THE BATTLE IN KENTUCKY.

From the Richmond Examiner.

We give another full and graphic account of the recent battle in Kentucky. We are induced to add this to the accounts already given by us, because it is from the pen of one of the gallant Mississippians who so bravely participated in the battle, and because we are, moreover, assured by an officer, who bore a most gallant part in the fight, and in whose veracity the most implicit confidence can be placed, that it is about the only accurate narrative that has yet appeared of the battle.

"It will be remembered that, some two months ago, Brig. Gen. Zollicoffer moved with a portion of his command to Mill Springs, on the southern bank of the Cumberland river, and soon after advanced across to Camp Beech Grove, on the opposite bank, fortifying this camp with earthworks. At Beech Grove he placed five regiments of infantry, ten or twelve pieces of artillery and several hundred cavalry, and at Mill Springs he had two regiments of infantry and several hundred cavalry. About the first of January, Maj. Gen. Crittenden arrived and took the command. The enemy in front occupied Somerset with several regiments, and Columbia with an equal force.

About the second week of January two more regiments arrived from Knoxville, an artillery company with four guns, and Brig. Gen. W. H. Carroll.

Somerset is northeast of Beech Grove, and Columbia Northwest. A road connects Somerset and Columbia. From Beech Grove the road runs northeasterly towards Somerset for five miles, when it forks—the lower fork crossing Fishing creek at what is known as the lower crossing, which is distant seven miles from Beech Grove, and twelve miles from Somerset; the upper fork running five miles into the road from Columbia to Somerset, and from that point along with it two miles, to the upper crossing of Fishing creek, which is distant six miles from Somerset. Running from north to south between Somerset and Beech Grove is Fishing creek, with high precipitous banks, and emptying into the Cumberland river above Beech Grove.

On the 17th of January it was ascertained that a large Federal force was moving on the road from Columbia to Somerset, and on the evening of that day was camped at a point where the Beech Grove road runs into the Columbia and Somerset road, distant from Beech Grove ten miles. It was also ascertained on the same day that the Federal forces from Somerset had moved to the lower crossing, and were camped on the Somerset side of Fishing creek. It was also ascertained that other reinforcements were moving from the direction of Columbia, and that the junction of all was intended for an attack on Camp Beech Grove. On the 17th and 18th it rained so much that Fishing creek could not be crossed, and so the Somerset force of several thousand could not join the force from Columbia before the 20th.

From the face of the country in front of Camp Beech Grove there was a very bad range for artillery, and it could not be of very material benefit against an attacking infantry force; and, from the extent of the front line and the number of works to be defended, there was within the camp an insufficient force. At the same time, for several weeks, bare existence in the camp was very precarious, from want of provisions and forage. Regiments frequently subsisted on one-third rations, and this, very frequently of bread alone. Wayne county, which was alone productive in this region of Kentucky, had been exhausted, and the neighboring counties of Tennessee could furnish nothing to the support of the army. The condition of the roads and the poverty of the intervening section rendered it impossible to transport from Knoxville, a distance of one hundred and thirty miles. The enemy from Columbia commanded the Cumberland river, and only one boat was enabled to come up with supplies from Nashville. With the channel of communication closed, the position became untenable without attack. Only corn could be obtained for the horses and mules, and this in such small quantities that often cavalry companies were sent out on unshod horses which had eaten nothing for two days. The roads in every direction were extremely bad, and from the landing up either bank to the camp difficult to employ wagons; and, in addition to this, the crossing of the river was bad in the small ferryboats used for that purpose. Description would fail in portraying the difficulties of this position to one who has not seen and suffered.

By extraordinary exertions for several days provisions enough had been gathered to ration the army with bread, meat, coffee and sugar for two days—the 19th and 20th.

On the afternoon of the 18th two cavalry companies, which had been sent out by General Crittenden, returned, reporting the position of the enemy unchanged, and Fishing creek so full it could not be passed on the 19th. In view of this state of things, it seems Gen. Crittenden determined to march out and attack the force at the junction of the roads before the Somerset brigade could unite with it, and, if possible, before it could be joined by the reserve from Columbia. On the afternoon of the 18th Gen. Zollicoffer remarked to the writer that *the enemy ought to be attacked*, and on that evening Gen. Crittenden called a council at his quarters, with Gens. Zollicoffer and Carroll and the colonels of regiments and the captains of artillery, and lieutenant-colonels of cavalry battalions, and it was there unanimously agreed to make the attack.

