

From the Fayetteville Observer.
Closest Generals.—An intelligent gentleman who has seen in the Army, and who has visited the "seat of war," writes to us the following judicious observations upon the increasing demand of the stay-at-home Generals of the newspapers, that our army should move forward and attack the enemy in his entrenchments:

"The Richmond papers very often complain of and censure the Confederate Government for the moribund policy of defence which has been pursued on the Potomac, and are urging 'a forward movement.' The writer is of opinion that our Generals have pursued the true course.—There is no doubt but either of them would at once say, we can successfully storm such or such a work, with a loss of so many men. The writer asks himself, and let every father put the same question to himself, 'Am I willing that my sons should fill up the ditch?' Observe, that every post of the enemy, as well as our own, is secured by the most skillfully arranged fortifications. Those which the writer has seen are generally about twelve feet wide and eight feet deep. One man, in the defence of such works, is equal to ten assailants; and when the material of our army is considered, few parents would be willing that their sons should encounter such odds. The enemy, on the contrary, have an army composed of just such material as they would prefer to fill the ditch, were it not for the loss of defeat alone. Let us hope that all fathers and relatives will believe, that our able officers are doing all in their power to save the lives of the gallant youth under their care. Every day that we hold the enemy in check is a victory."

Senator Baker.—We had the pleasure of seeing, on Saturday, the Hon. James M. Baker, late Judge of the Sawanee Circuit Court of Florida, and now Senator elect from that State to the Confederate Congress.

Judge Baker is a native of the adjoining county of Robeson, a graduate of Davidson College, who read Law with Col. John W. Cameron, and was licensed to the Bar by the Supreme Court of North Carolina.—He is still a young man, and his rapid rise in Florida, professionally and politically, is due to high personal character for integrity, industry, vigor of mind, and irreproachable habits. It always affords us pleasure to notice the rise of native North Carolinians—whether "the dwellers at home or the dispersed abroad,"—and we have marked the career of Judge Baker with especial pleasure, as we have known him from his early manhood, and not the less because he has had the good sense to look to North Carolina for other things than his Law. It is the theory of our Representative system that a Member of Congress is a member from the Confederacy as well as from the particular State which elects him; and if so, we know that the Judge will be the Senator of North Carolina, next to that of the "Flowerly land." The relations of North Carolina to the Confederacy promise to be far more intimate and important than they were to the defunct Union, and the presence in its Council, beside her own members, of such natives as Judge Baker and others, may help to secure her proper share of consideration. Under the old government the Arsenal in this place, for instance, was kept down. Under the new, it is assuming gigantic proportions, and with its extension, the vast mineral interest of the neighboring counties is coming into notice and use.—Fayetteville Observer.

Rather be a Negro at the South than a White Man at the North.—We learn from one of the Hatteras prisoners who returned in the flag of truce steamer day before yesterday, that two negro stewards attached to the Hamilton Guard, Capt. Olen's, of the 7th Regiment N. C. Volunteers, were offered, while in confinement at Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, great inducements to remain at the North. They were told that if they would take the oath of allegiance to be true to the U. States, that they would receive all manner of kindness, and get along a great deal better than they could possibly at the South.—Col. Dimmick, of the Federal Army, proposed to administer the oath to them, but they indignantly rejected the proposition, and remarked that they would rather be negroes at the South than white men in old Abe's Army. One of these negroes is represented to be very well off, owning several thousand dollars of property in Martin County, N. C.

Norfolk Day Book.

Virginia has 16 generals in the Confederate army; South Carolina 9; Louisiana 8; Georgia 7; Tennessee 8; North Carolina 6; Kentucky 7; Maryland 4; Alabama 4; Mississippi 4; Texas 3; Arkansas 2; Florida 2; Missouri none.
The following were born at the North, though previous to the present war they were citizens of Southern States: General Cooper, born in New York; Ripley, in Ohio; Pemberton, in Pennsylvania; Whiting, in Massachusetts; Ruggles, in Massachusetts; Blanchard, in Massachusetts; Pike, in Massachusetts; French, in New Jersey.

