

From the Southern Standard and Herald. Requiem for 1861.

BY H. R. C.

Year of terror, year of strife,
Year with evil passions rife,
Pass with seething, angry flood,
Pass with garments dipped in blood,
And with darkness quenching light.

Born 'mid hopes, but raised in fears,
With thy dew-drops changed to tears,
With the spring times turned to blight,

Can no mighty Leathan wave,
Hide thee in a watery grave?
Can no tide thy track efface?
From the heart thy scrolls erase?

War's fierce tread upon our land,
Severing once a kindred band!
Child and father raged for strife,
Brother seeking brother's life!

Had thy reared shadows loom
O'er a stricken nation's doom!
Yet we hope for dawning light,
Freedom's morning from thy night!

Hide our grief beneath thy bier,
Blood and death, in ghastly tier;
Weary sickness wasting life,
Surer than the foeman's strife.

Households broken—little feet
Standing by the empty seat,
Wives turned weeping from the door
Where the husband comes no more!

Can we mourn thee, fearful year!
No! the dark of time we steer,
From the maelstrom of thy wrath,
From the fire along thy path.

Leave thy ashes with the past,
Let not darkness from them cast
Shadows o'er the coming day,
Blood-drops on the New Year's way.

Thou, who dost unsheathe the sword
By the power of Thy word,
And can by Thy mighty will
To the waves say "Peace, be still."

Gather up this storm once more
Where Thy judgments are in store,
Send Thy holy dove of peace,
And our fettered land release!

From the Raleigh Standard.

CAPTURE OF ROANOKE ISLAND.

With the most painful emotions we record to day the capture of Roanoke Island, with our brave men who were placed there by the government with inefficient means to defend it. We are deeply grieved at the result, but we are not disappointed. Our readers know that for months we have importunately urged the government of the certainty of this calamity, if the most effective measures were not taken for its complete defence. From the day Gen. Hill was removed from the charge of our coast, and a political general appointed in his stead, wholly unacquainted with military affairs, we have had but little hope of protection to the northern department of our sea-coast. Who was instrumental in his removal? Let them be known to the people of North Carolina, that their names may go down to posterity, as recants to her cause and her people. We believe we are on the track of the partisan leaders who did this thing. When the facts are fully ascertained, the people of North Carolina shall know who they are. For this wicked interference, North Carolina now mourns the death and the mangled bodies and the capture of many of her sons.

We erroneously stated upon rumor in our last, that Gen. Hager had taken command in person on the island, with 6,000 troops. Not a word of this was true. General Hager has not been upon the island, and from the fullest accounts we can get, we had only 2,300 fighting men on the island.

Col. Shaw's regiment of State Troops, pretty well equipped we believe, has been stationed on the island for some time. At the time of the battle, it had about 6 or 700 effective men. After the removal of Col. Wright's Georgia regiment from the island, Col. Jordan's regiment was sent there from Fort Hill. At the time of the battle, owing to sickness and other causes, it could muster only about 4 or 500 effective men, and they were armed with the old flint lock muskets. Besides these there were some 200 of the 17th regiment (Col. Martin's) the remnant that were on furlough at the time of the taking of Hatteras. To these were added reinforcements from Gen. Wise's Legion, about the time the battle commenced, making about 2,300 to 2,500.

Who was in command, as yet we have no means of knowing. Gen. Wise was sick and not on the island. Col. Shaw was the senior Colonel of the N. C. Troops. Whether any one else was placed in command by Gen. Wise, we have not learned.

On Thursday last, the enemy appeared in sight some five miles below the island. A few guns were fired by our fleet or batteries as signals of their approach, but it appears the enemy did not return the fire. On Friday morning the enemy was engaged, as we learn, below the island by our small fleet in command of Commodore Lynch, but they were obliged to retire, when the enemy advanced with 55 vessels to the attack. Our batteries opened upon them with spirit. The enemy landed 5,000 men, which our forces permitted him to do, and attacked them vigorously.

The fight continued all day, and ended when night closed in.