In perfect silence at midnight the march began. In front moved the brigade of Gen. Zollicoffer, consisting of the Fifteenth Mississippi regiment, commanded by Lieut. Col. Walthall, in advance, and the Tennessee regiments of Colonels Cummings, Battle and Stanton, with four guns, commanded by Capt. Rutledge. Then moved the brigade of Gen. Carroll, consisting of the Tennessee regiments of Colonels Newman, Murray and Powell, with two guns, commanded by Capt. McClung. Then moved the Sixteenth Alabama regiment, Col. Wood, as a reserve, and Branner's and McClellan's battalions of cavalry. In advance of the column moved the independent cavalry companies of Captains Bledsoe and Saunders.

In the gray dawn, about six o'clock, two miles from their camp, the pickets of the enemy fired upon our advanced cavalry and wounded one in the arm.

Then two companies of the Mississippi regiment were deployed on the right and left of the road as skirmishers, and advanced parallel with the road. On the left, in an open field, was a house near the road, and near by and behind this house was a skirt of woods. While the skirmishers were advancing towards this, the enemy in the house and wood were firing at the head of the column where Generals Crittenden and Zollicoffer sat upon their horses, about five hundred yards distant. When the skirmishers approached within one hundred yards of the house, the enemy ceased to fire upon the column, and directed it upon them, but, upon its quick return and several rounds, retreated into the woods. The Mississippi regiment, then in line of battle, was advanced, and the head of the column advanced near to the house. From this house the road runs straight for about half a mile, one-third of this distance up a hill, one-third down, and one-third to the crest of another hill. On the right side of the road up and down the first hill was an open field, then a narrow strip of woods, and again an old uneven field up to the crest. On the left side of the road up the first hill was woods, and down it open field, and up the next to the crest a thick woods. Up the first hill and down it on both sides of the road the enemy was driven back before the impetuous charge of the brigade of General Zollicoffer; and already he was ascending the last hill to the crest, when the heaviest firing told where the battle raged. He sent for reinforcements, and the brigade of Gen. Carroll was ordered up. When in another moment it was announced that he was killed, a sudden gloom pervaded the field and depressed the army. He had fallen on the crest of the hill, the stronghold of the enemy, which he had almost driven them from, and which, once gained, the day was ours. It is said that the enemy in front of him in the woods, after a few moments cessation of firing and some movement, was taken by him to be a regiment of his own command, and that he rode up to give them a command when he was coolly shot down, pierced by several balls.

Immediately on the announcement of his death, Gen. Crittenden in person rode up to the front of the fight and directed the movement of the day with perfect coolness, in the very midst of the fire of the enemy, and where several were killed around him. His friends remonstrated against this recklessness, and entreated him to occupy a less exposed position, but he would not leave the front, and sat on his horse unmoved, except when a regiment would fall back under the heavy fire of superior numbers, when he would in person, under fire, speak to and rally the men.

To gain this hill the fight raged for two hours. Charge after charge was made, regiment after regiment advanced, but we could not drive back the heavy forces of the enemy with our few gallant men. At last, when we could not drive them, and our charges were unsuccessful time and again, and they began to flank us, our little army began to retire, and checking pursuit by several stands they could not break, moved back to our entrenchments at Camp Beech Grove. In the return one gun broke down and was left to the enemy. Upon the field we left about three hundred killed and wounded, and they got perhaps one hundred prisoners. Their loss in killed and wounded is thought by those in the battle, and is reported to us by those afterwards in their camp, to be about *one thousand!*

Thus, with four thousand men, we bravely attacked twenty thousand, and after a conflict of three hours and-a-half, unable to drive them from their position, retired without a hot pursuit to our camps, which we reached at 1 o'clock, P. M. At 3 o'clock the enemy came and invested the place, and fired from two batteries into our entrenchments.

Then arose the question whether to defend or evacuate the place. Suppose we could have held it against the superior force attacking? In a few days we would have been starved out; and it, with their battery, which commanded the landing, they had injured the boat, escape would have been impossible, and surrender inevitable. Again, by taking Mill Springs in our rear, which could have been done with a small force, retreat at any time would have been cut off; and it would have been vain to think of cutting a way out in front, because, without rations, the army would have been precipitated into a barren country, unable to afford any subsistence whatever. To prevent these straits an immediate crossing of the river during the night was necessary, and as time permitted only to cross the men, baggage, camp equipage, wagons, horses and artillery had to be left—a great sacrifice, but not to be estimated in the balance with saving the army. This bold and masterly movement was accomplished on this night, and the next morning saw our army on the south of the Cumberland, and the enemy in Camp Beech Grove.

The river crossed, it was necessary to move somewhere in search of provisions and forage. If no enemy had appeared, the quitting of this portion of Kentucky had been gravely considered and almost determined upon, and in a few days would have been compelled. It was impossible to move further into Kentucky from the barrenness of the mountains between that point and the Blue Grass; and all the counties on the left and right and the northern counties of East Tennessee were too poor to support the army one day. With a vastly superior force attacking, the movement to the Cumberland river at Gainsboro', a point of supply, was precipitated—and to this Gen. Crittenden is moving with short days' marches.

