OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE.

THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 7, 1864.

TOO SOMBRE.—In its New Year's article, the Raleigh Spirit of the Age,—a true friend to the cause of the Confederacy, and conducted with such moderation and ability as to deserve its large circulation,—speaks of the present as the darkest hour our country has known, with scarce a glimmering star of hope, and adds,—

"And yet, as a people, we are true, courageous, undaunted, resolved to battle with the foe to the last, and never give up the struggle until our country is redeemed, and God shall crown our arms with victory and independence. Why, then, should such a people be gloomy, despondent and cast down? The answer is plain and patent to every mind, *our own people at home are the cause of it!* We are our own worst enemy! We are faces of the poor—we are starving the widows and orphans—devouring each other like wolves—we are grinding the poor of our brave defenders who have gone down under the tempest of the leaden hail sent by our enemies—we are weakening the government through whose agency we resist the despoiler; and the Government, through the vile abuse of its agents, is trampling upon the rights of the citizen, despoiling him of even that which he hath for the support of his wife and little ones, and thereby severing the bonds of confidence and affection that must exist in order to make us a united, a courageous and successful people. We are abusing and maligning our chief magistrates and our leaders in the field—we are rejecting in disdain and contempt the currency of our country, which is its right arm, its sinews, its very life-blood. This we are doing—all of us—and every day! And is it any wonder that gloom and darkness like a thick pall surround us on every hand? Is it surprising that we strain our eyes in vain to pierce the dismal future before us?

"This state of things is all of our own creating. The enemy hath not done it. If we were a *united* people—if the rich and abundant harvests of our country were distributed to the needy and the destitute—if we felt and acted as brothers engaged in the same glorious cause and involved in the same destiny for weal or woe—if we felt that deep devotion and filial affection that should possess all true and loyal sons of the South for our common government, and yielded a cheerful and patriotic acquiescence to all its requisitions for the common defence and good of the whole; and if that Government were sacredly and inviolably to maintain and defend the rights, privileges and property of every one of its citizens, if, in a word, as a Government and People we possessed that confidence, regard and devotion due alike to each and to both, all bickerings, jealousies, heart burnings and strifes would be at an end, and as a united, harmonious, invincible nation we should stand forth in all our moral and physical grandeur, unconquered and unconquerable!

"No victory that the enemy hath gained over us, has ever alarmed or caused pallid fear to blanch our cheeks. Vicksburg, Gettysburg and Chattanooga disasters served not to unnerve our arms;—but the army of extortioners, speculators, Confederate money depreciators—the Government against the people, and the people against the Government—these things have brought us to our present deplorable condition.

"We hope and believe that the Government and People have become well-apprised of these things, and that they will labor to effect harmony, reconciliation and confidence between both. Let the Government act so as to convince the people that it is their friend, protector and defender, instead of their persecutor and oppressor, and let the people award to our rulers honesty and probity of purpose, and bear up under treatment that may seem hard but is unavoidable—and then we may defy our northern foemen—then shall we go forth conquering and to conquer, and very soon the bright bow of Peace shall span our heavens, and tranquility and prosperity encircle our entire borders. These are the terms on which a Peace, glorious and permanent, may be secured; and we see not how it is to be achieved in any other way."

We copy all this because there is much of truth in it, but also because there is much of error. The picture of starving widows and orphans was most assuredly not drawn in this locality, nor do we think it will justly apply to any section of this State, certainly to none of the many counties from which we have heard. We are assured by those who have the matter in charge in this town and county, that they *know* that the poor have never been so well provided for as since the war, an admission which is often made by them. The sums contributed here for their comfort may be counted by hundreds of thousands of dollars; and if we add the sales of sheetings and yarns by the manufacturers at prices below what they could readily get and what is daily offered, we would say millions instead of hundreds of thousands. There are, besides, thousands of small streams of individual charity, both in town and county, of which the world knows nothing, but which ought to, and we think do, cheer the hearts of the soldiers in the field as well as of the wives, and widows, and orphans, at home.

Doubtless there are heartless speculators, and grasping manufacturers, and farmers that "withhold the corn;" but these are the exceptions. So also, we think, are the abuses by government agents, and the disaffection towards the government itself, and its Administration, and Generals. As to the currency, we assure the Age that to whatever locality its remarks may apply, it is not to this. Instead of all rejecting it in disdain and contempt, all here, and almost everywhere else that we know of, receive it without hesitation.

