

From the Richmond Examiner, Aug. 29.
The Confederate Congress has displayed an unsurpassed energy and intelligence in the legislation of this summer session, and as the work necessary for the session seems nearly completed, rumors of an approaching adjournment are again in circulation. Such an event would be justly regretted, and might result in serious evils. Without doubt it is disagreeable to many of its members to remain indefinitely separated from their private interests, and in some cases from their families; but the volunteer soldiers who or doing the complement of legislative labor in the field and the camp, suffer all the inconveniences of that separation, with pains and dangers unknown to our Senators, without a murmur or a hope of alleviation. If Congress would merit the same respect, it would imitate the self-abnegation of those brave citizens; for indeed it is hardly possible to regard a legislator who prefers at such a moment, the pursuit of his private fortunes to the discharge of his high duty, with more indulgence than a soldier who has deserted his ranks. The fact that no further business presses for immediate attention is a most illogical argument for dissolution of the chief assembly of a nation struggling through a war and revolution. In such a season any day may bring occasions for immediate legislation, more important than any this session has known. The great questions of the blockade, and negotiations with foreign nations seem now ready to enter the scene, and Congress should not be scattered to the four winds when they come. If present business is done, it should wait for what will speedily begin. This is a historic epoch; but this is not the first time, nor is this the first nation that has been tried in a similar ordeal; and experience has proven the necessity of the permanent session of the parliamentary bodies which undertake to control them. The great Continental Congress sat all the year round; so did the French Convention; so also the Long Parliament of Charles II; and when another Northern horde entered the old hall of a Roman Congress, it found the gray senators still seated, in the silence of a deserted city, each on his ivory throne.

The First Blood Spilled in Tennessee.—A gentleman who formed one of the body guard of George W. Bridges on his recent trip across the Cumberland mountains, has returned to Athens. He reports that Paul McDermott, Esq., a promising and popular young lawyer of that town, now a member of Captain Lowry's company, on service in Fentress county, was sent out a few days since as one of a scouting party. Late in the day his horse returned to the camp without the rider. This excited alarm, and a squad was dispatched to ascertain his fate. Some distance from the encampment they saw in the road a quantity of blood and evidences of a struggle. Reaching a cabin near by, they learned that McDermott had been attacked by three men, Lincolnites, and severely beaten, if not killed. He was tracked by his blood for some distance, but his body was not found up to the time this gentleman left, and but little doubt remains that he was cruelly murdered.

This news, as might be anticipated, created intense excitement in McMinn where he was so well known and esteemed. In less than twenty-four hours after the news reached that county, more than 1,000 of the citizens met in Athens, and several hundred of them, irrespective of past party differences, at once volunteered, and shouldered their rifles and muskets, and took up their line of march for Fentress, to ascertain the truth or falsity of the report, and if true, to revenge his death.

This is the true spirit. The only safety the loyal citizens of East Tennessee have is in their own strong arms and brave hearts.

The honest masses are hourly taking sides with the South, and showing a patriotic determination to defend their hearth-stones from foreign or domestic violence. But the Lincoln leaders and those who blindly follow them are for civil strife, and are sending out pilots to guide the Federal forces through the mountain passes. Unless more prompt measures are inaugurated, all the horrors of a civil war will be upon us in less than two weeks.—*Knoxville Register* 11th.

Miss Sue A. Carter of Murfreesboro', N. C., who in an unfortunate moment married the notorious abolition scamp, Charles Henry Foster, publishes a card in the Petersburg Express, declaring that she no longer recognizes him as her husband and will seek the earliest opportunity to be released from him, by being divorced.

The Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C.:

MONDAY EVENING, AUGUST 26, 1861.

From a want of paper, there probably will not be another paper issued from this office until this day week.

Southern Correspondents of Northern Papers.

