

WEEKLY ANSONIAN.

FEARLESSLY THE RIGHT DEFEND—IMPARTIALLY THE WRONG CONDEMN.

VOL. III.

POLKTON, ANSON CO., N. C., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1877.

NO. 43.

WEEKLY

War Reminiscences—

The 43d N. C. Regiment During the War.

Whiffs from My Old Camp Pipe.

To the left of Winchester from our position, the stillness of the morning was broken by the cracking of rifles, with an occasional report of cannon, chiming in with its hoarse thunder. At about 8 o'clock, the whole camp was thrown into hurry and bustle, by the appearance of mounted couriers, who dashed to and fro with that significant haste, that foretold an early movement, and so accustomed, had our men become, to these movements, that they were frequently, many of them ready for the word, when the order to "fall in" was signalled by the drum. With about 100 men barefoot, and our Regiment nearly reduced to a skeleton, and having only one officer to a company, we were indeed in rather sorry plight to engage in battle, but we were hurried along the Pike until within about a mile of Winchester, when we were flung to the left and formed in line under cover of a skirt of wood. The firing on the right indicated that a close engagement was imminent, if not already begun and the haste with which our line was formed argued a necessity for quick work. Our sharpshooters were at once thrown forward, and immediately became engaged. Soon the word "forward" passed along the line, and with steady step and firm front, we passed through the woods and on emerging into the open ground, our situation was, at once by a single glance on our front, seen to be critical. Three heavy lines of infantry supported a strong sharpshooters line, while two batteries occupying a commanding position confronted our weak line. The occasional lulls in the firing on the right, were now filled up with the ceaseless deafening roar of arms, and as we looked at that overwhelming force, we were grateful for the unexplained cause, of the delay, which kept the enemy from crushing the noble Ramseur and his gallant followers. It was certainly bad generalship in Sheridan, to allow this bold Carolinian, with but a comparatively handful of men to hold him and his army of 40,000 men in check for five long hours. He had no advantage in position and the ground, as before stated, was for the most part open and clear, and a mere blind and unguided hurling of this heavy mass against Ramseur, must have crushed him, by its inertia.

Our line was halted for readjustment in full view, of the terrible work before us, and the calm face of our beloved and brave Rhodes, as he passed along the line, gave the troops confidence and nerve for the task. With colors of all the Regiments in our Division streaming to the front, the line, at the signal, swept down upon them with the fury of a storm. A momentary check was given, by their first line aided by the deadly aim of their artillery, which was sufficiently near to use canister with telling effect, but when this line gave way, it rushed back in great

confusion on the second, and then the whole panic stricken mass fell back on the third, and then rushing pell mell from the hills and more exposed positions, to the ravines hurled in such numbers as to make more deadly, the unerring and fatal fire of our troops. On, on, we pressed through the wild flame of death until we had driven them from the field. Our Regiment was halted in a good position both offensive and defensive, and continued to pour a most destructive fire into them, until we were ordered to fall back. They had rallied sufficiently to make the execution of this order on our part a severe test of nerve, for at the moment when troops are flushed with victory, with the enemy driven from the field, to receive an order to fall back through an open field, under a galling fire, and with the feeling that the order was necessitated by a different result on some other part of the line, is anything but comfortable, and to obey that command and preserve order, under such circumstances, is a severe test of bravery and discipline. Greatly preferable, therefore, would have been the order to advance, but with remarkable coolness, and with very creditable order, our line fell back to a ravine indicated by Gen. Grimes in person, where we rallied. We were again changed to another position, all the while under heavy fire, for the purpose, as was now apparent of being aligned with the general line of battle. Heavy bodies of cavalry, passed in our rear to and fro, as if on the alert, to repel some apprehended blow, from an unseen quarter, and to protect our weak and attenuated line. The battle raged with no visible disadvantage to us, only the terrible loss in killed and wounded, which, in the presence of such a preponderating force, we could ill afford to spare. As the sun began to sink behind the mountain, the weary roar of musketry, began to swell in volume, and all the artillery opened with fierceness. The decisive moment had come, and the fortunes of the day hung trembling in the balance. Just then an occasional sound could be caught, at intervals, on the pike in the direction of Martinsburg. Soon a handful of Lomax's cavalry, appeared in sight gradually falling back, but contesting stubbornly every inch of ground. Following it closely a heavy force of the enemy's cavalry, came thundering down on our left which now rested on the Pike. The head of their column bore off to the right and resting as a pivot, for the movement, they wheeled until reaching our rear, they met a charge of infantry, which had double quicked to the rescue. The shock for the moment was terrific—they yielded, but again rallied to the onset. Again they were repulsed—this time by the aid of the gallant Fitz Lee, who at the head of a small force of cavalry, charged impetuously into their ranks. Our troops on the front line still heavily engaged, hearing the firing in the rear, thinking they were out flanked gave way and before order and confidence was restored, the whole line had begun to yield, and the enemy taking advantage of the

position, now redoubled his efforts, and soon our line from left to right had abandoned its position and retreated from the field. From the most reliable information, we have been able to obtain, our Division lost in killed and wounded about 1100 men, among them the chivalric, brave, and patriotic Rhodes, our esteemed and beloved leader. He fell in the charge, at the head of his Division. Gen. Godwin of Ramseur's Division, also was killed.

