

White Hyacinths

How time doth change all things!
And as I older grow,
Like melting snow doth pass away
The thoughts of long ago;
Yes! e'en my thoughts and fancy change,
Associations sweet—
All all are changed, are marred or lost,
Beneath time's muffled feet.

CORN TO BE SEIZED.

It is understood that the War Department of the Confederate States has issued an order for the seizure of all corn in the hands of distillers, or in the hands of other persons to be used for the purpose of distillation. In compliance with this order, we hear that some seven or eight thousand bushels in the possession of Mr. Franklin Stearns, a well known Richmond distiller, were seized on Saturday last. We do not know the price agreed upon, but presume that the holders of all corn seized will be allowed the prevailing market rates. This step on the part of our authorities has been rendered necessary, not only by the pernicious effects of the unlimited manufacture of whiskey, but by the exorbitant prices which government is thereby compelled to pay for an article indispensable to the sustenance of the army. If we are correctly informed in regard to the intentions of the War Department, there will be no necessity for the passage of the bill introduced in the Virginia Senate on Friday by Mr. Thomas of Henry county, which makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine, for any person to manufacture or cause to be manufactured, any whiskey or other spirituous or malt liquors out of any corn, wheat, rye or other grain except grown by himself or those in his employment. Some action by the State or Confederate authorities, has been for a long time deemed proper, to check the growth of this great evil, which seemed likely to swallow up all our grain, (so essential to the subsistence of man and beast,) in the distilleries.

THE FALL OF ROANOKE ISLAND.

The fall of Roanoke Island has placed the back door key to Norfolk in the hands of our enemies, with Gen. Woolf threatening that place in front. This disaster has also placed the whole Albemarle country at the mercy of our enemies. Time and again we called the attention of the authorities to the importance of defending this island, and to the consequences which would follow its occupation by the enemy. In the Standard of the 22d of last month we said: "We cannot doubt that the first point of attack will be at Roanoke Island, and the main object of the expedition is to get in the rear of Norfolk. The attack upon Newbern, Washington and the Albemarle towns are also included in the programme. We withhold an expression of our fears, if an early attack is made upon Roanoke Island. Gen. Wise has been appointed there too recently to have accomplished much. Should damage ensue we shall charge it upon the removal of Gen. Hill from that department. He had started plans of defence which, if he had been permitted to carry out, would have rendered us secure against an attack."

The Watchman

RALISBURY, N. C.
MONDAY EVENING, FEB. 24, 1862.

Humiliation and Prayer.—It will be seen that President Davis has issued a proclamation, calling on the people to observe next Friday, the 28th instant, as a day of humiliation and prayer.

FATAL SECURITY.

The people of Nashville, Tenn., did nothing (like a great many other communities in the South equally as much exposed to the approach of the enemy, are now doing) for the defence of the city, until after Fort Donelson fell and Bowling Green evacuated. Confederate forces at those two points protected Nashville, and if they could have held them against all odds, the capital of Tennessee would probably have been safe. It seems, however, never to have entered into the heads of the people of Nashville that it was possible for the Confederates to be driven from Donelson and Bowling Green; and the sudden happening of those unlooked-for events has produced no little alarm throughout the State and the Confederacy.

We understand that common whiskey has already advanced in this market to \$4 per gallon, and on Saturday, the tendency was still upward—the price and not the whiskey, for the latter generally goes downward.

It would be well for the Secretary of War to have an eye to speculators, who we understand, are investing largely in corn. Fair play is a jewel. If distillers are to disgorge, let speculators be made to do the same thing. Government will get corn at a much lower figure if the speculators are also speedily attended to.
Petersburg Express, 10th.

Gen. Wise.—Among the items which we quote from the Richmond Examiner, is one related by a Mr. Burns of the Wise Legion, who escaped from Roanoke Island, and who says, that on reaching the mainland, "he reported to Gen. Wise, and told him of the flight and of the failure of the ammunition." Gen. Wise replied, that "it made no difference, as the men had no blood on their bayonets."