A letter from Capt. W. M. Clark, of Col. Battle's regiment, gives the names of the killed, wounded and missing in that regiment, amounting to, killed 4 Lieutenants, 27 privates; wounded, 1 Captain, 43 privates; missing 29 privates. In all 104. He says,—

"Some of the wounded are very slightly injured, and all that are with us here are in fine condition, notwithstanding the severe ordeal through which they have had to pass since the fight. Numbers have walked all the way with severe wounds. One in particular in Capt. Anderson's company, with broken forearm and one rib broken by a Minnie ball, and a graze on the leg, walked nearly all the way to this place and never murmured. I don't believe any other set of men in the world could have endured the cold, mud, rain, hunger, fatigue and wounds, so cheerfully as ours have. Arrangements are being made for the safe and easy transportation of the sick and wounded on steamboats to their friends.

"Corporal Patterson, the color guard, was shot down while gallantly carrying the flag in the charge. Trigg Jones was then shot down with it in hand; and then Adjutant Battle seized it and bore it to within ten or fifteen steps of the enemy's line, and there planting it, called the men to its folds. They came, but it was shot from its gallant bearer, when it was seized by Lieut. Frank Lavender and borne off in triumph. It was finally carried by McGrath, of Capt. Dyer's company. The banner has thirteen holes through it."

Camp Diseases—How to Avoid them.—Soldiers in camp suffer from three diseases—diarrhœa, rheumatism, and fever. The commonest cause of diarrhœa is bad water; its cure, complete rest and abstinence from every kind of food except plain boiled rice. All ordinary diseases will yield to this treatment in twenty-four hours or less. Rheumatism is usually brought on, not by getting wet, but by remaining in wet clothes. Hard drinkers are particularly liable to bad attacks. To avoid rheumatism wear flannel and keep the digestion sound. Fevers are generally caught after dark in the open air. A man going out on night duty should never go hungry, and never stand still longer than necessary. Good food and active exercise will generally keep a man well unless the air is uncommonly deleterious. To cure a case of not very severe fever, nothing seems so efficacious as a change of air. It is said that the removal of a patient only a few miles works an immediate improvement in his condition. In scouting along the edge of a swamp at night, there is no danger so long as the party keeps on the windward side of it. These doctrines are laid down in the writings of army surgeons, and of physicians who have given much attention to the subject discussed, and ought, therefore, to be trustworthy.

Hon. Jere Clemens.—The Nashville Gazette, of the 22d, says that Hon. Jere Clemens, of Alabama, passed through the city several days ago, as a private in one the companies of an Alabama regiment.

The Attitude of France.—The London correspondent of the New York Times, under date of January 4, says:

It is worth while to remember the fact that already, several months ago, the government of France urged England to recognize the South, and that then England returned a flat refusal to the proposition. Rumors to this effect have all along been very general here, but now the fact is stated in the public journals, and is undoubted. France is hostile to our blockade, and she will support England in any measure that leads to its infraction. Circumstances may change the tendencies of the Emperor, but it is plain they have not done so yet. It is, therefore, of inestimable importance to encourage the peace party in England to the greatest possible extent, for they alone stand between us and the two greatest powers in the world. If any blunder or any misfortune should again prostrate the American party here, the blockade, our best weapon, is not worth a Confederate shinplaster.

Every day that the blockade now lasts, is a gain beyond count. The war which is now going on, is considered among far-sighted men here as involving much wider consequences than the mere unity or division of the North American continent. The news that the blockade is broken by France and England, will arrest the hands that are soon to plant new cotton-seed in India and Africa, and in South America, where cotton never grew before; it will ruin the merchants whose enterprise is now forcing the cultivation of the staple in almost every tropical country of the globe; it will restore to the insurgent States their full source of wealth, and perhaps their full tide of prosperity. But the assurance that the blockade was sure to last, would compel the South to desert its own genius; to cut its own sinews; and if it were once certain that corn and potatoes had usurped the place of cotton in the South for one year only, there would be such an impetus given to the growth of the article elsewhere that the throne of the king would never be heard of again.

These are opinions which I hear expressed every day among business men, and it is now evident that the critical moment is here when the blockade must be broken or the South ruined, the efforts of the Southerners are becoming actually frantic to cause their chain to be broken. It is England alone which stands in their way. Nor is it indeed England or the English people so much as it is the English government, which until now has held the balance so evenly that the South could hope for freedom as little as the North could hope for conquest. Of the government, a part, no doubt, are ready to co-operate with France. It is the other part, therefore, the anti-slavery, radical part, whose hands America ought to strengthen, at any cost, if the South is still to be held down.