The Wilmington Journal has been furnished with Northern newspapers dated about the 10th August. Among the rest, a copy of the New York Tribune, in which there is a letter dated Salisbury, Aug. 1st. The writer says there is a great servile insurrection going on in North Carolina. That the "Home Guard" in the several counties have refused to march from their homes to suppress it: that J. A. Gilmer's heart is all right, and beats in accord with the Northern invaders! that there are also thousands in the old North State ready and willing to join Lincoln's army, if they can only get the chance to rise! that Tom Clingman is almost broken hearted, and laments that he ever left the Senate at Washington; and that he intends to organize a black republican State out of certain counties in Western North Carolina and East Tennessee!—The author no doubt intended to write lines when he sat down; but, says the Journal, he also made a decided effort to have the appearance of telling the truth, evidently for the purpose of promoting the enlistment of soldiers, a business which flagged most alarmingly about the time his letter was published. It is very likely he deceived many a poor fool, and induced him to join Lincoln's army never to return to his Northern home again.

But whilst we may laugh at such lying productions, other correspondents are furnishing to Northern journals the most surprising accurate information in regard to the military operations of the South, exciting at once our wonder and our fears. It is no uncommon thing, as we learn from the Richmond Examiner, to see announcements in the Northern papers of movements in the South, within a few hours after the orders are given from headquarters, the publication of which were suppressed in Richmond. Several instances of this kind are particularized; and the only solution of the mystery possible is, that there are traitors in Richmond, in the public departments, where they have access to the public records and papers of the Confederacy. Within a few days past, the New York Daily News published an elaborate statement of the strength and disposition of our military forces, more nearly correct than any one, unaided by the records, could give. He states the strength of the regiments, where they are from, by whom commanded, and where located; and sums up the aggregate strength at this, that and the other point, in Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Missouri. We have great confidence in the watchfulness as well as in the ability of our confederate authorities at Richmond, and we have no doubt they are watching these revelations, and will eventually overtake the perpetrator, and bestow upon him all due attention.

MISCHIEF MAKERS.

It will be seen by reference to the letter of our Raleigh correspondent that there are mischief makers in the Legislature, and that the capacity for endurance of one half of our people, is to be fully tested. This war, which carries off from us our brothers, sons, husbands and fathers, to a distant field to be exhausted by days and nights of toil and suffering, ending perhaps in death; which is taxing all our energies at home, and filling every heart with anxiety, is not enough, it seems, in itself, to try the patience and powers of endurance of our people. Heartless, selfish politicians in the Legislature seem to think that this is the very nick of time to lay upon them other trials, and to crush into the very earth those who in former days opposed their party schemes. It is a painful sign of the times that whilst in this virtuous old State the people are unanimous on the war for constitutional liberty, there are men in the Legislature willing to trample our State constitution under their feet. This would seem to indicate that when, if ever, we shall have made a peace with the North, the end is not yet. Shall we then, (or even before,) fight amongst ourselves for constitutional rights?

These indications weaken the hands, excite the indignation, and burden the hearts of the people. Unless God shall take care of us and save us from the fender mercies of wicked politicians, we are hopelessly ruined.

If the programme of the State Journal is carried out by this Legislature, we believe the most rancorous democrats in the Army will curse the men who did it.

The Trouble in Western N. C.—It is all a mistake. We learn from a gentleman of Catawba county that the reported invasion of East-Tennessee is false. The rumor had the good effect of proving the metal of our mountaineers who, in some localities, brought out their rifles and declared themselves ready to meet old Abe's friends, let them come from where they would.

CONFEDERATE LOAN.

The first subscription to the Confederate loan made here was on last Saturday. The Hon. N. BOYDEN heads the list with one thousand five hundred dollars to begin with. He is also ready and willing to subscribe his entire tobacco crop of last year. We learn from Dr. Hall, one of the Commissioners, that the prospect is very fair for a large subscription in this county. Almost any amount of subscriptions in flour and corn could be obtained in Rowan—enough to bread one-third the North Carolina troops in the field.

BLANKETS AND WOOLEN SOCKS.