Richmond Correspondent of the New Orleans Crescent. gives the following in his letter of the 24th of December:

I cannot close this letter, long as it is, without narrating an occurrence which happened some days ago at Centerville. It was this: Some negroes, at work on the roads and fortifications, took it into their heads one night to serenade Gen. Beauregard. Pleased with their performance, he went to the window and asked them to sing "My Maryland," the sweetest and most touching song the war has yet produced. They were unable to sing it. The next day Colonel Jordan, Beauregard's Adjutant, who has a printing press in his department, caused several copies of "My Maryland" to be struck off and sent to the members of the first Maryland Regiment, many of whom are vocalists of the highest order. The hint was taken, and that night Gen. Beauregard heard "My Maryland" sung with the power and pathos which exiles alone can give it. At its close he stepped forward and in his modest gentle way said: "Gentlemen, I thank you warmly for the very agreeable serenade you have given me. The Marylanders knowing his quiet habit, and thinking he had said all he intended to say, responded with "three cheers for Beauregard," and were about to return to their camp. What was their surprise when he called them to stay, and unfurling a flag, said: "Gentlemen, I present you a Confederate battle flag, made in Baltimore by the most beautiful woman in that city."

Without waiting to hear more, an enthusiastic young officer called for "three cheers for Miss Hattie Cary," which were given with a will. "Not so fast," said the Major of the 1st Maryland, as soon as the cheering ceased, "not so fast," said he, putting his hand on the shoulder of the excited Lieutenant, "it was not Miss Hattie, but her sister." "Three cheers, then, for Miss Jennie Cary," cried the Lieutenant. Of course they were heartily given. "When the sound-died away into perfect silence, and the audience now comprising most of the regiment, awaited Gen. Beauregard's further remarks with rapt attention, he continued: "Yes, it was made by Miss Jennie Cary, and when she presented it to me, I promised her on the honor of a gentleman that I would, with my own hands plant it upon the Washington Monument in Baltimore!" This assurance of a triumphant return to their city, coming from the lips of the commanding General, and while their hearts were still softened by the tender strains of their chosen song of love and lamentation, produced an effect on the Marylanders which it is impossible to describe. They were literally transported with joy and enthusiasm. Marylanders who witnessed the scene, and have since visited Richmond, cannot speak of it without tears swelling up to their eyes.

PUTTING OFF A SOLDIER.

We have been informed that a soldier was put off the express train from Charlotte on Wednesday night last, by the Conductor.—The rain was pouring down and the poor fellow was set out several miles from any station. Cause of offence, want of money. We were not informed whether he was on furlough or not, but money has been taken from soldiers on furlough. We have also been informed that conductors have been willing to take what little might be given them if soldiers manifested an unwillingness to pay the whole. We suppose this was in the way of an alms, which was given to the conductor for his good behavior. We have also been informed by another gentleman, of a conductor who did not give him back the change, when reminded of it. This has been recently. We have heard of a good many things done by railroad officials calculated to arouse any body's indignation, but to put off a soldier, fighting for the protection of this very property, in a cold night and in a storm of rain surprises anything we have heard of yet. The soldier acted so quietly, going off willingly and not appealing to fellow soldiers about, who would have unquestionably taken his part. We leave this act to be judged of entirely by public opinion.—(Concord Flag.)