Alliance between the United States and Russia.—An alliance between the United States and Russia is now discussed at the North as one of the objects contemplated by the mission of Cameron to the Court of St. Petersburg. The Cincinnati Enquirer gravely discusses the proposed alliance and the advantage to be derived from it. The substance is embodied in the following paragraphs which the Enquirer quotes:

"Russia and the United States, *allied* in a war against the Western Powers of Europe, would cope successfully with all the military power that could be brought against them, for the simple reason that they command the *food* of the world. They are the keepers of the keys of the granaries of the world.

"What would become of France, cut off from her usual supplies of food derived from that source, which are controlled by Russia and the United States?

"The Western Powers of Europe are safe enough so long as they can draw their supplies of food from *either* of these two sources; but where will they be *if cut off from both?* The case is a clear one. The Anglo-French alliances against Russia and the United States could not hold together through one campaign. France would be torn from it by revolution; and even England herself would have more than her hands full to hold *starving* Ireland fast to her moorings."

The Enquirer concludes its comments by saying: "It would be a strange sight to see the great republic of the West and the great despotism of the East in friendly co-operation; but politics make strange bed-fellows." The Czar may not be averse to thwarting France and England, but Russia, though barbarous and despotic, is proud and brave, and may spurn the advances of the humiliated and degraded Yankees.

An Incident in Baltimore.—The more we hear of the outrages of the Yankees in Baltimore, the more assurance we have that the people of that down-trodden city would hail with joy the day of their deliverance. A gentleman who left there very recently furnishes a narration of incidents of every day occurrence, one of which is sufficient to illustrate this position. A lady, whose brother was known to have participated in a gallant exploit at an early period of the war, had become an object of especial venom among the Yankees, and was consequently narrowly watched. Not long since, while she was passing through the streets, a Federal soldier seized her, and throwing her violently to the pavement, tore open the bosom of her dress and took from thence a Secession flag. The outrage was observed by an Irishman who had prudence enough to say nothing at the moment, but followed and watched the scoundrel as he bore off his trophy; and on the first convenient opportunity stepped up and accosted him with, "Be jabers! ye knocked down an innocent female in the strates, ye dirty blackguard! Take that, and that, and that!" accompanying his vehement expressions with blows of his ponderous fist, nor did he leave the hapless Yankee until he had disguised him to such an extent that his best friends would not have recognized him. Of course the Irishman made himself scarce immediately afterwards, acting upon the rule that self-preservation is the first law of nature.—*Rich'd Dispatch.*

Cheating the Negroes.—SAVANNAH, Ga., Jan. 30.—Yesterday a gentleman, direct from the neighborhood of Port Royal, gave me the following amusing fact: Several negroes from Port Royal came into our lines, and when asked how the Yankees had treated them, replied, "They dosen't do good by dem dat are sick, but dey are monstus good to we who can work for dem. Dey gin me five dollars a day." Saying this, he held up a bag of "silver,"(?) which he said he had received for his labor. Upon examination it was found that all his silver was *pewter* dollars! The infamous rascals had been paying off the negroes in pewter, in order to make them think they were receiving large wages.—*Savannah Letter.*

A Yankee Governor.—The Northern papers tell of the sudden flight of Gov. Geo. W. Dawson from Utah, "on account of a gross insult offered to a lady in that city." Rather a strange piece of news—the general impression being that a Mormon lady was inaccessible to insult.

Rains in the West.—Western papers mention heavy rains and freshets in the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. The Federalists will be greatly damaged by them. The enemy may have to evacuate Cairo, to avoid being washed away.

Atlanta (Ga.) Confederacy.

FROM COL. VANCE'S REGIMENT.—We published on Thursday two paragraphs from the following letter. The remainder is as follows:—

CAMP ———, NEAR FORT LANE, Feb. 3, 1862.

There are very few such regiments as ours in the service, and we are willing and ready to show our patriotism and our allegiance to both State and Confederacy whenever the enemy give us the opportunity. Our field officers are deservedly popular and have the confidence of their men.

As the time draws nigh for the expiration of our term of service, the all-important subject of conversation is, when we shall be disbanded—whether our period of twelve months dates from the time the company officers were commissioned or from the time the different companies took the oath. During their leisure moments the soldiers gather in knots and discuss the question in all its bearings. It seems to me very plain that our term of twelve months expires with the date of the Captains' commissions. On the original muster roll of each company it is stated that we are "enrolled for active service" on the same day the Captain received his commission. That we did not *do* active service for a few days thereafter was because we were ordered to remain where we were and drill regularly until we received further orders. If disbanded twelve months from date of enrollment, and the war should continue, a large majority would re-enlist; otherwise I think they would not. Those who have not yet volunteered, however, should proceed at once to the formation of companies, as it is their duty to do, without reference to the course we may or may not pursue. They owe to their State as much as we, and ought to be willing to make a fair return, as they no doubt are. When assured that their services will actually be needed by the time they can become well drilled, I suppose the "2d relief" will cheerfully step forward.