Having thus brushed away some of the gloom that has settled upon the mind of our contemporary, we beg it to be of good cheer. The world, bad enough in all conscience, is not so bad as it is represented; and our cause, chequered with successes and reverses, is in the hand of Providence. If we lack the power to achieve our independence, He does not, and His will must be done. He requires FAITH in us—let us not withhold it.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE STANDARD.—For months past we have had information, perfectly reliable, that the Standard is regarded at the North as in favor of a return to the old and despised Union. The Standard has had precisely the same information, public and private. It has known, but concealed from its readers, that articles published by it with approbation, have been caught up at the North, printed by millions, as the Standard has been informed, we repeat, with a prefix stating that they were evidences that the Standard and the people of North Carolina were hostile to the Confederacy and in favor of reconstruction. Also the Standard has known and concealed from its readers, that the yankees at Washington, N C. were so thoroughly satisfied by the Standard's publications that it and the State were for "the constitution as it is and the Union as it was," that they held a meeting, calling for reinforcements to march into the interior of the State for the purpose of developing the Union sentiment. It is true that the Standard denied the correctness of such inferences, and declared that it was opposed to reconstruction. And we were only too happy to believe its declarations. We were unwilling to believe, and did not believe, that one who had voted us into the war and into the Confederacy, and had solemnly pledged "the last dollar and the last man" to maintain that vote, could be unfaithful to his pledge. It is likewise true that the Standard has not yet openly advocated reconstruction, though some of its friends have, through its columns and otherwise; and though itself has emphatically declared that in contingencies which it seems to anticipate, "*the people of North Carolina will take their own affairs into their own hands,*"—a guarded manner of declaring that *North Carolina will in that event secede from the Confederacy.* If she were thus to secede, neither the Standard nor any one else can imagine for a moment that she could stand alone, with a considerable part of her territory occupied by yankee troops, and on her frontiers four States which would necessarily feel the deepest indignation at the base abandonment of the Standard's pledge and the State's pledge. What then? The State would necessarily resort to that reconstruction to which the Standard has declared itself opposed, and then, again one of the United States, North Carolina would be as far as ever from peace, for she would be required to assist Lincoln in the subjugation of Virginia and South Carolina and the other Confederate States. Can the Standard doubt this? We put the question solemnly, and hope the Standard will answer it plainly and candidly: If "the people of North Carolina take their own affairs into their own hands," thus separating the State from the Confederacy, does the Standard expect it to stand alone, or to come again under the government of the United States? No more momentous question has been asked of the Standard, and none which ought to be more plainly and frankly answered. We are tempted to ask it in consequence of the editorial article in the Standard of the 1st instant, from which we quote the remark above, and the following extract from a set Oration recently delivered at Gettysburg by the Hon. Edward Everett of Massachusetts:

"The heart of the people, North and South, is for the Union. Indications, too plain to be mistaken, announce the fact, both in the East and the West of the States in rebellion. In North Carolina and Arkansas the fatal charm at length is broken. At Raleigh and Little Rock, the lips of honest and brave men are unsealed, and an independent press is unlimbering its artillery. The weary masses of the people are yearning to see the dear old flag floating again upon the capitols, and they sigh for the return of peace, prosperity and happiness which they enjoyed under a Government whose power was felt only in its blessings."

We earnestly call the attention of the Standard to this also, and ask it if it is a true representation of either "the heart of the people" of North Carolina, or of the "honest and brave men" or the "independent press" at Raleigh, or of the character of the old government? Mr. Everett's allusion is manifestly, without contradiction, to the Raleigh Standard. And in all seriousness, and in most respectful terms, we ask the Standard to say yea or nay to the above questions.

We will not presume to determine what will be its answers. But we think we cannot be mistaken in believing, that if it shall answer *yea*, the scales will fall from the eyes of thousands who now follow the Standard blindly, but have no thought or wish to follow anybody's lead into a new association with the vile yankees; and that if, as we hope, it shall answer *nay*, then thousands who are now gradually inclining to what they think the Standard means, will pause upon the edge of the precipice which they are approaching, and will be saved from that fatal plunge into a gulf which will whelm property, life, liberty and honor.

POSTAGE ON ARMY PAPERS.—The difficulty which soldiers in the army of Northern Virginia experience in getting their newspapers from home—a difficulty which does not seem to exist in other armies or at other posts—has brought us to the conclusion to pre-pay the postage on all papers sent from this office to that army. This will subject us to considerable expense and labor, but it is an offering we will very cheerfully make to the gratification of the gallant soldiers in Lee's army. It is, however, a shame that the Postmaster General does not recommend to Congress to allow the soldiers to receive their papers free of postage.

In addition to numbers of letters of complaint from that army, we find the following in the papers:

ORANGE C. H., Jan'y 4.—A heavy snow storm has been raging all day, which will blockade military operations for the present. Persons writing to soldiers or sending them papers are earnestly requested to prepay the postage. Over fifteen hundred letters for soldiers, besides a large number of papers, on which the postage has not been prepaid, were remaining in the army post office on the 1st of January.

While on this subject, there is another matter that we may mention. We get letters and papers from Richmond the day after they are mailed. The army of Northern Virginia is but four or five hours' travel from Richmond. Yet we never get a letter from that army in less than four days, and it is oftener five or six. We can imagine cases—of sickness, &c.—in which it is of the highest importance and interest that letters should be conveyed without unnecessary delay. Could not some arrangement be made, (perhaps by employing an additional clerk or two in the army post office,) by which the letters could be mailed direct to the offices to which they are addressed, without having to be delayed at Richmond, Raleigh, and perhaps other distributing offices? Whoever will effect a reform in this matter will deserve the thanks of the soldiers and of their wives and parents.

HON. GEORGE DAVIS APPOINTED ATTORNEY GENERAL.—It is with pleasure that we copy the following announcement from the Richmond Whig:

Appointment of Attorney General.—We learn that on Saturday the Senate confirmed the appointment of Hon. George Davis, of North Carolina, as Attorney General of the Confederate States, *vice* Hon. Thos. H. Watts, resigned. Mr. Davis is at present one of the Senators from North Carolina, and has displayed a good deal of ability in dealing with the questions of public interest brought before the Senate. He is an experienced lawyer, and will make an excellent Attorney General.

Mr. Davis is indeed a Lawyer of high reputation, and besides that he is a scholar and a gentleman.

We presume that the Governor and Council will as soon as possible appoint Gov. Graham to fill Mr Davis's unexpired time in the Senate, viz: till 17th of next month; after which Gov. Graham's own six years' time will commence.

IRELAND.—it appears from the following paragraph that there is some alarm about the drain of Irishmen to fill Lincoln's army and fight the yankees' battles. We are glad to hear it. England deserves to have Ireland depopulated and made a howling wilderness for allowing her laws to be openly violated by the yankee enlistments of soldiers in Ireland:—

A Sensation in Ireland.—There is quite a sensation being created abroad on the Irish question. All the English papers state that the drain on the farming population of Ireland is giving serious alarm to the landlords of that country. At a recent agricultural dinner, the Marquis of Waterford declared that if the emigration continued at the rate at which it had lately progressed, there would be no laborers to till the soil, and Ireland would become a mere sheep-walk.