Life at the Capital.—According to the Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post, gaiety prevails at the Federal Capital this winter:

One of the most striking features of life here is the utter carelessness and insouciance of every one. From Mrs. Lincoln, driving in her gaudy coach, and Mr. Lincoln, amusing himself with Herman's feats of "prestidigitation," down to the young officers dancing gaily at the balls, every one seems to consider the present time especially created for amusement. There is not the slightest seriousness anywhere that I have been able to discover—where it all lies. And any one who looks or speaks earnestly of the critical condition of affairs is regarded as a bore by all but some of the few older heads. One would think all the "fast" boys of the country had come to Washington, for some of the men here seem to care for much else but jollity. The streets are thronged with officers and privates, all intent on amusement, and dashing young cavalry men clank their swords and jingle their spurs in dancing rooms as well as at the bar-rooms. The mournful faces are at the homes that the war has made desolate.

Running the Blockade.—We learn from the Mobile Register, of the 6th instant, that the Confederate States steamer Vanderbilt has got safely into New Orleans, with 90,000 pounds of powder, 10,000 Enfield rifles, and an assorted cargo.

The Richmond Examiner says it has a pretty well authenticated report that the Committee on Commerce in the Provisional Congress have reported against a suspension of the tariff during the war.

The Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C.

MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 12, 1862.

Postage.—The revenue from postage has fallen off in the Confederate States about half a million dollars, as compared with a corresponding period of time under the cheap rates of the old Union. Whether this is owing to the present high rates or the lack of stamps, we have no means of knowing. We think it may be attributed to these as the main causes; but the scarcity and high price of letter paper, and the facility of corresponding with friends in the camps by private hands, are no doubt other causes worthy of notice. And to this must be superadded the loss by the complete suspension of the business and social correspondence heretofore existing between the Northern and Southern States.

Remembrance of Cameron.—There was considerable joy in a small circle met with Saturday morning over the reported resignation of Cameron; but in the course of remarks on the subject, one of the gentlemen observed he thought there was some misapprehension: that he presumed Lincoln's Secretary of war was not responsible for the mismanagement of the North Carolina Rail Road. Oh! said the other, is that the Cameron!—I thought it was PAUL G. The mercury at once subsided to the point of indifference.

Companies Wanted.—It will be seen by reference to Major GRISWOLD'S advertisement in this paper, that four companies of infantry are wanted for local defence at the Confederate States prison in this town. Here is an excellent opportunity for those to enter the service of the Country whose families, and business affairs, prevent them from volunteering into the common service of the Confederacy, liable to be ordered to distant posts. We think it was an easy spare for more companies for this purpose, which will increase the whole number of his sons in the service of the Government to fourteen companies.

The notorious Jim Lane, of Kansas notoriously, has received the command of all the Federal forces for operations in Kansas, and will very shortly enter his field. It is said he is to have an army of 25,000 men. It is also stated that this command is designed for a grand expedition along the Arkansas border into Texas.

Slaves.—The Yankee Senate has passed a bill forbidding officers of the Navy and Army to arrest and deliver to their owners, runaway slaves that may come within their lines. They might have saved themselves that trouble. It is only another way, however, of legalizing the stealing of slaves, one of the offences which brought on a dissolution of the Union.

"There is a strip of country in North Carolina which is largely desolated. Beginning with Randolph and Guilford, it extends through Davidson, Forsyth, Davie, Yadkin, into Wilkes. But the hotbed of torridity is in Forsyth county. This county votes about 2,500, and has furnished but about 250 to 300 men. The town of Salem is a Moravian settlement, and while the people are honest and worthy in the ordinary affairs of life, politically they are rotten to the core. No one can read the Press, a weekly paper published in this settlement, without discovering under the editorials on "Conservatism, the spirit of disloyalty to the South."

We regard this as a vile slander on the counties named. It is an extract from a correspondence in the Richmond Examiner, signed "Traveler." We suspect the author is a North Carolinian, and that there is a partisan purpose at the bottom of this accusation against these counties. It is very strange indeed, that we who live within almost daily intercourse with these counties should have to learn so startling a state of things existing in them as "Traveler" relates. What has become of the eyes and ears, and the patriotism, of the true men in these counties that they have not only not disclosed, but not discovered the disloyalty charged upon their fellow citizens? Can it be possible that a traveler passing through them can discover more than all the watchful men residing in the territory? Or can it be possible that things have reached such a stage as that no resident dare give the alarm! The charge carries the lie upon its face—it is absurd. Not much worse a thing could have been published against Western Virginia; except in that case it would have

been true, whereas in this it is false. We hope the People's Press will forestall the author, and thoroughly vindicate itself and the people of the slandered region as it will put to shame the calumniator.