The regiment is in good health and in fine condition for fighting. The change from good houses to worn-out tents has produced a few cases of fever, but the sick list is comparatively small. We haven't a man in our company too sick to remain in camp.

Yours &c. CHATHAM.

CLOTHING THE VOLUNTEERS.—We are happy to learn by the following letter from Capt. Barringer, of Col. Ransom's Cavalry regiment, that the deficiency of overcoats, to which we referred recently, has been supplied:

CONCORD, Feb'y 5, 1862.

Gentlemen:—In your issue of the 3d inst., in speaking of the sufferings of the army, you say that many of Col. Ransom's Regiment "are yet without over-coats." This is a mistake. I am just from the regiment, and am happy to state that the men are now well supplied with over-coats, and, I believe, every other article of clothing necessary to comfort. It is true that some of the Companies have only recently been supplied with their over-coats.

I know of no service so full of life and adventure as that of cavalry duty on the Potomac. The men, I think, are generally much pleased with it.

Very truly, yours, &c.,

RUFUS BARRINGER,
Capt. Co. F, 1st N. C. Cavalry.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

More contributions to "the Deep River Society," for the benefit of the Maryland Soldiers.

Articles collected by Mrs Jno A McDonald: Mrs Dolly Burns, 2 prs flannel drawers; Miss Martha Watson, 1 pr socks, 1 comfort, 2 prs socks, bundle of Tracts and 2 rolls linen, from a Lady; Mr Stephen Dicken $1; Mr Hezekiah Pattisell, 50c; Miss E Newman, 1 pr socks; Mr Matthew Kelly, 50c.

Collected by Mrs J C Hooker and Miss P C Harris: Mrs Wm Gilmore, 4 yds domestic; Miss M Johnson, 6 prs socks; Mrs M R Haughton $1; Mrs Jordan Tysor, 2 blankets; Mrs M McIntyre, 2 blankets, 2 prs socks; Mr Jordan Tysor, 50 lbs tobacco.

Collected by Mrs G C Newby: Miss H M Jones, 2 prs socks; Miss M A Jones, 1 pr socks; Mrs S Henly, 3 prs drawers, 1 pr pillow-cases, 1 towel, 1 pr socks; Mrs R A Stuart, lot of soap and bone-set; Miss M C Newby, 1 pr socks.

Collected by Miss A Stedman and Miss Godena Watson: Mrs Wm Tomlinson, 1 blanket, 2 pairs socks; Mrs Jefferson Burns, 1 pr socks; Mr J Beal, 25c; Mrs A Poe, 1 towel; Mr J M Robertson, 25c; Mrs J A McDonald, 1 blanket, 2 pairs socks; Mr F Hatch, 50c; Mrs Hatch, 1 pr socks.

Collected by Miss Mary Farrar: Mr S McIntosh, 2 prs socks; Mr A Rowe, $1; Mr J Johnson, $1; Mr John Murchison, lot pepper; Mr M Wicker, ½ lb wool; Mrs B Wicker, lot pepper and sage; Mrs N Riddle, lot of sage and balm; Mrs W Gilmore, lot of sage and catnip; Mrs A Clark, lot of pepper; Mrs W Campbell, 2 lbs of sorrel; Mrs Wm Farrar, 13½ yds home-made flannel, 4 prs socks, lot pepper and bone-set, and 5 lbs dried peaches; Miss M E Farrar, 4 prs socks, 3 prs gloves, 3 comforts; Miss Riddle, 1 pr socks; Mary Walden, 3 prs socks.

Collected by Miss Isabella Palmer: Mrs Grass, 1 quilt, 1 towel; Mrs Charity Andrews, 1 pr jeans pants; Miss S Andrews, 2 prs socks; Mrs N Tally, 2 prs socks; Mrs A W Palmer, 6 pairs socks, 1 quilt; Mrs A P Labarbe, 1 bottle wine, 1 lb ginger, 1 lb vermicelli; Mrs J J Palmer, 1 pr blankets; Miss R G Staley, 1 sheet; Mrs Cable, 1 pair socks; Mrs Martha Boroughs, 1 blanket, 1 quilt, 4 prs socks, 4 pairs drawers, 2 prs jeans pants, 4 shirts; Miss Isabella Palmer, 8 neck comforts; Bettie, (servant Mrs D F Holmes,) 1 pr socks.

Collected by Miss M M Buie: Mrs M L Buie, 1 blanket, 2 prs socks; Mrs M Watson, 1 pr socks; Mrs F Wicker, 1 pillow; Mrs Jas Gilmore, wool-rolls; Mr J Farley, $1; Mr J W Lee, $1; Mr W J Buie, $1; Mr M D Wicker, 50 cts.; Mr J D Wicker, 50 cts.; Mr George Ryerly 2 prs cotton socks.