Sheriff WALTON will receive contributions of Blankets and woollen socks for the soldiers, and forward the same to Governor CLARK, at Raleigh, who will there place them under the care of the proper officers to distribute them among our volunteers. Send in your contributions, as cold weather will soon be upon our volunteers in Virginia, where the winter sets in a little earlier than in this State.

Death of an Editor.—The Rev. GEORGE McNEILL, senior editor of the North Carolina Presbyterian, departed this life at his residence near Fayetteville on Sunday the 18th inst. Those who knew him best, speak most warmly of him in terms of affectionate regard. He was ardent and zealous in his calling as the editor of a religious journal, and conducted the Presbyterian with decided ability. His loss will be mourned by a large circle of friends.

JOHN W. THOMAS, Esq.—We learn from Maj. N. F. Hall, that this gentleman was in Raleigh last Friday, just on his return from some distant trip. It was reported here that he had gone to New York, and that old Abe's men had grabbed him, and put him in jail.

Large Fruit.—Mr. Wm. M. Kincaid, presented us the largest peach, and Mr. Phillip Owens the largest apple, we have seen this year. They were fine specimens.

More Envelopes.—Mr. George Wheeler has laid on our table a package of envelopes of his make. The blockade will not hurt us so far as this article is concerned. Salisbury is already prepared to furnish almost any quantity.

FOR THE WATCHMAN.

A Prayer for those who have gone forth to war in defence of their State and Country:

Oh! most Gracious Lord God, our Heavenly Father, we commend to Thy care and protection, Thy servants, who in behalf of their families and their country, have gone forth to meet the dangers of war. Direct and lead them in safety; bless them in their efforts to protect and defend this land; preserve them from the violence of the sword and from sickness; from injurious accidents, from treachery, and from surprise; from carelessness of duty, from confusion and fear; from mutiny and disorder; from evil living and from forgetfulness of Thee. Enable them to return in safety and honor, that we, being defended from all who would do us hurt, should rejoice in Thy mercies and Thy church give Thee thanks in Peace and Truth, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

N. C. STATE BONDS.—In view of the fact that the Northern Congress has passed a bill for confiscating property owned by Southern people, Gov. Clark should see that not a cent of interest is paid on N. C. bonds owned by or in the hands of Northern men. The Treasurer should not be permitted to pay a dollar to Northern bond-holders. Besides, the State authorities should immediately seize all the property in this State owned at the North, such as gold mines, lands, houses, &c.

The confiscation law passed by the Lincolnites, contains a provision for the abolition of slavery. The objects of the administration are now unmistakable, and every Southern man must resolve to die rather than submit to the government at Washington.

A North Carolina Regiment came in on Saturday. A gentleman asked them "where they came from?" They said, "North Carolina." He said, "why how many more men are coming from North Carolina?" The reply was, "any number you choose to ask for, sir."—*Letter from Richmond to Charleston Courier.*

A daughter of the author of the Star Spangled Banner, was compelled recently to permit her house to be searched by the Baltimore police.

RALEIGH CORRESPONDENCE.

RALEIGH, Aug. 22, 1861.

MR. BAYNES.—The General Assembly has done but little yet, except to wrangle about what the Convention has done. The House passed a bill to-day through its second reading by a vote of about 58 to 28, to submit the question to the people at the next November election to decide whether they wish the Convention to meet again or not. I fear there is some disposition to retaliate upon the Convention for supposed indignities offered to the Assembly. It is thought, however, that the Senate will not pass the bill. Indeed, the construction which Gov. Clark and his party friends have put on the Constitution relative to the Governor's office, i. e. that Mr. Clark is not in truth Governor, but only exercises the powers of Governor because he is Speaker—will render it necessary that the Convention shall meet and amend the Constitution, otherwise we shall be without a Governor from next August until January.—The vacancy caused by the death of Gov. Ellis, has given rise to considerable investigation and discussion. Some maintain that Mr. Clark is Governor for the unexpired term of Gov. Ellis, and that the Senate should elect another Speaker; others that he is Speaker and ex-officio Governor, and that when he ceases to be Speaker, he ceases to be Governor, while others maintain that it is the duty of the Assembly to fill the vacancy by electing a Governor. This latter view is novel, but it is not without strong reasons for its basis. Under the old constitution, the Legislature elected the Governor, but the Convention of 1835 altered the fifteenth section of the old constitution so as to give the election to the people. The nineteenth section—a separate one—declares how vacancies shall be filled in case of death, removal, sickness or inability; that is, by the Speaker of the Senate exercising the powers of Governor during such vacancy, or "until a new nomination is made by the Assembly."

