then he shall be entitled to receive one dollar per month for the use of said received and approved musket, rifle, shot-gun, or carbine.

SEC. 9. Be it further enacted, That persons not liable for duty may be received as substitutes for those who are, under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War.

SEC. 10. Be it further enacted, That all vacancies shall be filled by the President from the company, battalion, squadron or regiment in which such vacancies shall occur, by promotion according to seniority, except in cases of disability or other incompetency: Provided, however, That the President may, when, in his opinion, it may be proper, fill such vacancy or vacancies by the promotion of any officer or officers or private or privates from such company, battalion, squadron or regiment who shall have been distinguished in the service by exhibition of valor and skill, and that whenever a vacancy shall occur in the lowest grade of the commissioned officers of a company, said vacancy shall be filled by election: Provided, all appointments made by the President shall be with and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

SEC. 11. Be it further enacted, That the provisions of the first section of this act relating to the election of officers shall apply to those regiments, battalions, and squadrons which are composed of twelve months' and war companies, combined in the same organization, without regard to the manner in which the officers thereof were originally appointed.

SEC. 12. Be it further enacted, That each company of infantry shall consist of one hundred and twenty-five rank and file; each company of field artillery of one hundred and fifty, rank and file; and each of cavalry of eighty rank and file.

SEC. 13. Be it further enacted, That all persons subject to enrollment who are now in the service, under the provisions of this act shall be permitted, previous to such enrollment, to volunteer in companies now in the service.

EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE CONSCRIPTION LAW OF CONGRESS.

The following exemption bill was passed by Congress, and signed by the President just before the adjournment:

A bill to be entitled "An act to exempt certain persons from enrollment for service in the armies of the Confederate States."

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That all persons who shall be held to be unfit for military service under rules to be prescribed by the Secretary of War; all in the service or employ of the Confederate States; all judicial and executive officers of Confederate or State Governments; the members of both houses of Congress, and of the legislatures of the several States and their respective officers; all clerks of the officers of the State and Confederate Governments allowed by law; all engaged in carrying the mails; all ferrymen on post routes; all pilots and persons engaged in the marine service, and in actual service on river and railroad routes of transportation; telegraphic operatives, ministers of religion in the regular discharge of ministerial duties; all engaged in working iron mines, furnaces and foundries; all journeymen printers actually employed in printing newspapers; all presidents and professors of colleges and academies, and all teachers having as many as twenty scholars; superintendents of the public hospitals, lunatic asylums, and the regular nurses and attendants therein, and the teachers employed in the institutions for the deaf and dumb and blind; in each apothecary store now established on apothecary in good standing who

is a practical druggist; superintendents and operatives in wool and other factories, who may be exempted by the Secretary of War, shall be, and are hereby, exempted from military service in the armies of the Confederate States.

From the Fayetteville Observer.
MOB-LAW BY THE LADIES.

We had seen with pain statements in the papers, that ladies in Statesville, Newton and Thomasville, in this State, had banded together and seized and destroyed sundry barrels of whisky belonging to other persons than themselves; but we felt unwilling to remark upon the procedure because the parties were ladies, though thus traveling far outside of the pale of female duty, as we thought. A lady having, however, remonstrated most earnestly through the Raleigh Standard, we have no longer any hesitation in expressing our own opinion, which is that date not commit for fear of being held to a proper responsibility. As this lady says through the Standard,—

"Of all persons living the ladies are the portion of our community who need the strong arm of the law, and the most strict observance of all its rules for their protection. What then can we say when they themselves are the very first to trample under foot that law, the observance of which, alone, is the only, the forlorn hope of protection for them? of strong repugnance to all such masculine doings by ladies. When a lady cow-hides a man, as is sometimes done at the North, or North-west, the press is generally in high glee. So in regard to these whisky mobs. But we have never been able to look upon any of them as otherwise than degrading to the sex. They take upon themselves to do what men cannot do without responsibility to the law or to the personal vengeance of other men. They presume upon their sex to protect them from either, in committing unlawful acts, which their male relatives I am astonished—I am alarmed for the dire consequences that may result therefrom. Depart from the observance of the law, and liberty, safety, every thing is gone. Enough of this unpleasant subject, and I hope sincerely that hereafter all my sex, (for I claim to be a Lady,) will leave all action, either Legislative or Executive, to the men, to whom it belongs, as neither the one nor the other department of the government belongs, or at least ought to belong, to our sex. Our course of procedure ought to be by petition, persuasion and examples."

TRUCK EVERY WORD OF IT.—We take the following from the Richmond Enquirer. It is so and no mistake, and we must go about the matter at once:

IRON-CLAD SHIPS.—The victory of the Virginia and the conflict between that vessel and the Monitor has established new ideas of naval offense and defense. It was very fortunate indeed for us that the Virginia was ready in time for the Monitor, or the latter might have done us great damage. It is indispensable now, that we press forward the construction of as many vessels of the same description as possible. We ought to provide one for James river, one for Wilmington, one for Charleston, one for Savannah, and a sufficiency for the Mississippi. We need these for our defenses. We should add to the number by all the means in our power. The inhabitants of every city should co-operate with the government in securing an iron-clad ball-proof battery, or ram, or both, for the protection of their waters. It is plain to see that if this is not done, nothing can be held on the shores of our navigable waters in a few months, for the enemy will betake themselves to the building of these formidable engines with great diligence.

CANNON MAKING IN THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

"A Foundryman" writes to the Mobile Advertiser, in reply to a question whether the contributions of old brass for cannon were serviceable, as follows:

The Government has copper enough in Mobile to make four or five brass cannons, but it cannot be made for the want of tin, which cannot be had, or at least is very scarce. This scarcity of tin (not tin plate) was probably known to General Beauregard, and may have prompted his appeal to the community for contributions of bells; for bell metal is gun metal, or nearly so. He certainly did not mean to call for house bells, and brass and bronze utensils and ornaments, such as are used in private families. These are of no use to foundries or the government. There is no gun metal in them; and we are daily refusing to receive any such articles. The large bells which are used by churches, taverns, steamboats, and sugar plantations are articles the general desired. The foundries in Mobile can make no more brass cannon at present. Their whole time is devoted to making more useful articles, namely: iron cannon, and shot and shell, and rifling cannon. For the shells copper is needed, and for which the foundries will pay the highest price in cash; also, for lead and heavy brass, but none of these articles are to be found in family households. Why General Beauregard desires some brass cannon is not for me to say. They are gradually going out of army use, and iron cannon being substituted. If the war lasts a few years iron will be measurably discarded, and steel cannon will take their place. Napoleon is already initiating this change.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—Judge McGrath of the Confederate Court in South Carolina, has decided that Congress has no right to tax State