TOWN ELECTION.—On Monday last Maj. Archibald McLean was re-elected Mayor of Fayetteville without opposition, and the following were elected Commissioners for the several wards:—

Ward No. 1, A. G. Thornton,
" " 2, M. McKinnon,
" " 3, E. L. Pemberton,
" " 4, R. M. Orrell,
" " 5, A. A. McKethan,
" " 6, J. C. Poe,
" " 7, J. R. Lee.

FROM N. C. SOLDIERS.—A letter from a North Carolina officer, near Orange C. H., Va., Dec. 30th, says:

"All is quiet here, and we are building winter quarters, and drawing winter clothing. The health of the troops is good and we will soon be comfortable for the winter."

Another letter, January 1st, says:—"Our Brigade [Cooke's] is doing picket duty along the Rapidan. All quiet this morning. We have had considerable rain the three days past. This morning is fair. Roads very bad."

DEATHS OF SOLDIERS.—In Guilford county, 10th Dec., David O. Hardin, of Capt. Rankin's Cavalry, aged 55.

At Camp Winder Hospital, Richmond, 5th August, J. P. Randall, of Co. D, 14th N. C. T., of wounds received in a skirmish at Hagerstown, Md.

Near Webster, Jackson county, Oct. 29, Dr. R. A. Edmonston, in the 35th year of his age, a private in the 26th N. C. Reg't, then 2d Lieutenant, and then Captain in 62d Reg't.

In General Hospital No 1, Richmond, Va, Nov'r 2, of wounds received in the battle of Bristow Station, John K Clark, of Co G, 27th Reg't, aged 24.

At Poplar Lawn Hospital, Petersburg, 21st August, Lunsford P Lashley, Co I, 41st Reg't, Cavalry, in the 21st year of his age.

The following is extracted from the True Delta, of the 15th ult.

PROVOST COURT.—*A. A. Atocha, Judge.*—A number of negroes were charged with having had a seditious religious meeting, praying for the return of their masters, for Beauregard and Jeff. Davis, saying that their expectations of Abe Lincoln had not been realized.

CONGRESS.—The Senate on Saturday adopted unanimously the following resolutions introduced by Mr. Johnson of Arkansas:

Whereas the campaigns of the brave and gallant armies, covering the Capital of the Confederate States, during the two successive years of 1862 and 1863, under the leadership and command of Gen. Robert E. Lee, have been crowned with glorious results—defeating greatly superior forces, massed by the enemy for the conquest of these States; repelling the invaders with immense losses, and twice transferring the battle field from our own country to that of the enemy.

And whereas, the masterly and glorious achievements rendering forever memorable the fields of "Seven Days of Great Battles" which raised the siege of Richmond—as well as those of Cedar Run, that of Second Manassas, Harper's Ferry, Boonsboro', Sharpsburg, Shepardstown, Fredericksburg, Winchester, Gettysburg and Chancellorsville—command the admiration and gratitude of our country.

And whereas, these and other illustrious services rendered by this able commander since the commencement of our war of independence, have especially endeared him to the hearts of his countrymen, and have imposed on Congress the grateful duty of giving expression to their feelings; therefore

Resolved, by the Congress of the Confederate States of America, That the thanks of Congress are due and are tendered to General Robert E. Lee, and to the officers and soldiers of the Confederate armies under his command, for the great and signal victories they have won over the vast hosts of the enemy, and for the inestimable services they have rendered in defence of the liberty and independence of our country.

Resolved, That the President be requested to communicate these resolutions to Gen. Robert E. Lee, and the officers and soldiers herein designated.

Some discussion took place on a bill to increase the pay of clerks in Executive Departments, but without final action the Senate went into executive session.

The House on Saturday debated a bill to put in the army all citizens of any U. S. Territory or State, between 18 and 45, in the Confederacy April 1, 1861. No decision was reached.

Monday was mainly passed in secret session by both Houses.

Of business with open doors, we note the passage by the House of the resolutions of thanks to Gen. Lee, and the report of the following bill by the military committee:

A bill to be entitled an act repealing existing and regulating future exemptions from military service:

The Congress of the Confederate States do enact, That from and after the passage of this act all acts and parts of acts exempting persons from military service be and the same are hereby repealed, except in so far as they relate to officers of the Confederate and State governments; and hereafter no other persons shall be exempt from such service than the following, to wit: All who shall be held unfit for military service under rules to be prescribed by the Secretary of War, and such other persons as the said Secretary with the approval of the President may deem expedient to exempt in view of the fact, which must be satisfactorily established, that such persons can by their skill, labor, occupation or employment, better subserve the vital interests of the country and contribute more substantially to its defence outside of the army than in the ranks.

Provided, That even in such cases absolute exemptions from military service shall not be granted if in the opinion of the Secretary of War the same end can be attained by regularly enrolling and detailing for specific times and stated purposes those whose skill, labor, occupation or employment may make their services more valuable out of than in the actual ranks of the army.

Considerable debate occurred on a resolution in regard to this war for independence, which was finally referred to a select committee, that it might be made more complete, perhaps in the form of an address to the people.

On Tuesday, the Senate passed a bill declaring the intent and meaning of the 11th section of the tithing act to be that farmers shall not be required to pay a tenth of their straw of wheat, rye, oats, barley, shucks, or cornstalks.

A bill was reported to the House authorising the impressment of slaves and free negroes as laborers in the military service.