On Saturday the battle was renewed by the enemy, when it was supposed he landed about 15,000 men. The fight is said to have been desperate. The Virginia papers only mention what the Virginians did, but we are sure all fought with the courage of men resolved upon victory or death. Our little fleet behaved admirably. The Curlew was sunk, but her crew escaped. The other vessels of the fleet having expended their ammunition went to Elizabeth City to replenish their stores and to carry down the Wise Artillery, but they did not return. Our forces having expended their ammunition, were compelled to surrender to an overwhelming force about 4 o'clock on Saturday. It is said that we lost 300 in killed and wounded and 2,000 taken prisoners. It is further said that the Yankee loss was about 1,000 killed and wounded. About 250 Wake county men belonged to Col. Jordan's Regiment. A late despatch reports that the enemy had attacked Elizabeth City, and that the town is laid in ashes.

The Distillery Question.—A memorial was recently presented to the Convention from the 34th Regiment North Carolina Volunteers (Col. Lawrence), asking that some steps may be taken to suppress or materially abate the distillation of the grain of the country. The memorial was referred to a committee, and that committee, through their chairman, W. F. Louke, Esq., has reported an ordinance on the subject. It provides that every owner or agent of a Still, before working the same, shall apply for a license, which license shall not be granted for a term exceeding one year, the person getting the license to give bond, with two good securities, that he will faithfully comply with the provisions of the ordinance and pay the tax therein imposed; any one running a still without a license to pay a fine of one hundred dollars and a double tax. This is the substance of the first section. The second section imposes a tax of fifty cents upon each bushel of grain distilled. The number of bushels of grain so used to be listed, under oath, at the time of listing other property for taxation—those failing or neglecting to make returns, to pay a fine of one thousand dollars. The ordinance to remain in force until the termination of the present war, and for one year thereafter, and no longer.

The ordinance was made the special order for consideration yesterday. Numerous petitions, from soldiers and citizens, have been presented to the Convention praying for action to preserve corn for bread.

WILL THERE BE A DRAFT?

This has been a question for some time with the people. From the present aspect of affairs, we are inclined to the opinion that a draft will be made, and at no distant day. Guilford county has done well, so far in this contest; but it remains for her to do more. Her full quota of men must be raised, either by voluntary enlistment or by being drafted. We hope her brave sons will not suffer themselves to be drafted to maintain and defend every thing dear to them; but that they will rally to the standard of their country's defence, with a determination to conquer the vandals who have now polluted the soil of our State.

Mr. Shober, of this place, is now in the field for the purpose of organizing a Company of infantry, in which we hope he may succeed. Without pretending to make any invidious distinction, we must say that we know of no man better qualified to make an efficient and popular officer than is Mr. Shober. See his notice in our advertising columns.—Greensboro Patriot.

TRAITORS. We are not stubborn in our opinions, nor will we for a moment cloak the conduct of any one hostile to the South. When we, therefore, express our disbelief that there are native citizens of this State, who are traitors to their mother, and sympathizers with Lincoln, we would not be understood as not being open to conviction when we have the proof. But our friends must excuse us if we do not choose to take umbrage, suspicion and heresays for proof. A few presses and private individuals continue to affirm that there are such persons. Why not then give their names to the public with the evidence of their guilt? Why, whisper and hint around and damage men in public estimation, and damage seriously the cause of the South in London, by such charges and innuendoes? Raleigh Standard.

N. Carolina Railroad.—Paul C. Cameron, Esq., has resigned the office of President of the North Carolina Railroad. At a meeting of the Board of Directors last week, Thomas Webb, Esq., of this place, was chosen to fill the vacancy. Mr. Webb is prompt and energetic in business, and no doubt will conscientiously perform the responsible duties of the office with his best ability and judgment; but whether he will be able to escape the censure which has been so liberally bestowed upon his predecessors, remains to be seen.—Hillsboro Recorder.

He has had one frightful smash up between here and Charlotte. Two engines lost and a number of persons badly hurt.

THE CLOUD THICKENS.

The aspect of the war are anything but encouraging. The enemy is making alarming inroads upon Kentucky and Tennessee. Western Virginia, and our coast are severely threatened. He is collecting vast forces to harass and invade us at all points, and yet there seems not to be the energy, foresight and skill on the part of the government, commensurate with the danger impending. Since the great battle at Manassas, the whole South has sunk into apparent inactivity, or been blinded by a fancied security and entire immunity from danger. Far more interest has been manifested by those in power to distribute the offices of the government among pets and favorites, than in the security of our defenses and the procurement of the men and means to resist the invader. Thousands of our people disposed to volunteer have been discouraged by the prescription of such terms as they could not comply with.