Gen. Huger.—In the absence of certainty as to where the blame should fall for the want of preparation to meet and repel the foe at Roanoke Island, some persons in Norfolk and elsewhere are furiously assailing Gen. Huger. We have information on which we can rely, to the effect that Roanoke Island was formerly within Gen. Huger's command, but was taken from him and placed under other command until three weeks before the attack, when it was again placed under him, but he had neither time nor means to make it as strong as it ought to have been. He is stated to have written repeatedly to Richmond begging for more men; but as none were sent to him, he could send none to the island, for he had none to spare from the defence of Norfolk.—*Fay, Observer.*

And in the Standard of the 5th of this month we said: "We are satisfied from the size of the Burnside expedition, from the intimations of the Northern press, and from the importance of the attack, that the first object of the expedition is to take Roanoke Island, and immediately to push for the Seaboard Railroad to get in the rear of Norfolk. Let any one curious enough to know, take the map and trace the course of the Chowan and Nottoway rivers, and notice their contiguity to the Seaboard Railroad. How many troops have we on the Seaboard Road? How many near Franklin depot? How many at Suffolk? How many rangers on the Chowan river to watch the advance of the enemy and give warning? What if General Woolf from Fortress Monroe, were to make a simultaneous movement across James river and get possession of the Petersburg and Norfolk Railroad? What, we ask, would be the condition of Norfolk, if the enemy were to get possession of these two Roads? This, we believe, is the main design of the enemy. Should he be successful, it will be an easy matter, then, to carry out his marauding designs upon the Eastern Counties. When we think of the possibility of his despoiling and ruining our fellow citizens of those Counties, of the immense damage and loss to accrue to us by the taking of Roanoke Island, Hyde, Washington and Newbern, and then reflect how easily and at what small cost it might have been prevented, had the authorities done their duty, we are at a loss for terms to express our indignation at so wanton a sacrifice of the fairest portion of the State. May a benignant Providence still interpose to prevent so sad a calamity?"

It gives us no pleasure to remind our readers of these predictions and fears. We do so only in the hope that those who have the management of our affairs will profit by the past.

Who is to blame for this calamity? Is Gen. Wise? Is Gen. Huger? Is Gen. Gattin? Is Mr. Secretary Benjamin? Is Col. Shaw? We do not know; but we do believe if Gen. Hill had not been removed, the island would have been fortified and successfully defended. Why was Gen. Hill removed? Because he obeyed the orders of the Governor of this State and called out a portion of the militia. Who had him removed? The "highest authority" in this State, as we understand, represented to President Davis that he was not acceptable to our people, but that Gen. Branch would be; and so President Davis, believing he was doing right, ordered Gen. Hill to Virginia, and made Col. Branch a Brigadier. Gen. Branch was soon relieved of the command of Roanoke Island as a part of the coast which had been assigned him, but not until he had ordered the 31st regiment, half armed, to that place; and Gen. Huger assumed command of the island, and sent Wise there as his subordinate. It seems that Mr. Secretary Benjamin does not regard the loss of the island as very important. We trust the whole matter will be investigated. Let those who have done their duty be commended, and let heavy censures rest on those by whose neglect or improper conduct the island has been lost.

Whiskey.—The panic of the whiskey dealers in Richmond on the seizure of corn by the government, has extended to Petersburg. We learn from the Express that a fair to good article can now be bought at \$6 per gallon, which is a little more than most lovers of the beverage are willing to pay for it. The Express says that the act of Congress, authorizing the seizure of corn purchased or distilled, gives satisfaction to all who favor good morals.—*Fay, Ob.*

The Hillsboro Recorder, edited by that veteran of the press, Dennis Hewitt, has just entered upon its 43d year. The venerable editor says he finds but few names on his list of the original subscribers, but the names of their children and grandchildren are there. We hope his list will be greatly multiplied, and that his "shed" will never grow long.—*Ref. Standard.*

The Raleigh papers are disputing about who is to blame for our defeat at Roanoke. Judge Biggs and Governor Clark, it seems, have been accused of causing the removal of Gen. Hill from the command of that point on our coast, and therefore to blame for the disastrous consequences of having an incompetent successor. The State Journal deems that Gov. Clark had any thing to do with the removal of Gen. Hill, though it does not appear that it was authorized to make such a denial. As to Judge Biggs, that paper says it does not know what he may have done; but that whatever he did, was done from a sense of duty.

If Judge Biggs procured the removal of a competent man, and the appointment of an unqualified one in his place, it will hardly be pretended he ought to escape condemnation on the plea that what he did was done from a sense of duty. Who gave him authority to interfere in such matters? If we owe to his officiousness the loss of Roanoke Island, 2500 troops and all their equipage, it may afford the Hon. gentleman himself some consolation to know that he did not mean any harm; but the suffering people of the State would respectfully suggest to President Davis that Judge Biggs' judgment is unreliable, if not biased, distorted and twisted out of all reason by party or some thing else as mean. At any rate, we trust his "sense of duty" is satisfied with the loss of Roanoke, and that he will hereafter retire to that privacy best suited to good meaning but incompetent judges in military matters.