The Military Situation.—The news from Charleston is interesting. The following official dispatch from Gen'l Beauregard was received yesterday at the War Department:

"CHARLESTON, Jan. 4.—The enemy has been reconnoitering and sounding in the vicinity of Dewes' inlet, north of Long island, indicating a possible movement in that direction. His encampments on Cole island have lately increased. G. T. BEAUREGARD."

It is probable that this conjectured movement of the enemy will make it necessary for Gen. Beauregard to cover Charleston with his whole force. The necessity of defending the country and railroad between Charleston and Savannah is also indispensable.

There is nothing new from the lines in the Central West. Longstreet is still supposed to hold a position which threatens West Tennessee and Kentucky, and keeps Grant in the necessity of protecting his line of communication with Nashville and other localities in his rear. The casualties in the recent Knoxville campaign of Longstreet, it is said, will not exceed twelve hundred men. There is no uneasiness felt for his present position. The country between the Clinch and Holston rivers abounds in strong points, capable of easy defence.

Gen. Lee's lines are entirely quiet.

Richmond Examiner, 5th.

Blockade Runner Ashore.—We understand that the firing heard here Sunday and yesterday came from the direction of Lockwood's Folly, where the Steamer Bendigo had run ashore. It would seem that in the doubtful light of Sunday morning, the Bendigo mistook the wreck of the Steamer Elizabeth for one of the enemy's blockaders, and in endeavoring to run between her and the shore got aground. The Bendigo is a small vessel, and we suppose would hardly draw over 6 or 6½ feet of water.—*Wil. Journal, 5th.*

Charleston.—16 shells were thrown into the city on Monday night. Nobody hurt.

Interesing to Mail Contractors.—The Bureau of Conscription, under instructions from the War Department, has determined, with reference to mail contractors, "that the cause of exemption should exist at the time that military service is claimed. If a person otherwise subject to conscription, before or at the time of enrollment, claims exemption by reason of being such a mail contractor as is mentioned in the act, exemption must not be refused, even though the contract was obtained since the passage of the act. If the contract is obtained subsequent to the enrollment, the party virtually becomes a member of the army, and a release from service is of the nature of a discharge from the army, which is not contemplated in the act of Congress."

Analysis of the Tax Law in Congress.—It is known that Congress is now maturing, in secret session, a bill to levy taxes for the support of Government. This bill has come from the Special Committee on Currency. Its features may be briefly but reliably stated. It proposes a tax of *twenty per cent.* on all agricultural products: wheat, corn, tobacco, naval stores, provisions, cloths, and, generally, all articles which may be enumerated as army supplies. Stocks, coin and all paper used as currency are taxed *five per cent.* All debts which have been paid in Confederate money prior to the passage of the act are taxed *against the party who paid them*, ten to *twenty per cent*, according to the date of payment. Profits in trade and business, made since the 1st of January, 1862, are taxed thirty-three per cent., with some exceptions, and with an additional tax of twenty-five per cent. on the excess over twenty-five per cent. of the profits of incorporated and joint stock companies made in any of the years since the war. The income tax is suspended.—*Rich. Examiner.*

Supposed Incendiarism.—The extensive foundry and machine shops of Dixon, Albright & Co., Snow Camp, N. C., were burned to the ground on the night of the 18th inst. Loss heavy. No insurance.—*Ral Standard.*

RAILROAD DIVIDEND.—The North Carolina Railroad company has declared a dividend of 6 per cent., payable on the 1st of February. This will add $180,000 to the State Sinking Fund.

The fact, that Dr. A. Y. P. Garnett's house, in Washington City, rents for $2,800, while under the confiscation law it sold for only $3,500, shows that the Yankees do not consider the investment in confiscated property as being a permanent one.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

CAMP 46TH N. C. T., NEAR ORANGE C. H., VA., Dec. 28, 1863.

To Laurinburgh Soldiers' Aid Society: I hereby acknowledge the receipt of thirty Shirts, thirty pairs Drawers, thirty-three pairs Socks, and two Towels through Neill O. Patterson, Esq., for which please accept the heartfelt thanks of my Company.

COLIN STEWART,
Capt. Co. D, 46th N. C. T.

GEN. MORGAN'S ESCAPE FROM PRISON.

Special Correspondence of the Richmond Enquirer.

DANVILLE, VA., Jan'y 2.

As I have not seen any detailed account of Gen John H Morgan's remarkable escape from the Ohio State Prison, I have determined to send you the following, as received from him. How often does it occur that "truth is stranger than fiction," and to hear the General, in his modest way, repeat all the incidents connected with his escape, until his safe arrival within our lines, sounds more like a tale of the Arabian Nights than a true record of facts, which, we know, have but recently taken place:

In the first place, the prison is one of the strongest, either in this country or Europe, as I can testify from a personal inspection, and few men would have the courage to attempt to get out from such a place, even if there were no other obstacle than the walls to overcome; but when it is remembered that there were three lines of sentinels to pass, besides bull dogs, we can but admire the determination which could resolve, and the fertility of resource which could successfully accomplish, such a vast undertaking.