Gen. Fitz Lee, when he rushed down on the enemy at the head of his column, received a severe flesh wound through the thigh, but unmindful of all personal danger, he grappled with the stubborn foe, for two hours and a half, before he would dismount and have his wound cared for.

Our Regiment lost 77 in killed and wounded, and came out of the fight with only four officers.

(To be Continued.)

Correspondence—

Our Washington Letter

The Real Condition of the South—The Electoral Zeal—Great Debates Expected—Southern Pacific Road Subsided—New Hampshire—J. Madison Wells—Alabama Claims—A Republican Judge, etc.

WASHINGTON D. C., Jan. 23, 1877

If any one is seeking for a good reason why so many negroes in Louisiana and South Carolina voted the Democratic ticket at the late election, and will probably vote it hereafter, he has only to converse with members of the Investigating Committee lately returned from those States. Eleven years of Republican control, dating from the close of the war, has put those States in a condition not to be understood by residents of other and more favored sections. The white distrust and fear the blacks, and the blacks distrust and fear the whites; business and credit are dead; the poor are starving; a line of all kinds goes unpunished. In short, eleven years of peace, under Republican rule, have been more destructive to society than five years of war. If we admit that all classes are in fault, we must still condemn as inefficient and unworthy the State Government under which such a condition of things continues so long to exist. It is a knowledge of the facts, and despair of relief through Republican control, which have driven thousands of intelligent negroes into the Democratic party.

The most earnest and important debate since 1861 will commence in House and Senate to day. It may be briefly said that the electoral bill presented on Friday by the Committee will receive the support of the Democrats in Congress generally, and that few of them will openly oppose it. Its Democratic supporters are increasing in number. The bitterest opposition will come from radical Republicans, who, having the President of the Senate and purposing through him to declare Hayes elected at the last moment and to support the declaration by all the force of Government, see in this bill the end of such a revolutionary scheme. It is not believed by anyone, however, that more than a dozen Republican Senators will vote against the bill. Among these, of course, are Morton, Sherman, Ingalls etc. Much curiosity is felt as to the course of Senator Blaine; but he has so far given no indications of what he intends to do.

It seems to be understood that the subsidy for the South'n. P. R. R. will not be granted at this session. It must take its chance with other great national works, after the Presidential trouble is over and the business of the country has begun to assume its former life and magnitude. Official figures show that less than one-third the usual amount of private capital has

been invested in new enterprises in Great Britain, in the last three years, and no doubt the proportion in this country is still less. With our own peace assured for the next four years, and the consequent revival of business—Congress will be much more likely to grant the aid desired in this and other cases.

Reports from New Hampshire are very encouraging to the Democracy. The election there will be the first State election since November, and great interest is felt in it. New Hampshire Democrats here are hopeful.

The examination of J. Madison Wells, a member of the Louisiana Returning Board, on Saturday, by a House Committee, developed in that gentleman a wonderful loss of memory. He did not remember whether 100 or 1000 votes were thrown out by the Board; did not remember whether the votes thrown out changed the result of the election or not, but knew they reduced the vote. He is here under arrest by the House for refusing to produce the books of the Returning Board. The remainder of the Board are also under arrest.

A gentleman is here from Arizona to secure the removal of a U. S. Judge in that Territory. He has failed to get the Administration to act, and so will attempt to have the House impeach the Judge. The charge is a corruption and drunkenness.

Senator Kernon has done a sensible thing. After so much of the Geneva award had been distributed as Congress had made provision for in the settlement of "Alabama Claims," some \$800,000 remained. Senator Kernon proposes that any person who suffered loss by Confederate privateer; and who thinks himself entitled to any portion of this money, may enter suit in Court of Claims for it. Claimants may appeal from the decision of the Court of Claims to the Supreme Court as in other cases.

The Birds.

The present Legislature should pass a law for the protection of birds. In some sections it may not be popular, but it will be right. It is monstrous to think of nets being spread all over the State, whole coveys of birds being driven into them, and these shipped North for consumption or for stocking parks. We were told some weeks ago by an officer of the Southern Express Company, that during one day of the present season 1,500 pounds of these birds were shipped from Greensboro. He said that during the season up the 1st of January, 50,000 partridges were carried by the express company from different points on the North Carolina Railroad, chiefly from Greensboro, High Point and Company Shops. It is monstrous, we say, to think of this thing, and the Legislature can surely see the necessity or some action in the matter.