FANNIE FRASIER, Sec'y.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

Lines on the death of R. D. Palmer, who enlisted in the 1st Regiment N. C. Volunteers.

By an Old School Miss.

He went to meet his country's cause,
Without hesitation or a pause;
Though he is home, still gone is he;
In heaven welcome may he be.
Though many tears o'er him were shed,
We have a thought, by which we're led
To trust, to hope, through Christ it be,
Welcome in Heaven now is he.
God can give, or cease the pain,
May our loss ever be his gain;
No man can tell the future state,
Enough to know, our loss is great.

Gulf, N. C., Feb'y 5, 1862.

The Revenue Law.—We call the attention (says the Raleigh Standard) of Clerks, Sheriffs, and others charged with the collection of the revenue, to the fact that the Convention has repealed that section of the revenue law, exempting a certain amount of property from taxation. The following is the section repealed:

"Every individual whose estate shall be assessed at five hundred dollars, or a less sum, shall pay no tax thereon; and five hundred dollars of the assessed value of the estate of each tax-payer shall be exempt from taxation."

Confederate War Tax.—We have been furnished with the following abstract of taxables in the Burke district under the act of the Confederate Congress, authorizing the issue of treasury notes and providing a war tax for the redemption thereof:

Valuation of real estate,	$1,294,393
" Slaves,	1,151,840
" Merchandise,	29,813
" Cattle, horses, and mules for sale,	13,230
" Pleasure carriages,	15,310
" Pianos,	5,200
" Gold watches,	5,155
" Gold and silver plate,	2,790
Money at interest,	652,855
Cash on hand,	35,187
Total amount of taxables,	$3,205,773

The taxes on which amount to $16,528 86—quite an item in addition to the State and County taxes for which they are already liable, but which the tax payers of the district are disposed to meet cheerfully.—*Raleigh Standard.*

We hear of some curious Union displays in Baltimore. On the occasion of the consecration of a church in that city, "Union" tickets were printed for the election of church officers, with appropriate mottoes, and the type displayed in the "national" colours of red, white and blue.

Richmond Examiner.

One of the best explanations we have yet heard of the letters C. S. A. is, Can't Stand Abe.

And the best explanation of U. S. A., United Stealing Association; or, Under Stealing Abe.

NORTHERN NEWS.

New York and Philadelphia papers of the 5th inst. have been received at Norfolk. The news is of little interest: we condense from the Day Book.

The Herald sums up the situation. With the exception of some skirmishing there is nothing to report from the Army of the Potomac.

The documents brought under the flag of truce to Gen. McDowell's division turn out to be an intimation from Jeff. Davis to President Lincoln that if the rebel bridge burners in Missouri are hung, according to the orders of Gen. Halleck, Colonels Corcoran, Lee and others, now held as hostages for the privateersmen in our hands, will be hung in retaliation. A Cabinet meeting was held yesterday to discuss this extraordinary communication, but the result is not divulged.

The condition of the "contrabands," who are now enjoying refuge at Fortress Monroe, is occupying the serious attention of Gen. Wool. Over 3,000 of these are now receiving support and are being employed in the several camps, and their number is increasing every day. The difficulty of taking care of them is very great; the General has issued an order instituting a commission, to investigate the condition of the contrabands.

We publish highly interesting letters from our correspondents at Somerset, Mill Springs and Monticello, Kentucky. Our Somerset correspondent says the movements of the Union troops at that place and Mill Spring are in unison, but thinks the idea of invading East Tennessee to aid her loyal sons is not practicable at present, owing to the difficulty in procuring commissariat and quartermaster stores to subsist troops and horses. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the Union troops are bound Southward. General Schoepff's brigade has been moved five miles to the Southward of Somerset, to the Cumberland river. Gen. Thomas has his headquarters at Somerset.

On the 27th ult., a rebel flag of truce came to Mill Spring. The chief of the party, Captain Ewing, of the late Gen. Zollicoffer's staff, was the bearer of two letters from Gen Crittenden, in which he requested the remains of Gen. Zollicoffer. Zollicoffer's remains had already been sent to his relatives.

Capt. Ewing made an interesting statement relative to the battle of Mill Spring, and the circumstances of the death of Zollicoffer. He thinks Gen. Crittenden a "poltroon and a coward." The other rebel officer, who accompanied the flag of truce, stated that Generals Crittenden and Carroll are "two whiskey bloats."

The Old Point correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer, writes:

The barque John Trucks is in our harbor once more. She formed a part of the Burnside expedition, and had on board the 51st Regiment, N. Y. S. V. After beating about in the recent storm far out at sea, her officers lost their reckoning, and drifted away down into the Gulf, where the American flag was raised to the masthead of the John Trucks, Union down, as a signal of distress. On Tuesday last the signal was observed by Capt. Cole of the U. S. transport steamer Eriesson, who spoke the unfortunate vessel, took her in tow, and brought her here.