On the 26th day of July Gen Morgan, with others of his officers, was taken to the penitentiary. He was first carried into the "Scouring rooms" and ordered to divest himself of his clothing, each article being carefully searched as he laid it aside. He was next ordered into a large hogshead of water and severely scrubbed by a convict. During all this time he was subjected to the vulgar gaze of a large number of people, who were attracted by curiosity to see the "great chief." This being over he was taken into the "Shaving room" and required to take a seat, and then commenced the "barberising process." While this was going on, Col Cluke and Dr Steel came in and exclaimed in great surprise, "My Heaven, General, what are you having yourself so disfigured for?" He very mildly and pleasantly replied "Wait a few moments, gentlemen, and you will see;" and sure enough they did. From here he was politely conducted to his room, which consisted of a narrow cell, four and a half feet wide and eight feet long. The grated door was closed, and he now realized his awful condition: a prisoner in the hands of barbarians—he who had ever been lenient, bordering on weakness; he who had time and again released their officers, allowing them to retain their horses and side-arms, and even furnished their privates with money to defray their way home, scrubbed, shaved and locked in a felon's cell. Like a true philosopher, equal to any emergency, he met his fate cheerfully, urging his comrades all the time to prudence and fortitude, remarking quietly, "that their time would come, though late, it would surely come." And, thank God, he is out now, and it will come. By his prudence and amiable deportment, he so won the good feeling of some of the subaltern attendants, that they were disposed to treat him kindly and do small favors for him. After a few days of solitary confinement, he and his officers were allowed to walk in the passage-way, on which their cells opened.

The cells consisted of two long rows of holes in the wall, one over the other. They opened into a passage-way, twelve feet wide and ninety feet long. Every morning, at 6 o'clock, they were turned into the passage way and allowed to communicate with each other and at 4 o'clock were again locked up. Immediately on the outside of the wing of the building in which they were confined, was a wall twenty feet high, separating them from the female department, and on the outside of this department was another wall, thirty-five feet high, with a large over hang upon which the sentinels walked their beat. On the ground, between the inner and the outer wall a chain of sentinels was distributed and another on the outer wall during the day, but at night were transferred to the ground on the outside. Last, and most difficult to elude, was the sentinel who entered the prison at all times during the day, and at stated intervals of two hours during the night, to see that everything was going on well. When the determination to escape at all hazards was fixed upon, the first thing was to get hold of some implements to work with. So the General got sick and was obliged to have his meals brought to him in his room, and at convenient opportunities his plate went back *minus* a case knife. When a sufficient number had thus been procured, his brave comrades went to work. Separate holes had to be made, as they were confined in separate cells. Their bedsteads were small iron stools, fastened to the wall with hinges. They could be hooked up or allowed to stand on the floor; and to prevent any suspicion, for several days before any work was attempted, they made it a habit to let them down and sit at their doors and read. Captain Hines superintended the work, while General Morgan kept watch to divert the attention of the sentinel, whose duty it was to come around during the day and observe if anything was going on. One day this fellow came in while Hokersmith was down under the floor boring away, and, missing him, said "Where is Hokersmith?" The General replied, "He is in my room sick," and immediately pulled a document out of his pocket and said to him: "Here is a memorial I have drawn up to forward to the Government at Washington—what do you think of it?" The fellow, who, perhaps, could not read, being highly flattered at the General's condescension, took it, and very gravely looked at it for several moments before he vouchsafed any reply. Then handing it back, he expressed himself highly pleased with it. In the meantime, Hokersmith had been signaled, and came up, professing to feel very unwell. This sentinel was the most difficult and dangerous obstacle in their progress, because there was no telling at what time he would enter during the day, and at night he came regularly every two hours to each cell, and inserted a light through the bars of their door to see that they were quietly sleeping; and, frequently, after he had completed his rounds, he would slip back in the dark with a pair of india rubber shoes on, to listen at their cells if anything was going on. The General says that he would almost invariably know of his presence by a certain magnetic shudder which it would produce; but for fear that this acute sensibility might sometimes fail him, he broke up small particles of coal every morning and sprinkled it before the cell door, which would always announce his coming.

Everything was now ready to begin the work. So, about the latter part of October, they commenced to bore. All were busy—one making a rope ladder by tearing and twisting up strips of bed tick, another making bowie knives, and another twisting up towels. They labored perseveringly for several days; and after boring through nine inches of cement, and nine thicknesses of brick placed edgewise, they began to wonder when they should reach the soft earth. Suddenly a brick fell through. What infernal chamber had they reached?—It was immediately entered, and to their great astonishment and joy, it proved to be an air chamber extending the whole length of the row of cells. Here was an unexpected interposition in their favor. Hitherto they had been obliged to conceal their rubbish in their bed ticks, each day burning a proportionate quantity of straw; now they had room enough for all they could dig. They at once commenced to tunnel at right angles with this air chamber, to get through the foundation; and day after day they bored, day after day the blocks of granite were removed, and still the work before them seemed interminable.

After 23 days of unremitting labor and getting through a granite wall of six feet in thickness, they reached the soil. They tunnelled up for some distance, and light began to shine. How glorious was that light. It announced the fulfillment of their labors, and if Providence would only continue its favor, they would soon be free. This was the morning of the 26th day of November, 1863. The next night, at twelve o'clock, was determined on as the hour at which they would attempt their liberty. Each moment that intervened was filled with dreadful anxiety and suspense, and each time the guard entered increased their apprehensions. The General says he had prayed for rain, but the morning of the 27th dawned bright and beautiful. The evening came, and clouds began to gather. How they prayed for them to increase. If rain should only begin their chances of detection would be greatly lessened. While these thoughts were passing through their minds the keeper entered with a letter for Gen Morgan. He opened it, and what was his surprise, and I may say *wonder*, to find it to be from a poor Irish woman, of his acquaintance, in Kentucky, commencing, "My dear Gineral, I feel certain you are going to try to git out of prison, but for your sake don't you try it, my dear Ginral. You will only be taken prisoner agin, and made to suffer more than you do now." The letter then went on to speak of his kindness to the poor when he lived at Lexington, and concluded by again exhorting him to trust in God and wait his time. What could this mean? No human being on the outside had been informed of his intention to escape, and yet, just as all things were ready for him to make the attempt, here comes a letter from Winchester, Kentucky, advising him not to "try it." This letter had passed through the examining office of General Mason, and then through the hands of the lower officials. What if it should excite their suspicion and cause them to exercise an increased vigilance. Their situation, however, was desperate. Their fate could not be much worse, and they resolved to go. Nothing now remained to be done, but for the General and Col. Dick Morgan to change cells. The hour approached for them to be locked up. They changed coats, and each stood at the other's cell door with his back exposed, and pretended to be engaged in making up their beds. As the turnkey entered, they "*turned in*" and pulled their doors shut. Six, eight, ten (10) o'clock came. How each pulse throbbed as they quietly awaited the approach of twelve. It came; the sentinel passed his round—all well. After waiting a few moments to see if he intended to slip back, the signal was given—all quietly slipped down into the air chamber, first stuffing their flannel shirts and placing them in bed as they were accustomed to lie. As they moved quietly along through the dark recess to the terminus where they were to emerge from the earth, the General prepared to light a match. As the lurid glare fell upon their countenances, a scene was presented which can never be forgotten. There were crouched seven brave men, who had resolved to be free. They were armed with bowie knives made out of case knives. Life in their condition was scarcely to be desired, and the moment for the desperate chance had arrived. Suppose, as they emerged from the ground, that the dog should give the alarm—they could but die.