We are glad to note that Mr. Crawford, Rowan, has introduced a bill in the Senate relative to this subject.—*Raleigh News.*

Carrying Out a Grudge.

Just before his term of office expired, Gov. Bragden pardoned out of the penitentiary a negro who had been convicted in Caswell court of some felony and sentenced to a term of years in the State's prison. As he left the penitentiary after his pardon, he remarked that "he had died if he didn't kill the man who had prosecuted him." Last week he attacked his prosecutor, a Mr. Patello, a citizen of Caswell, and came very near carrying his threat into execution.—*Ral. News.*

Allen Carter tried and convicted at the last term of Court in Rockingham, Richmond county, for the murder of a Mr. Lilly in Stanley county, and who took an appeal to the Supreme, will shortly be resentenced, the decision of the Court below being re-affirmed.

Our Chip Basket.

Harrowing to the soil—pegs.
How to save your coal—burning nothing but wood.

An oyster lead a placid life until he gets into a stew.

Where to find eternal spring—in the circus business.

How to make the time go fast—use the spur of the moment.

Raising the time—going by a clock.

Honey bees are winged merchants—they sell their honey.

What people can never live long nor wear great coats? Dwaifs.

Farmers are like fowls—neither will get full crops without industry.

Handcuffs are like guide books, because they are made for two wrists.

Steam has been defined as a bucket of water in a tremendous perspiration.

A Wisconsin editor speaks of a wind which just sat on its hind legs and howled.

A Peoria dentist announces that he extracts teeth with great pains.—Most dentists do.

Why does B precede C in the alphabet? Because you must be before you see. Do you observe?

Shakespeare would never have asked "What's in an aim" if he had been hit on the head with a brick.

A Frenchman said of Shakespeare "Ven you find anything you do not understand, it is always something fine."

A wag affirms that pillows though not belonging to the human species, came under the head of rational beings.

Why does a sailor know there is a man in the moon? Because he has been to sea.

Capital weather, Mr. Jones, capital weather. My wife's got such a cold that she can't speak. I like such weather as this.

Office Seeking in the State.

We hope Governor Vance will fill all the State offices within his gift, by the best men, whether they are seeking the office or not. The safest and most substantial men are those who have too much dignity and self respect to be going around asking every man they meet to sign their petitions for the office in dispute. Many will sign a petition when they know the usefulness of the petitioner merely to keep from giving offence, while they heartily despise themselves afterwards for their weakness in recommending such a person. No man in the State knows the people better than Gov. Vance, and he knows the fitness and qualifications of different men in the various localities and should appoint accordingly; though we know how hard it is to shake off life-time office seekers, and go against what seems the will of several hundred prominent signers. In national appointments, of course the President knows nothing of the citizens here, and it is necessary to have recommendations of appointment.—*Charlotte Observer.*

Death of a Prominent Lawyer.

Our dispatches this morning bring the sad intelligence of the death of Col. Robert Strange, of Wilmington, which occurred in that city Tuesday night. The deceased was well known throughout the whole State as one of the ablest and most gifted lawyers of the East, and a gentleman of high culture and refinement. His law practice was perhaps as extensive as that of any other lawyer in the State. At the time of his death he was the attorney of the O. C. R. R.—*Charlotte Observer.*

Subscribe for, and advertise in the ANSONIAN, only two dollars a year.

A JOURNAL OF

News, Politics, Literature, Agriculture,

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY, AT

POLKTON, N. C.

L. L. POLK.

EDITOR and PROPRIETOR.

Having a LARGE and INCREASING

CIRCULATION

among the PEOPLE from the Seashore,

To the Mountains

and being in every essential

WELL FOR THE PEOPLE.

Advertising Medium

business men of Charlotte and other cities, and

WINSTON, MARYLAND, NOBLES, PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK,

will labor earnestly and cordially to buy up a HIGHER and PURE POLITICAL SENTIMENT, to foster and sustain every agency that is designed to advance the MATHS STRATEGIES OF

NORTH CAROLINA.

It will stand simply by the PEOPLE, in their struggle against

OBSESSION, OFFICIAL VILLIANY, THE DANGEROUS ASSUMPTIONS AND ENCROACHMENTS OF MONOPOLIES, AND THE DEGRADATION OF

Negro Equality

against all runs, it will be

JUST, BOLD, and AGGRESSIVE

—AND IS—

ALL THINGS,

—IT WILL—

Fearlessly, the Right defend—Impartially, the wrong condemn.

HOTEL

FOR RENT.

APPLY TO

L. L. POLK, POLKTON, N. C.

Polkton Brick Yard

BRICKS of Superior quality, and in QUANTITY