The majority of the presses of the country as well as the Government, have sought to keep us at ease by the oft-repeated assurances that all was well—that every thing was ready—every point was well guarded. We have been taught to despise our enemy as cowardly and wholly inefficient. Our frequent victories served to confirm this impression, until many had settled down with the idea that a reverse to us was next to an impossibility.

If one expressed a doubt about the security of our defenses, he was rebuked sharply. Hatteras, for instance, as well as all of our fortifications could resist the combined force of the United States navy! Port Royal and Fort Henry and Roanoke Island were impregnable. Where are they!

The whole course of the government has been dilatory and time serving from the beginning. Ditcher of Virginia has been blamed and abused for his inactivity in not taking Fort Monroe. He is to be blamed, but what can be said of the government which went into operation in February, nearly three months before the blockade, and yet made no provision for arms and munitions of war! What would have been the condition of the South, but for the few arms deposited in our arsenals. Every where now there is a want of arms.

When we urged last winter the policy to "watch and wait," we urged vehemently the absolute necessity to prepare for war. It is well known that we insisted that N. Carolina should expend \$1,000,000 in the purchase of arms. Our counsels have not been heeded, and now our brave men who are willing to fight, are told they must procure their own arms.

We do not mention these things to reproach any one. We are willing to admit that the government and others followed their own convictions of right and duty. We do not therefore blame them. But let not those be blamed who warned us of the danger.

The time has come when every Southern man must look the danger in the face and prepare to meet it. To vanquish the immense hordes of Northern invaders, every man in the South, able to handle a weapon, must prepare for the fight. Unless there is more energy and activity and efficiency infused into the government, the day will soon be passed for exemptions from draft of any man able to bear arms or for the employment of substitutes. If our independence is to be achieved, our rights and liberties preserved, and our property and interests protected, every man must be ready to arm himself for the conflict.—Raleigh Standard.

THE BRIDGE BURNERS.

Of President Davis' threat in relation to the Missouri bridge burners, the Herald says:

It is probable that the news of the recent order of the War Department, directing the privates to be regarded as prisoners of war, had not reached rebeldom when this last message was sent from Richmond. The sentiment expressed by those who know the purport of the message is, that the officer who brought it, thereby disgracing the flag of truth, should have been retained and hung with the bridge burners.

The names of those convicted of taking part in the railway destruction, and now under sentence of death, are John C. Tompkins, Wm. J. Forsyth, John Patton, Thomas M. Smith, Stephen Scott, George H. Cunningham, Richard B. Crowder, and George M. Pulliam.

In regard to their conviction, the order says: The findings are approved, and the sentences awarded them will be carried into effect at the time and place to be hereafter designated by the General commanding the department. Brigadier General B. M. Prentiss will notify the prisoners of the decision of the Commission in their respective cases, and warn them to prepare for the execution. He will see that the prisoners are thoroughly guarded, so as to prevent the possibility of escape. Any attempting to escape will be instantly shot down.

The Watchman.

RALPHSBURY, N. C.

MONDAY EVENING, FEB. 17, 1862.

EXTRACT

From a letter from a friend to the editor dated

Raleigh, Feb. 17, 1862.

The Convention has passed an ordinance to relieve the people of N. Carolina from the war tax by the State's assuming to pay it. This is but fair, as the Albemarle and many other Eastern counties cannot now pay their quota. "We also of the cotton and turpentine counties." We have authorized the raising of seven per cent. bonds, running ten years, to meet this advancement. I think the Convention will pass an ordinance to suppress the distillation of spirits from grain. The matter comes up to-morrow. Yours, &c. J.