But few moments were spent in this kind of apprehension. The hour had arrived, and out they came. Fortunately, yes, providentially, the night had suddenly grown dark and rainy; the dogs had retired to their kennels and the sentinels had taken refuge under shelter. The inner wall, by the aid of the rope ladder, was soon scaled, and now the outer one had to be attempted. Capt. Taylor, (who, by the way, is a nephew of old Zack,) being a very active man, by the assistance of his comrades, reached the top of the gate, and was enabled to get the rope over the wall. When the top was gained they found a rope extending all around, which the General immediately cut, as he suspected that it might lead into the warden's room. This turned out to be correct. They then entered the sentry box on the wall and changed their clothes, and let themselves down the wall. In sliding down the General skinned his hand very badly and all were more or less bruised. Once down, they separated—Taylor and Shelton going one way, Hokersmith, Bennett and Gee another, and Gen. M. and Capt. Hines proceeding immediately towards the depot. The General had, by paying fifteen dollars in gold, succeeded in obtaining a paper which informed him of the schedule time of the different roads. The clock struck one, and he knew by hurrying he could reach the down train for Cincinnati. He got there just as the train was moving off. He at once looked out to see if there were any soldiers on board, and spying a Federal officer he boldly walked up and took a seat beside him. He remarked to him that, "as the night was damp and chilly, perhaps he would join him in a drink." He did so, and the party soon became very agreeable to each other. The cars in crossing the Scioto have to pass within a short distance of the Penitentiary. As they passed, the officer remarked: "There's the hotel at which Morgan and his officers are spending their leisure." "Yes," replied the General, "and I sincerely hope he will make up his mind to board there during the balance of the war, for he is a great nuisance." When the train reached Zenia it was detained by some accident more than an hour. Imagine his anxiety, as soldier after soldier would pass through the train for fear that when the sentinel passed his round at 2 o'clock, their absence might be discovered. The train was due in Cincinnati at 6 o'clock. This was the hour at which they were turned out of their cells, and of course their escape would be then discovered. In a few moments after it would be known all over the country. The train, having been detained at Zenia, was running very rapidly to make up the time. It was already past 6 o'clock. The General said to Capt. Hines: "It is after six; if we go to the depot we are dead men. Now or never!" They went to the rear and put on the brakes. "Jump, Hines!" Off he went, and fell heels over head in the mud. Another severe turn of the brake, and the General jumped. He was more successful, and lighted on his feet. There were some soldiers near, who remarked: "What in the h—l do you men mean by jumping off the cars here?" The General replied: "What in the d—l is the use of my going into town when I live here; and besides, what business is it of yours?"

They went immediately to the river. They found a skiff, but no oars. Soon a little boy came over, and appeared to be waiting. "What are you waiting for?" said the General. "I am waiting for my lead." "What is the price of a load?" "Two dollars." "Well, as we are tired and hungry, we will give you two dollars, and you can put us over." So over he took them. "Where does Miss —— live?" "Just a short distance from here." "Will you show me her house?" "Yes, sir." The house was reached, a fine breakfast was soon obtained, money and a horse furnished; a good woman's prayer bestowed, and off he went. From there forward through Kentucky, everybody vied with each other as to who should show him the most attention, even to the negroes; and young ladies of refinement begged the honor to cook his meals. He remained in Kentucky some days, feeling perfectly safe, and sending into Louisville for many little things he wanted. Went to Bardstown and found a Federal regiment had just arrived there, looking for him. Remained here and about for three or four days, and then struck out for Dixie, disguising himself as a government cattle contractor, and buying large lots of cattle; at other times as Quartermaster, until he got to the Tennessee river. Here he found all means of transportation destroyed and the banks strongly guarded; but with the assistance of about thirty others who had recognized him, and joined him in spite of his remonstrances, he succeeded in making a raft, and he and Captain Hines crossed over. His escort, with heroic self-sacrifice, refused to cross until he was safely over. He then hired a negro to get his horse over, paying him $20 for it. The river was so high that the horse came near drowning, and after more than one hour's struggling with the stream was pulled out so exhausted as scarcely to be able to stand. The General threw a blanket on him and commenced to walk him, when suddenly, he says, he was seized with a presentiment that he would be attacked, and remarking to Capt. Hines, "We will be attacked in 20 minutes, commenced saddling his horse. He had hardly tied his girth when bang, bang, went the minnie balls. He bounced his horse, and the noble animal, appearing to be inspired with new vigor, bounded off like a deer up the mountain. The last he saw of his poor fellows on the opposite side, they were disappearing up the river bank, fired upon by a whole regiment of yankees.