Bounty.—The Confederate Government and the State Government together, have provided a splendid bounty for those who volunteer for the war. The Confederacy pays \$50; and the State Convention has passed an ordinance allowing \$50 more; making a total bounty of \$100. This, with the regular monthly pay, will enable a soldier to support his family very well.

The recent Acts, both of the Confederate Congress and State Convention, provide that all our volunteers who have enlisted for the war shall receive this bounty, as well those who are already in the field as those who may yet enlist. Those, however, who have heretofore received bounty money, will only receive as much more as will make up the sum now provided to be paid as a bonus.

THE CONVENTION.

HON. WILLIAM A. GRAHAM, Chairman of the Legislative Committee of this body, has submitted a report, which makes some very important amendments to the Constitution of the State. As heretofore, the Legislature will consist of two houses; but instead of House of Commons, it will be called "House of Representatives." The election of members is to be biennial, but the Legislature will meet every year, the members not to receive pay for over thirty-five days. The Senate to be composed of fifty members, and the House of one hundred and twenty. No person eligible to the Senate under 25 years of age, and must be worth a freehold of the value of \$1000, and have been a resident of the State three years, and one year in the district preceding the election. For the House, must be 21 years of age, a resident of the State two years, and in the county one year preceding the election, and possess a freehold estate of \$500. Clergymen ineligible as now, and no person who has been a Treasurer or receiver of public moneys in the past or future, by collection or disbursement, shall be eligible until he shall have fully accounted for and paid for the same. Treasury all moneys due from him. No President, Officer or Treasurer of any corporation in which the State is interested, shall be eligible to a seat in either House.

We direct attention to the call for the Regiments of Volunteers by the Adjutant General, J. G. MARSH. Our State is invaded by the Abolition bands of Uncle Sam, and it is hoped that those who can, will volunteer in a cause which every lover of liberty holds dear.

Capt. James K. Foote.

We had the pleasure of seeing in our Town on Saturday last the gentleman, who has been out on a recruiting expedition in Ireland for several weeks. We learn from him that he has been very successful, having enlisted for the war forty-five men from that country. His company will now number 125. At the time the war broke out, Capt. Foote was filling the Greek Frigate ship at Wake Forest College, and patriotically raised a company and went into the service for the war. Capt. Foote is now stationed at Aquia Creek, Va., and when an opportunity offers, will give a good account of himself.

A DEBAY.—Gen. Staffed, commanding the Brigade composed of the counties of Forsyth, Stokes, Rockingham and Guilford, has received orders to draft every third man in his command, as a means for their induction.

But sorrows never singly come,
And they who learn to weep
Will find that hour, full many a sad
And fearful vigil keep.
A year ago, with bleeding heart,
I stood by one as fair,
As pure of heart, it seemed to us,
As blessed angels are.
Her brow was still and cold—
For death's chill breath was there,
And tearfully I bound these flowers
Among her soft, dark hair.

The Federal gun-boats are said to have passed up to Winston, the county seat of Hertford county, on the Chowan River. The Chowan is formed by the confluence of the Meherrin and Nottoway rivers. The main branch of the Nottoway is the black water, which is crossed by the Seaboard & Roanoke railroad about half way between Weldon and Portsmouth, though rather nearer to the latter place. The black water is navigable up to the railroad, as a summer has been running regularly in connection with the Rail ad trains, although necessarily a small one, owing to the narrowness and crookedness of the stream. The movement of the late late gun-boats would seem to indicate a desire to form their way as far as the Portsmouth Road, as at either to obtain possession of it, or at least out off communication by that line.

Handsome Done.—While at Raleigh last week, (says the Greensborough Patriot) we heard specially commended an impressive vindication of Gov. Morehead by Judge Ruffin in reply to a sneering remark of Kenneth Rayner, as most withering and sublime. The venerable Judge, although he had, in past days, been politically opposed to Gov. Morehead, could not sit in silence and bear disingenuous insinuations made against him in his absence.—*Fay, Observer.*

Pea-Nut Oil.—We lately received a can of this oil from Messrs. T. C. & B. G. Worth, of Wilmington, and have not acknowledged it until now, because we wished to make a fair trial of it upon our Paper Press. This machine has always required the best winter strained Sperm oil, and in the absence of that we have lately used some very good sturgeon oil, made by fisher men upon our river, and some sweet oil. Our pressman has made a thorough trial of the pea-nut oil, and pronounces it best rate, as good as the best sperm oil he ever used.—*Fay, Observer.*

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