This 19th section was not repealed by the Convention, hence it is maintained that it is obligatory on the people to elect the Governor, and the Assembly may fill a vacancy.—The editors and printers have put the words at the end of the 19th section, "or until a new nomination is made by the Assembly," in italics, but upon the most minute examination of the Convention of '35, it is very clear that neither that or any other part of the 19th section was touched or stricken out.

In this conflicting state of things, it is apparent that the present Convention alone can settle this matter as speedily as it should be done, and for that reason, if for no other, it should meet again.

ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERS.

The 27th Section of the original Constitution of this State expressly says:

"That no officer in the Regular Army or Navy in the service or pay of the Confederate States, of this, or any other State, or any contractor or agent for supplying such Army or Navy with clothing or provisions, shall have a seat in either the Senate, House of Commons, or Council of State, or be eligible thereto; and any member of the Senate, House of Commons, or Council of State being appointed to and accepting of such office, shall thereby vacate his seat."

The 4th Section of the IV Article of the amended Constitution speaks language as plain and emphatic but more general—such language as would upon a fair construction exclude members of the Convention from seats in the Assembly—and yet a motion made in the Senate to declare the seats of all officers in the Army, and in the commissary department, was laid upon the table by a decided vote—the old whigs voting against the motion, and the old Democrats for it. Thus it is that Constitutions are regarded in these times of revolution.

DEMOCRACY EITHER DEAD OR SLEEPING.

We often hear it said that there is no party now—that we are all for the country and that to revive old party issues would be not only the height of folly, but would even be dangerous not to say treasonable. But hear what the editor of the State Journal says in the issue of the 21st inst.:

"The laying off of the State into ten Congressional Districts, and the election of two Senators, is a work that will necessarily excite old party feelings, but may (not) on that account be overlooked. We confess we are in favor of ten Democratic Representatives, but if we can't get that we'll do the next best thing possible—take all that we can get. The only way we can see to secure unanimity on this question is for every body to turn Democrat as speedily as possible and save his credit while he may. We prefer candor to hypocrisy, and therefore speak our sentiments."

True to this programme, the bill to re-district the State, I am informed, is so arranged as to enable the Democracy to take all they can. It is said that they are to get at least seven out of the ten districts, and will undoubtedly slaughter John A. Gilmer. You will see how dead party is next Tuesday, when the election for Confederate States Senators comes off—you will see two Democrats elected. Ah! you may depend upon it, not only is Democracy to command, rule and luxuriate in the civil as in the military departments but old Whigs and Union men—no matter how true to the South—are to be discarded, kept down and crushed, by the iron heel of party, under the cry of no party—all country—and the very hypocrisy which the editor despises. As a further evidence that I am right in my assertions on this question of party, I will state that to-day, 23d August, Mr. Merrimon introduced a preamble and resolution into the House proposing to promote harmony and good feeling and to ignore party by electing a Senator to the C. C. from each one of the old parties. The resolution was laid upon the table.

A proposition by the House to the Senate to adjourn sine die on next Friday 30th, was tabled in the Senate by a vote of 22 to 21.

The Senator from Davidson to the surprise of every body took his seat in the Senate to-day. How he ran the gauntlet, is not publicly known.

The Stay Law will probably receive some sort of solution from the Assembly, but what sort cannot yet be known. The Senate to-day unanimously passed a bill to authorize the County Courts to tax property "in the same manner" that the State does. It goes to the House.

