

From the Richmond Business.

The unpleasant impression made by the late disasters has been rapidly diminished by reflection. It is easily seen that they do not affect the real power of the country for its self defence, and that a whole campaign of such calamity could not destroy a confederation of republics. A centralized nation may be subdued by a few heavy blows on the head, but a country that has no centre, or rather, which has many centres, cannot be paralyzed by any defeat, except the last of the long succession necessary to reach all its vital parts.

One good that has already come of these lessons and chastisements of Providence, is the great earnestness that has been infused into the population and the government, the awakening of the army, and sudden rush to arms both of the discharged volunteers and many others who have hitherto been unwilling to volunteer at all.

Another good effect has been to show the Southern people who are the sincere friends of their cause, and who were the knaves who pretended to wish their success in this struggle for their rights, while their hearts were filled with the same inclinations that coloured their conduct before the war began. The reverse of fortune was not great enough, and the period of depression was too brief for them to discover their true nature entirely; but enough of it was seen to create a just suspicion in the minds of reflecting persons that there are individuals scattered through our communities who have huzzled with the loudest for Southern victories, and who have protested loyalty to the Confederacy with consistent vehemence for the last eight months, yet who would not hesitate to take the Lincoln oath, declare that they were always Unionist, and join, like jackals, in the hunt after every brave and honest man of their acquaintance, should a judge of the United States be borne, like some foul Eastern idol, in triumph to a seat on the bench of their districts, and should they have ever again the glory to see the Yankee banner, flaunting over Yankee bayonets, in the streets of the cities which now harbour them in security.

It is scarcely useful to address words to these sneaking miscreants. Yet, if there are any among them capable of putting two thoughts together, he will do well to reflect seriously before he makes a final commitment of himself in these matters. The Union can never be restored by force of arms. If the whole country was over run, it could not be perpetually over run. An army of six hundred thousand Yankees could not be always maintained by any stretch of taxation; and without such forces it would be impossible to keep the country within bounds. The people of the Southern States have their feelings too deeply involved in the contest now to be reconciled to the United States; the provocations of an invasion are too great and bitter not to envenom their blood still further; and struggle would only succeed struggle till their independence would be achieved. In the course of such events, and in the way to and fro of the contending masses, what would be the fate of the traitors to the South?

But matters will scarcely be pushed to such direful extremities, they will hardly have the opportunity to develop their scoundrelism by actions, nor shall the Southern people be driven to the necessity of executing civil justice on their heads. But we shall, in the course of this war, have many dark hours, and in them will their characters and merit be truly judged by their neighbors and associates. In such trials the brave heart, the sincere patriotism, the lofty spirit of the good becomes well known, and is respected, whether in success or misfortune forever after. So, too, is the impostor, the liar, the coward also discovered, and remembered by all who come in contact with him, even in silence, to the last day of life. The hand of time now applies a touchstone to the virtue of every citizen, not only of public men, but of the most obscure and humble, and fixes his place on the opinion of all who know him, to be changed no more.

In seasons like these, too, will true courage and manliness of character be distinguished from its counterfeit. Here, in the South, where we hold, with justice, that courage is the beginning and the foundation of

all other noble and valuable qualities, the public sentiment is often abused by miserable men, who seek to console themselves for certainty of their own baseness, and to delude the judgment of their fellows, by their bullyings and brawlings, by their flatteries, their strikings, utahings, and their oaths. It has been frequently observed in the course of this war, that, as a general thing, these identical persons make the scariest figure on the field of battle. Many a bruiser who is the dread of his county, many a fellow who is famous for his success in "reconnoitres," no sooner gets under fire than he shows the white feather so entirely that no alternatives are left to his superiors, but to look another way, or to shoot him on the spot. On the other hand, many a one who has been so quiet at home, and put up with so many insults that he had been reckoned what the French call a *coq chicken*, and the Italians a *capon*, has exhibited on the fields of this war a cool fearlessness of death, and a prompt alacrity to combat, that have caused all his associates present to open their eyes wide with wonder. There are many incapacitated by age or public position at home who will be equally well understood in future. After a reverse, or in an hour of danger, every public man has its panic more or less great, and then we shall see the difference between the moral courage of the honest man and virtuous woman and the prostrate abjection of the fool and the harlot.

Five Hundred Free Negroes Wanted.
We invite attention to the call of General Branch for five hundred free negroes to work on fortifications. It will be found in our advertising columns, and the necessity of having them immediately, and the pay and treatment they are to receive, and the tools they ought to carry along with them, are better and more concisely stated in the advertisement than we can state here unless we copy it verbatim.
Surely the crisis through which we are passing will arouse our people to action. Surely the men who stay at home don't expect the soldiers who fight our battles to work as slaves with spade. If free negroes can't be supplied, slaves can, and they ought to be supplied at once. But we need not enlarge on this subject. Every citizen of the State is interested, and every one of them should consider himself specially called upon to secure the laborers called for. The Confederate States are offering ten dollars a month—twice the amount paid by some of our railroads for their hands, and surely they will have no difficulty in procuring the number asked for.—State Journal.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT DAVIS.
DELIVERED IN RICHMOND, FEB. 22, 1862.
FELLOW-CITIZENS—On this the birthday of the man most identified with the establishment of American independence, and beneath the monument erected to commemorate his heroic virtues and those of his compatriots, we have assembled to usher into existence the permanent government of the Confederate States. Through this instrumentality, under the favor of Divine Providence, we hope to perpetuate the principles of our Revolutionary fathers. The day, the memory, and the purpose seem fitly associated.