The Defensive Policy of the Confederacy.—The Confederacy is likely to be subjected to a very severe test within the next two or three months. Whether from inability to do otherwise or from choice, a defensive system has been adopted for us, recent events and the signs of the times but too clearly indicate the great disadvantage it subjects us to. The enemy is, and has been all the time, at perfect liberty to sit down and deliberately lay his plans, and then as deliberately go to work at his preparations for an invasion either by sea or land; and if disposed to keep his own secrets may get every thing ready and pounce down upon us at whatever point it may suit his purposes best. Kept in the dark as to his designs until it is too late properly to estimate his force or to arrange our defenses on a continuous scale, we fall easy victims to a defective policy. The loss of Roanoke Island, Port Royal, Key West, Ship Island, and other points all illustrate the advantages the enemy derives from our inability to keep him busy at home. But what can't be helped must be borne. We may suffer many losses along the coast; but if determined to be free the enemy will not discover that it is impossible to carry his victorious armies throughout the State or to subdue a brave people to the condition of bondmen. It is times like these that try men's souls. The rewards of valor, perseverance and self-denial, are the highest and most glorious known among men. They enable individuals and give strength, durability and grandeur to nations. If the Southern Confederacy, in the Providence of God, is to become a separate, independent and permanent nationality, it will most likely cost much a price as to endeavor to those who may claim it as theirs. If there be amongst us any who have not yet brought themselves to a willingness to pay the price, it is high time they had done so. Sacrifices must be made: no property that a man has should be accounted too precious; and no fatigue and exposure of self too great. It is our misfortune and not our fault that this trial befalls us; though if borne cheerfully as it should be, ours may be the ultimate glorious reward.

Seizure of Grain.—The Confederate Government has passed an order for the seizure of all grain in the hands of Distillers, held by them for the purpose of being made into whiskey. It is a popular measure, and should be promptly executed, not only at Richmond but throughout the Confederacy. There are hundreds of Distilleries within 50 miles of this place, whose operations should be immediately arrested. If the next crop should be a short one, and the Distillers be suffered for a few months longer to consume grain as they have been doing, there will be great suffering among the poor, and the Confederacy will sustain serious damage by the impoverishment and starvation of the live stock of the Country. We hope soon to hear that this war law has been put in force wherever the reckless cupidity of whiskey makers render it necessary.

The next thing the Government should do is to establish prices for whiskey and other things, the product of the Confederacy. There is already a law for the seizure of salt-petre, and perhaps some other articles, for which an ample remunerative price is allowed. The law might be safely enlarged to comprehend other articles upon like terms. It is a pity there is any necessity for such regulations upon the produce of our people, who should be overflowing with patriotic liberality; but the necessity existing, it should be met.

SALT-SALT

We have received a communication from one of the mountain counties, in which the writer is down on the State Convention, the State's Agent for manufacturing Salt, and drunken insolent rulers of the State government, like ten thousands' brick. His communication, which is a long one, is full of such speculations as are exacting \$5 a bushel for salt at Asheville and won't let it go for that, even, except in exchange for corn at 35 cents. The people of Buncombe want to know when they may expect salt at an amount of the State. They are in great need of it. They want to hear something of the program of the Salt Commissioner, and feel that they have been trifled with, inasmuch as salt was promised them within six weeks after the passage of the bill appropriating \$100,000 for the manufacture of it. They want to know if the Eastern counties are to be supplied first, as they perceive it is selling on the coast at only \$5 per bushel; and if so, why? Because more loyal—have more men in the field fighting our battles—do, &c. If any one can give a satisfactory account of the progress of the salt business undertaken by the State, we know it will be very acceptable to many of the Western people to see it.

ET We invite attention to the military notice of Major Geo. C. Green, in this paper. The special attention to the notice of companies now forming may save them much trouble.

HOW WE LIVE.

There has been a great deal of talk about the loss of Roanoke Island and 6,000 of our men, with all their guns and camp equipage, is a fearful loss to North Carolina, and to the Southern Confederacy. We could poorly enough spare the island and the incidental advantages to the enemy of its possession, if any nothing of the loss of our men and guns. This disaster falls with stunning effect upon us, and it will require many a hard day's work to recover from it. The enemy has already profited by his victory, having easily passed up the river, taking possession of Elizabeth City, Edenton, Plymouth, Hertford and other towns. The citizens have been driven by thousands from their homes, leaving behind them their garnered crops, and property of various kinds. Their loss of material resources is immense, and the enemy has gained a strong position in the rear of our forces at Suffolk and Norfolk.