Coroner's Inquest.—Richard Hughes, from Virginia, aged about 40 years, a shoe maker, was found dead, Monday night last, in the grog shop of Gaudinson Roberts, in this place, kept by one Mr. Little. He had been sitting in a chair by the fire for some time when William M. Barker and Royal Beach entered the shop, and soon after took him off his seat and laid him on the floor. About 8 o'clock at night, John Glover called in, and while there, it was asked what should be done with Hughes, who, as he had been drinking from Saturday evening up to that time, was supposed to be drunk. Mr. Glover said he must not be put out of doors, and proposed to lay him nearer the fire; and assisted by the keeper of the bar, they moved him accordingly. But in doing so, Mr. Glover discovered that he was dead.—The Coroner was called in, and on Tuesday held an inquest, which resulted in the verdict of "death by excessive drinking of intoxicating liquors." In the course of the investigation of the causes of Hughes' death, the bar keeper, Little, stated that he had got one drink at that bar. It was stated by others that he had spent the most of the day at Jack Hall's grog shop, and that they had put him out at the back door from that establishment.

Hughes had been in the employ of Messrs. Ennis & Bradshaw, and worked all the preceding week. He received his wages Saturday evening, and soon after went into a "sper." Three dollars and twenty-five cents were found in his pockets.—It is supposed he paid only about \$2 for his passport out of this world, conjointly awarded him by the liquor shops he patronized.

A Plan of Popular Loan to the Government.

The Richmond Examiner of the 15th instant says: We learn that the Government has devised a new system of popular loan, which presents such extraordinary advantages for investment, that it cannot fail to attract the attention not only of the capitalists, but of the large classes in the community who may desire to invest small sums of money in a safe and profitable form, and for short terms. The advantage of the new plan of loan is nearly that of deposits on call and resembles the savings bank system.

Mr. MEMMORA, the Secretary of the Treasury, has proposed to parties having money to loan, to invest in Government bonds, or registered stock, on the following liberal terms:

It is proposed to make the stock run from three to eighteen years, but to give it nearly the advantage of a loan on call by making it payable at any period of six months intervening between three and eighteen years, with the interest at the rate of eight per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually in coin. Holders of Treasury notes can at any time procure from the same treasurer, assistant treasurer, depositaries or commissioners, bonds or registered stock in exchange for Treasury notes; said bonds or stock to be recoverable, at the pleasure of the holder, into Treasury notes, and to bear interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, until so recovered, and thus constituting a deposit on call, bearing six per cent. interest.

Both classes of stock—that of six per cent, available as a deposit on call, and that of eight per cent. payable at any period of six months, present better advantages for investment than the usual standards of commercial loans, and will, no doubt, in other regards, recommend themselves to the people of the South.

The same paper, in an article on the effects of the blockade on the trade of Richmond and the South, says—"The Government is turning its attention to the direct encouragement of special branches of manufacturing industry, and a system of premiums to new enterprises. The effect of this policy on the manufacture in the South, of the important article of nitre, has been very striking; and the Government is, we learn, now receiving a supply of this article at the rate of six hundred thousand pounds a day.

Our city bankers are selling gold at twenty-eight cents, and buying at twenty-one.—There is an excellent feeling in government securities, and bonds of the first fifteen million loan are quoted at two per cent. premium. The new system of popular loan—of which we give an analysis in another article—will enable the government, it is said, to get all the money it wants. The Secretary of the Treasury has determined to introduce some changes in the Produce Loan Office, and Professor DaBaw, the superintendent of the loan, has gone to New Orleans to take charge of a branch of the office to be established in that city.