It is a great pity that our Government does not hurry up the expedition for York river, as an advance up there would meet with but little resistance, and a short distance beyond Yorktown the railroad to Richmond could be seized, positively placing Gen. Wool's army in the rear of the Rebel army of the Potomac, within two days march to the Rebel capital, Richmond. An expedition up the right bank of the James river from Newport News would be practicable. The latter river could be easily crossed at Hog Island, and the Petersburg and Norfolk railroad seized; and Norfolk, cut off from communication with Richmond, would be at the mercy of Burnside entirely.

The Butler Expedition—Nobody knows anything about Gen. Butler—he is non est just now. Meanwhile his troops are lying here in the sand.

The French Tobacco in the South.—The Herald says:

It is suggested in the tobacco trade, by the way, that the government of France should be permitted to receive the large quantity of tobacco owned by it in the rebel States. We presume that a request to be allowed to do so would be attentively considered by the government, and, if other foreign nations made no objection, would probably be granted, upon proper proof of French ownership of the property being produced. The interests of the United States would not suffer by a delivery of the tobacco, and its want is causing considerable inconvenience in France.

Senator Bright.—Thirty-one pledged their votes to-day to vote to expel him. This is three more than enough, twenty-eight being sufficient, giving him Wilson. To-morrow Senators Doolittle and Dixon will speak in favor of expelling him, and Mr. Bright will himself make a short defence, when Senator Sumner will close and insist upon taking a vote before adjourning.

The Privateersmen have been released from the City jail, and sent to Fort Lafayette. They number 38. Since their capture, one has been released, one is dead, and one in the hospital.

In the Senate Mr. Sumner has reported a bill authorizing the appointment of diplomatic representatives to Liberia and Hayti.

An investigating committee of the Federal Congress is busily engaged in overhauling the Government contracts and contractors. Bennett says the most gigantic and amazing swindling operations have been developed. Thurlow Weed figures conspicuously in the testimony thus far elicited.

Thirty-five thousand Federal troops are at Cairo. Active preparations are going on to put in speedy operation the great Mississippi expedition.

The prevailing and exclusive theme of conversation in Philadelphia, is the great naval expedition for the Southern coast, to be fitted out there.

A bill authorizing the construction of twenty iron-plated war frigates has been passed by the House of Representatives. The Herald thinks this is not enough, and calls loudly for the building of fifty war vessels of this class.

Twelve Federal steamers, loaded with troops, left Cairo on the third instant, to join some larger force at another point not mentioned.

Vallandigham has made a speech on the Treasury note bill, now under consideration in the Federal Congress. He drew a terrible picture of the results to be expected from this financial scheme.

Secretary Chase is urgent in his request for immediate action of Congress upon financial matters. He represents the Treasury to be nearly empty. He has been obliged to draw the last instalment, to meet the November loan demands. He expresses fears that the banks generally will refuse to receive Treasury notes. The times are very squally.

New York Money Market.—A letter from New York of the 4th, mentions a report that some of the banks would on the next time refuse to take treasury notes. Exchange on England was selling at 113 to 114½. Gold 3¼ to 3½ premium. Stocks dull.

An exchange comes to us with a notice that "Truth" is crowded out of this issue. This is almost as bad as the up-country editor, who said: "For the evil effects of intoxicating drink, see our inside."

WAR NEWS.

The Burnside Fleet Moving.—RICHMOND, Feb. 7.—Information has been received at the War Department, from Hyde county, N. C., announcing that from fifty to a hundred of the enemy's vessels have left Hatteras and sailed towards Roanoke Island. This movement may be in pursuance of the Federal programme, which, we have been led to believe, is to precipitate an attack at some important point on the coast; and as Roanoke Island commands a rear approach to Norfolk, it is at least within the range of possibility that we may have stirring news from that direction at an early day. Roanoke Island also commands the valley of Roanoke river, probably the richest of all the valley country in North Carolina, and is, beyond doubt, the most important strategic point on that coast. The possession of the island would give him easy access to several rich counties by navigable streams, and would place at his disposal the towns of Elizabeth City, Edenton, Hertford, Plymouth, Williamston, Windsor, and Murfreesboro'. The island is about forty miles north of Hatteras; is about eight miles long, and from two to three miles wide. Being entirely accessible by water, and offering such vast temptations, it appears quite probable that it is to this point that the efforts of the Burnside fleet will be directed.—*Dispatch.*

NORFOLK, Feb'y 7.—We have just received from Fortress Monroe some interesting news from Roanoke Island, which we hasten to give our readers. It appears that a Federal Colonel, who is in communication with either the underground railroad or His Satanic Majesty, has received a despatch informing him that an attack had been made upon Roanoke Island, which resulted in the complete success of the Federalists. He says that the battle was a most terrific one, and that their side sustained a loss of over six hundred.