By this time it was dark, and also raining. He knew that a perfect cordon of pickets would surround the foot of the mountain, and if he remained there until morning he would be lost. So he determined to run the gauntlet at once, and commenced to descend. As he neared the foot, leading his horse, he came almost in personal contact with a picket. His first impulse was to kill him, but finding him asleep, he determined to let him sleep on. He made his way to the house of a Union man that he knew lived near there, and went up and passed himself off as Captain Quartermaster of Hunt's regiment, who was on his way to Athens, Tenn., to procure supplies of sugar and coffee for the Union people of that country. The lady, who appeared to be asleep while this interview was taking place with her husband, at the mention of sugar and coffee, jumped out of bed in her night clothes, and said: "Thank God for that, for we aint seen any rale coffee up here for God knows how long!" She was so delighted at the prospect that she made up a fire and cooked them a good supper. Supper being over, the General remarked that he understood some rebels had tried to cross the river [illegible] on." "Yes," said the woman, "but our men killed some of them and drove the rest back." "Now," says the General, "I know that, but didn't some of them get over?" "Yes," was her reply, "but they are on the mountain, and can't get down without being killed, as every road is stopped up." He then said to her, "it's very important for me to get to Athens by to-morrow night, or I may lose that sugar and coffee, and I am afraid to go down any of these roads, for fear my own men will kill me." The fear of losing that sugar and coffee brought her again to an accommodating mood, and she replied: "Why Paul, can't you show the Captain through our farm that road down by the field?" The General says, "Of course, Paul, you can [illegible] and as the night is very cold, I will give you $10 [illegible]" [illegible] gold, and the prospect of sugar and coffee was too much for the [illegible] and he yielded, and getting on a horse, [illegible] 7 miles to the big road.

From this time forward he had a series of adventures and escapes, all very wonderful, until he got near another river in Tennessee, when he resolved to go up to a house and find the way. Hines went to the house, while the General stood in the road. Hearing a body of cavalry come dashing up behind him, he quietly slipped to one side of the road and it passed by without observing him. They went yelling after Hines, and, poor fellow, he has not been heard of since. How sad to think that he should either be captured or killed after so many brave efforts, not only in his own behalf, but also in that of the General, for the General says that it is owing chiefly to Hines's enterprise and skill that they made their escape.

When he arrived at the river referred to above, he tried to get over, intending to stop that night with a good Southern man on the other side. He could not get over, and had to remain at the house of a Union man. The next morning he went to the house that he had sought the night previous, and found the track of the yankees scarcely cold. They had been there all night, expecting he would come there, and had murdered everybody who had attempted to reach the house without halting them. In pursuing this brutal course, they had killed three young men, neighbors of this gentleman, and went away leaving their dead bodies on the ground.

After he had crossed Obey's river, and got down into Middle Tennessee, he found it almost impossible to avoid recognition. At one time he passed some poor women, and one of them commenced clapping her hands and said, "Oh, I know who that is, I know who that is!" but, catching herself, she stopped short and passed on with her companions.

The General says that his escape was made entirely without assistance from any one on the outside, and so far as he knows, also without their knowledge of his intention; that the announcement of his arrival at Toronto was one of those fortuitous coincidences that cannot be accounted for; that it assisted him materially, no doubt. In fact, he says that his "wife's prayers" saved him, and, as this is the most agreeable way of explaining it, he is determined to believe it.

The above account may be relied on as correct; and although much has been left out, yet enough is printed to stamp it as one of the most remarkable escapes in history.

MARRIED,

On Haymount, 3d inst, by the Rev. J. C. Huske, Mr. J. D. BURKART of Jefferson county, Va. to Miss EMMA E. GAGE of Vergennes, Vermont.

In Chatham county, Dec. 24, at the residence of Rob't Emerson, by Rev. John Emerson, JAMES CAMPBELL to Miss FANNY HUTSON, all of Chatham county.

FOR THE OBSERVER.

Messrs. Editors: Allow me to acknowledge, through your columns, the receipt of a lot of socks from the Antioch Ladies' Aid Society, for the use of my Company. This donation would have been acknowledged earlier had not the Company been on picket, and been deprived of all the conveniences of writing.

We have received many kind donations from the patriotic ladies of Robeson county, which, owing to circumstances attending the soldier's life, we have been unable, publicly, to acknowledge. But I hope our kind lady friends will not think that we appreciate their presents the less, when we cannot publicly acknowledge. We are thankful for all, and can only repay them by baring our breasts the braver to the fierce storm, and by striking the bolder for their virtue, happiness and liberty. Very truly, &c.,

A. A. McIVER,
Capt. Co. G, 24th N. C. Reg't.

FAYETTEVILLE MARKET.—January 7.

REVIEW OF THE MARKET.

Bacon 2 50 Pork 1 50 to 1 75 Lard 2 25
Beef 50 cts. by side, 60 at retail.
Beeswax 2 50. Butter 4 00
Cotton 1 25. Coffee 12 50.
Cotton Yarn—$10 to $80 per bunch.
Dried Fruit—Apples 60, Peaches 75.
Eggs 2 00 per dozen.
Extract Logwood $5 to $6 per lb.
Flour 90 00 to $100
Flaxseed $5 per bu.
Fodder 10 00 Hay 8 00 Shucks 6 00 to 7 00
Grain—Corn 10 00. Wheat 20 00 Rye 8 00 to 10 00. Oats 6 00 to 7 50. Peas $8 to $10
Hides—Green 2 50 to 3 50, dry 4 50 to 5 00.
Iron—Swedes 3 00 to 3 50.
Leather—Upper 12 50 per lb., Sole $10.
Liquors—Corn Whiskey 50 00. Apple and Peach Brandy 50 00.
Molasses—Country made $10 to $11; N. O. 10 to $12.
Nails 2 50 to 3 50 per lb.
Onions 10 00 per bushel.
Potatoes—Irish $7 50 per bushel; sweet 6 00.
Rice 40 to 50 cts.
Soap—Family Bar $1 per lb.; Toilet 2 00.
Sugar 4 00
Spirits Turpentine 1 50 to $2 per gallon.
Fayetteville 4-4 Sheetings 90 to 3 50.
Salt 15 00 to 17 50 per bushel.
Tallow 2 50. Wool $4 to $6.
Corrected by E. F. PEMBERTON

Attention! Co. A,
HOME GUARDS.