FOR THE WATCHMAN.

CAMP, near Warrenton, }
Aug. 20, 1861. }

MR. EDITOR:—According to promise, I now drop you a line from our encampment at this place.

We left Salisbury on Saturday amid the cheers of our friends and kindred. There is a little more in parting with dear ones under such circumstances than those who stay at home imagine. They have never looked around on a crowd of familiar faces, and on the scenes of their earlier and happier days, and reflected that they were, perhaps, viewing them for the last time. We have passed that ordeal, and however feeble or strong the emotions excited, have easily and satisfactorily realized that we are now soldiers in the tented field, with a vast responsibility resting upon us. To those we have left behind, we send the hearty greeting of a camp-bread soldier, hoping that in due time we may meet them again with joy and gladness.

There was very little of interest seen along the road to this place. At Camp Graham we saw a large number of tents near the railroad, which I learned belonged to the 7th regiment of volunteers; and further along we saw numerous other encampments, but whose I did not learn. About 4 o'clock, p. m., we arrived at Raleigh. A large number of citizens were congregated at the depot, drawn thither to see the most splendid cavalry company I ever saw. I regret my inability to give the name of it; but if it should prove as efficient as it looked, it will make itself felt in this war. We stopped at Raleigh until Sunday morning;—spent the night in some box cars that were at the depot; and considering our beds, the weary hours of the night were passed as well as could be expected.—Early Sunday morning we took the train for Warrenton, nothing of unusual interest attracting our attention until we arrived at our camp. There are only three companies here, as yet, for the 8th regiment; but I am informed others are expected here this week. Those now here are "the Alamo Grays," Capt. Roe's company from Wilmington, and our own corps, the Mechanics' Guard.

Our boys are nearly all well. One or two are complaining, but I think they are only a little homesick. Our Captain and Lieutenants are as clever a set of men as you ever heard of in camp. There is not a man in the company but will agree with me in this opinion.

I have just paid a visit to the town of Warrenton, and I must say, I do not think there is a town in the State can surpass it in beauty. "The Warrenton News" office is closed. The proprietor, compositor, pressman and "devil," have all gone after "old Abe's" scalp. There is no news here. If any thing worth relating should turn up, I will jot it down and send it to you. N.

CAMP FISHER, NEAR MANASSAS, VA. }
August 14th, 1861. }

MR. EDITOR: As I have the honor to be "Officer of the day" in the Artillery Camp and have to make an official visit to the guards and the sentinels on post about 12 P. M., I shall, in the interval give you a short note of passing events.

Situated as we are in the midst of the grand army of the Potomac, I suppose you think that we are fully informed as regards all the movements of the army, but such is not the case. Here we seldom see a newspaper and consequently the knowledge we get from that source is quite limited; and each paper when it does make its appearance in camp is hailed as a welcome messenger.

Could you be here for a few days and go on the top of a neighboring hill and see the thousands of white tents in every direction, you would think that the whole army was in view, but go to the top of a hill five miles distant, and the same spectacle will present itself to your view. And at night you would hear the signal of the drums, as the drummer of each regiment beats the drummer's call for the drummers to assemble on their respective grounds, and as the Tattoo is beat the echoes are driven back bringing with them the notes of other drums showing that a regiment is there; and from various points in this lovely Virginia valley, the shrill notes of the bugle makes known the fact that there is a corps of Artillery of Cavalry there encamped, and thus the whole country seems to be one great encampment.

The Rowan Artillery have received four splendid guns, being two sections of a battery, the other two forming the third section will be ready for them as soon as they are ready to receive them, as they want about twenty-five men to complete their company, which should number about one hundred and twelve men. They now number eighty-seven men not-commissioned officers and privates. They will need a first-rate blacksmith, a wagon-maker, a harness-maker and saddler, and several drivers, those who are accustomed to driving and managing horses. The guns they have received are of the latest improved pattern, two of them belonged to the celebrated Sherman battery, and are ten pound