Osage Blazes, Roanoke Island, January 4th, 1862.
Mr. BARKER—Dear Sir: As everything looks gloomy this cold cloudy morning, I thought I could not employ myself better than by giving you a few items concerning Roanoke Island; and here allow me to say that the items must be few, for there is nothing of much interest on this rather dismal place to write about.

The chief production of the island is sweet potatoes, which the islanders raise in great abundance. The delicious Scuppernon grape is cultivated extensively, and during the past summer the mass in the regiment had a very good opportunity of testing its qualities. I think if some one with capital were to locate on this island and give to the cultivation of grapes his whole attention, he would be able in a few years to supply a large part of our noble Confederacy with the best of Scuppernon wine. There is some little corn raised here, but barely enough to keep stock from starving.

We have splendid batteries here, all mounted with excellent guns, and they will do execution if ever the Yankees give us a showing. The 3d Georgia Regiment has been removed to Portsmouth, Virginia, and the 51st North Carolina has taken its place on the island. The winter quarters we have been building for the last two months are nearly completed, and when we once occupy them the men will be so comfortable I think they will not care so much about going home as they do now. A glance of the eye over our encampment, conveys the idea of a little village in process of construction. Roanoke has long enjoyed an interesting historical renown, in connection with the name of Sir Walter Raleigh, and the earliest settlements made by Europeans upon the North American continent. I suppose when first seen by the eyes of the white man, it had more of verdure and other attractions than at present. But notwithstanding it now possesses less, the men at present occupying its historic sand banks will hereafter revert to it and the days and nights spent here, as the most memorable in the history of their lives. Many will be the incidents narrated by them to their children in after times—incidents, not bloody it may be, but none the less instructive and interesting on that account, if illustrative of the operations of the human heart and human passions, of which camp life affords so many striking examples.

I cannot close this letter without paying a compliment to our officers and men. I think our captain is the best captain in the Regiment; and our Regiment the best in the service of the Confederate States! We have not yet been put to the test of hard fighting, and for my part, if the enemy is willing to stand off, I can't say that I desire to gratify any idle curiosity as to the result of such a trial. Nevertheless, we are here on purpose to keep old Abe's scoundrels from passing this island, and if they should attempt it, we'll fight—we'll give them "the best we have in our shop," with a heartiness and vim equal to our utmost ability, God helping us. Our company, to my knowledge especially, are fully resolved upon sustaining the fair fame of the soldiers of the good old North State, and doing credit to their officers and themselves. It is, I believe, considered one of the best companies here, and is more frequently charged with the performance of important duties than any other. Capt. K. is the soul of it, having by his firm and manly bearing and impartial dealing won the warm esteem of all his men. Our lieutenants are also highly respected, and fill their places to the satisfaction and pride of the men. A few of our men are sick, but I am glad to say not dangerously. We have lost but two since leaving home—Stoner and Lucas, the latter having been with us but a short time.

The health of the Regiment is generally good. There is no contagious disease or epidemic here.

We are looking for an attack daily. Without meaning it in a boasting sense, the language of the Rowan boys is—*let it come!*

Winter Quarters.—The 4th Regiment N. C. State Troops have finished building their winter quarters, or cabins, and moved into them. A letter from a member of the Rowan Rifle Guard, speaks in high terms of their new accommodations.

Stamps.—Our Postmaster has at last received a supply of Post Office Stamps. Letters may now be dropped in the box at the door if duly stamped.

The war feeling in Canada.—Cannon are to be stationed on the Canada side to command the suspension bridge.

D. H. Starbuck, has been elected a member of the Convention from Forsyth County, in place of R. L. Patterson, resigned; by a majority of 263 over Rev. J. Alspaugh.

THE STATE CONVENTION. This body will re-assemble at the Capital to-day.