YOU will appear at the Court House, for Drill, on Saturday, Jan'y 9th, at 3 o'clock P. M. Those who are not present at roll call will be *considered absent.*
By order of Capt. J. A. Pemberton.
W. N. TILLINGHAST, 1st Serg't.
Jan'y 6. 1t

R. H. BROWN'S SCHOOL.

SOME 15 boys will be received in this School, if application be made soon.
Rates of Tuition per quarter of 50 days, $90 for each pupil, and no other charges.
Jan 6, 1864. 95-2t

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL.

DISAPPOINTED in procuring indispensable supplies, I am obliged to defer the opening of the next Term. A short delay, I trust, will enable me to fix a day for the return of my pupils, with the assurance that they will find a larder not empty. The price of provisions will compel me to increase the charge for Board.
ALDERT SMEDES.
Raleigh, Jan. 4. 1t

HAY STREET STORE
AT AUCTION.

WILL be sold at Auction, on TUESDAY next, the 12th inst., the Store on south side of Hay street occupied by Mr. David Taylor.
J. H. COOK, Auct'r.
Jan. 4. 95-2t

Mules and Horses at Auction.

ON Tuesday next the 12th inst., will be sold at Auction,
4 good Mules, 3 good Horses.
JOHN H. COOK, Auct'r.
Jan'y 6, 1864 1t

MISSING.

A CONFEDERATE STATES COUPON BOND No. 15795, for 1,000 dollars, bearing 8 per cent. interest, dated March 2d, 1863, payable July 1st, 1868. All persons are cautioned against trading for it or any of the coupons attached to it.
C. T. HAIGH.
Jan'y 6, 1864. 96-tf

A small lot of North Carolina
BAR IRON

OF Superior quality, to be exchanged for CORN, PORK, BACON, or other country Produce. Apply to
B. ROSE.
Jan'y 4. 95-3t

NOTICE.

THERE will be sold on Monday, 18th inst., at the late residence of David Jones, dec'd, a LOT OF NEGROES. Amongst them one excellent Cooper.
Also, a large lot will be hired out—Men, Women and Boys.
HUGH SIMPSON, Sr.
Jan. 4. 95-2tpd

Bank Stock for Sale.

APPLY to
A. McLEAN.
Nov 23, 1863. 83-tf

P. TAYLOR

OFFERS for sale, 1 case of Madder Prints; White Flannel; Black and White Spool Cotton; Fine Brown Sugar; Rio Coffee; Black Pepper; Shoe Thread; 250 Sacks Sound Salt, mostly made in 1862; a few Sacks Alum Salt; Liverpool Salt.
Jan'y 4, 1864. 94-18t

Valuable Land in Harnett for Sale.

BY virtue of authority vested in me by the last Will and Testament of Hector M McLean, dec'd, I will sell on a credit of six months with interest from sale, [illegible] that valuable [illegible] lived previous to [illegible] hundred acres. This land lies on the North side of Cape Fear River, fronting on the same about one mile and a quarter, and running back at least three fourths of a mile. This land is within a mile of Lillington, the County Site, and is very valuable, presenting advantages rarely offered in this county. There is a very valuable MILL SITE on the land. Any person desiring to examine the premises will apply to Hugh McLean, Esq., or to Gen. A. D. McLean, either of whom will take pleasure in showing them.
EFFIE C. McLEAN, Ex'r of H. M. McLEAN.
Dec'r 22, 1863. 95tf

$50 REWARD.

RANAWAY [illegible] my yellow boy [illegible] complexion, looks surly [illegible] quick [illegible] and quick [illegible] about Wilmington, the salt works, or running the river, working about under the pretence of being free. He has a mark on one of his arms, a black spot between his wrist and elbow and nearer his wrist than his elbow; I think it is on his left arm. I will give the above reward for his delivery to me or confinement in any Jail so that I get him. I will give twenty-five dollars more for proof sufficient to convict any person of harboring or conveying him off. This boy Silas is between 19 and 20 years of age, and is nearly six feet high.
My address is at the Post Office, Fayetteville, N. C., Cumberland county.
GEORGE HOLMES, Jr.
Jan'y 4, 1864. 95tf

Confederate Tax Notice.

I WILL attend with the Assessors at the office of A. M Campbell in Fayetteville daily from Wednesday the 6th day of January until the 21st to receive the Income Tax due Jan'y 1st, 1864, and the Tax due from Dealers. Dealers will take notice that their Licences expire on the 31st Dec 1863, and they will be required to renew them, and to return the amount of sales for the quarter ending Dec 31st, 1863.

The Income Tax is payable by each person, joint stock company and corporation, from every occupation, employment or business, whether registered or not, in which they may have been engaged, and from every investment of labor, skill, property or money, and the income and profits derived from any source whatever from Jan'y 1st, 1863, to Jan'y 1st, 1864.

The following exemptions from the tax are allowed:
1st. Incomes of and under $500.
2d. Profits or income derived from such products of land as are taxed in kind.

R. W. HARDIE,
Dist. Col. for Cumberland county.
Dec'r 12, 1863 89-tt21pd