Day Book.

A lady just from the fort says that a Federal steamer arrived there to-day from Hatteras, and reported that the Federals had captured two batteries on Roanoke Island, with an acknowledged loss of 600 men. The report is not believed here, (Norfolk.)—*Cor. Pet. Express.*

Saturday's Standard says—

"We learn that Gov. Clark has received a dispatch stating that on Tuesday last 90 vessels of the fleet passed Hyde county, bound northward. The supposition is that the fleet attacked Roanoke Island on Wednesday. This news comes from Maj. Hall in Hyde, and may be relied on. It is further reported that Gen. Huger is on the Island with 6000 troops, and will defend it to the last extremity."

A Sharp Skirmish in Tennessee.—KNOXVILLE, Feb. 5.—On Sunday last Lieut. Col. White's battalion of Tennessee cavalry encountered a detachment of Lincoln infantry, variously estimated from 100 to 300, in Morgan county, Tenn., on the side of a mountain. Col. White charged upon the enemy and dispersed them. Capt. Duncan, of the Unionists' forces, rallied his men twice, but with only partial success. Capt. Duncan was shot through the head and killed by J. Roberts, a lad only 15 years old, whose brother was recently killed by some Kentucky Unionists. The Lincoln infantry were completely routed and fled in confusion. Seven dead Yankees were left on the field and one prisoner taken.

An Attack upon Fort Henry.—MEMPHIS, Feb. 6.—A gentleman direct from Fort Donelson reports that four gun-boats attacked Fort Henry on Tuesday, and that three Confederates were killed. One of the gun boats was damaged and so crippled that she had to be hauled off.

On yesterday a dispatch was sent from Fort Henry, which stated that eight gun-boats were coming up the river. The pickets stationed sixteen miles below Fort Henry reported that 20,000 Federals were landing. The Tennessee river was rapidly rising. Reinforcements have been ordered to the Tennessee river from Memphis.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 6, P. M.—A dispatch received from Danville at 2 o'clock P. M., to-day, states that firing on Fort Henry commenced to-day at noon. One hundred and fifty guns were fired, but the result was unknown. The firing had ceased.

The Tennessee Forts.—Fort Henry is on the Tennessee river, where it forms the boundary between Tennessee and Kentucky. It is ninety miles above Paducah, and twenty miles below the Long Bridge across the Tennessee, of the Memphis and Ohio railroad. It is an open fort (not casemated) but has, we understand, several very heavy guns in battery. Fort Donelson is on the Cumberland river, and thirteen miles distant from Fort Henry.—*Petersburg Express.*

Gen. Price in Town—Things in Missouri.—General Sterling Price of Missouri, arrived in this city on Monday.

The army at Springfield is now much larger than it ever was, and in better condition. The Southern cause in the State enlists the sympathies of every class of citizens, except a very trifling minority. Many even of those in arms opposed to us, under the auspices of the Lincoln State Government, are friendly towards the Southern cause, and would join us immediately, if practicable. As it is, desertions are of daily occurrence. Very recently over five thousand of the "State Guard," or Union State troops, joined Gen. Price, and have since proved themselves a valuable acquisition to his forces.

Here, as elsewhere in the South, arms are sadly needed. It is said that if the men could be furnished with weapons, hosts of Missouri troops would flock to our standard and drive the Yankees from the State like chaff before the whirlwind.

Springfield is now threatened from three points by immense odds of the enemy, and we may expect before long to hear of a splendid affair in this quarter.—*Rich. Dispatch, 5th.*

We understand that the Missouri difficulty has been satisfactorily arranged. General Price will doubtless be commissioned a Major General, and the Missouri troops received into the Confederate service as twelve months' volunteers. A large number of these troops have already entered the service.—*Ib., 6th.*

Our Seacoast Defences.—It is to be hoped that the Burnside expedition will have at least the effect of making us look well to our defences in that quarter. Roanoke Island ought to be made impregnable. All our batteries there and elsewhere should be provided with bomb-proof coverings. Channels should be obstructed, and no means left unemployed to foil the purposes of the enemy.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

Saltpetre to be Impressed.—The Secretary of War has issued an order to impress all saltpetre not in the hands of the manufacturers, government agents or contractors, paying 40 cents per pound therefor. This is done in consequence of the extortion practiced on the goverment.

E. MURRAY. D. R. MURCHISON. J. T. MURRAY
E. MURRAY & CO.,
Commission Merchants.
AND
WHOLESALE GROCERS,
NORTH WATER STREET,
Wilmington, N. C.
☞ Particular attention given to sale or shipment of Cotton and Naval Stores.