It is worse than this to spend breath in denouncing this or that man for this or that disaster. Now or never is the time to act. Let all rise up and do it. To stand still is certain defeat. The enemy has secured a firm footing in the garden spot of our State. It is for her men to say whether they shall overcome us, scattering disaster and ruin in their track.

There seems to be a threatening state of public feeling in Richmond, growing out of the efforts of the city authorities to suppress gambling, drunkenness and other gross immoralities. The municipal election is approaching, and the gamblers, liquor dealers, and ruffians generally, are commencing their efforts to elect men of their own stripe to fill the offices. Large sums of money have been raised to aid these causes, black and ruinous as it is.

The Government and Extortioners.—Secretary Benjamin has issued an order for the improvement, or seizure of salt-petre, where it is found for sale, in the hands of parties demanding more than forty cents per pound. The Government is willing to pay the extravagant price of forty cents, if it can do no better; and if obliged to secure it, will allow that much.

Exchange.—We learn from a gentleman who conversed with Gen. Hager, last Friday night, that Gen. Hager had proposed a general exchange of prisoners, and that his proposition had been accepted, and would be carried into effect right away. The Roanoke prisoners will, therefore, be speedily released. Any excess of prisoners on either side are to be paroled. The number of our men taken at Roanoke, was 2600.

From Richmond.—A private letter from a well informed friend in Richmond says: "The news from the West and from Roanoke Island is certainly discouraging, but it will undoubtedly have one effect—to awaken our people and the Government from the apathetic slumber into which they seem to have fallen. It will arouse our people to the work before them, for I fear these are our only hope, and yet appreciate the magnitude of the war. Our forces must be largely increased by the Spring, or our prospect for the future will be gloomy."

We cannot say we agree with our friend. A certain amount of apathy was creeping over our people. This we think is an end. We feel that the war spirit of the country is re-awakened to more than its original strength. We think that the re-awakening of twelve months' slumber will go on to an extent even exceeding the most sanguine expectations. But for these reasons occurring soon, this might not have been the case.

We are also pleased to learn that the Postmaster General has made a proposition to the President of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad, for carrying a mail on that road, so that if the proposition should be accepted, by Mr. Grant, we will have the mail in a very short time.—Wilmington Journal.

We was the pleasure of seeing this morning a gentleman who arrived here last night from Suffolk, Virginia. There and at the Blackwater, he saw persons who had been at Roanoke, among others Captain Sigall, Commissioner or quartermaster of Col. Jordan's regiment.

Captain S. left Roanoke about one o'clock on Thursday in a rail boat. He arrived at Elizabeth City that night, and even up to the time of his arrival he heard firing, although the battle was no doubt over long before night.

Captain Sigall says that on Friday there were about sixty of the enemy's vessels in front of the batteries, and on Saturday as many as a hundred at times, and that such was the calibre of their guns, that their projectiles were thrown clear over the island.

The fighting lasted on Saturday for hours, and the opinion seemed to exist, that if the artillery under the command of Col. Wainwright had got down to the island, our people could have done off their assailants, in spite of the superiority of numbers.

The company that suffered most was that under command of Capt. Wainwright, of Richmond, Va., when company was stationed on a picket, below the lower battery, and at the point where the 2nd and 3rd Regiments from New York made a landing. They sustained a terrible hand-to-hand conflict with this whole regiment and were cut up almost to a man.

When Captain Sigall came away he did so in pursuance of the orders of Col. Shaw, who told him to save all the public property he could, and he carried away all the papers, orders and other portable matters.

At Suffolk our informant, Dr. H. H. Robinson of Bladen county, heard many number of rumors, half a dozen in half an hour. One of these reflected on Col. Shaw; that this he made inquiry of Captain Sigall, who said there was no foundation for it so far as he could learn. The Doctor also tried to find out the fate of any or all the officers from this place with whom he was acquainted or whose names he knew, but could not get any information.

It is not believed that the enemy can or will attempt to leave his way to a Railroad by way of the Roanoke. The idea is that he will try to push up the Chowan and Wataway to the junction of the latter with the Blackwater, and then try to march on Covington about sixteen miles from Suffolk.—Wilmington Journal.