It is with mingled feelings of humility and pride that I appear, to take, in the presence of the people and before high Heaven, the oath prescribed as a qualification for the exalted station to which the unanimous voice of the people has called me. Deeply sensible of all that is implied by this manifestation of the people's confidence, I am yet more profoundly impressed by the vast responsibility of the office, and humbly feel my own unworthiness. In return for their kindness, I can only offer assurances of the gratitude with which it is received, and can but pledge a zealous devotion of every faculty to the service of those who have chosen me as their Chief Magistrate.

When a long course of class legislation, directed not to the general welfare, but to the aggrandizement of the Northern section of the Union, culminated in a warfare on the domestic institutions of the Southern States—when the dogmas of sectional party, substituted for the provisions of the constitutional compact, threatened to destroy the sovereign rights of the States, six of those States, withdrawing from the Union, confederated together, to exercise the right and perform the duty of instituting a government which would better secure the liberties, for the preservation of which the Union was established.

Whatever of hope some may have entertained that a returning sense of justice would remove the danger with which our rights were threatened, and render it possible to preserve the Union of the Constitution, must have been dispelled by the malignity and hubris of the Northern States in the prosecution of the existing war. The confidence of the most hopeful among us must have been destroyed by the designs they have recently exhibited for all the time-honored bulwarks of civil and religious liberty. Hostiles filled with passions, arrested without civil process, or indictment duly found; the writ of *habeas corpus* suspended by executive mandate; a State Legislature controlled by

the imprisonment of members whose avowed principles repugnant to the Federal Executive; that these might be another added to the list of needed States; elections held under threats of military power; civil officers, peaceful citizens, and gentle women, incarcerated for opinion's sake, proclaimed the impolicy of our late associates in establishing a government as free, liberal and humane as that established for our common use.

For proof of the sincerity of our purpose to maintain our ancient institutions, we may point to the Constitution of the Confederacy and the laws enacted under it, as well as to the fact that through all the necessities of our unequal struggle, there has been no act on our part to impair personal liberty or the freedom of speech, of thought, or of the press. The Courts have been open; the judicial functions fully exercised, and every right of the peaceful citizen maintained as securely as if a war of invasion had not disturbed the land.

The people of the States now confederated, became convinced that the government of the United States had fallen into the hands of a sectional majority, who would pervert that most sacred of all trusts to the destruction of the rights which it was pledged to protect. They believed that to remain longer in the Union would subject them to a continuance of a degrading discrimination, submission to which would be inconsistent with their welfare, and intolerable to a proud people. They therefore determined to sever their bonds, and establish a new Confederacy for themselves. [Cheers.] The experiment instituted by our revolutionary fathers of a voluntary union of sovereign States for purposes specified in a solemn compact, had been perverted by those who feeling power and forgetting right, were determined to respect no law but their own will. The government had ceased to answer the ends for which it was organized and established. To give ourselves from a revolution, which in its silent but rapid progress was about to place us under the despotism of numbers, and to preserve in spirit as well as in form, a system of government, as we believed to be peculiarly fitted to our conditions, and full of promise for mankind, we determined to make a new association composed of States homogeneous in interest, in policy, and feeling. [Cheers.]

True to our traditions of peace and our love of justice, we went commissioners to the United States to propose a fair and amicable settlement of all questions of public debt, or property which might be in dispute. But the government at Washington denying our right to self-government, refused even to listen to any proposals for a peaceful separation. Nothing was then left to us but to prepare for war. [Cheers.]

The first year in our history has been the most eventful in the annals of this continent. A new government has been established, and its machinery put in operation, over an area exceeding 700,000 square miles. The great principles upon which we have been willing to hazard everything that is dear to man, have been achieved by the sword. Our Confederacy has grown from six to thirteen States; and Maryland, already united to us by hallowed memories, and material interests, will, I believe, when able to speak with unfeigned voice, conduct her destiny with the South. [Great applause.] Our people have rallied with unexampled unanimity to the support of the great principles of Constitutional government, with firm resolve to perpetuate by arms the rights which they could not peacefully secure. A million of men, it is estimated, are now standing in hostile array, and waging war along a frontier of thousands of miles; battles have been fought; sieges have been conducted, and although the contest is not ended, and the tide at the moment is against us, the final result in our favor is not doubtful. The period is near at hand, when our forefathers sank under the immense load of debt which they have incurred; a debt which in their effort to subjugate us, has already attained such fearful dimensions as will subject them to burdens which must continue to oppress them for generations to come.

We too, have had our trials and difficulties. That we are to escape them in future is not to be hoped. It was to be expected when we entered upon this war, that it would expose our people to sacrifices, and cost them much blood of money and blood. But we knew the value of the object for which we struggled, and understood the nature of the war in which we were engaged. Nothing could be so bad or fallow, and any sacrifice would be cheap as the price of success in such a contest. [Cheers.]

But the picture has its lights as well as its shadows. This great strife has awakened in the people the highest emotions and feelings of the human mind. It is cultivating feelings of patriotism, virtue, and courage. Instances of self-sacrifice and of generous devotion to the noble cause for which we are contending, are rife throughout the land. Never has a people evinced a more determined spirit than that now animating men, women and children, in every part of our country. Upon the first call men fly to arms; and wives and mothers send their husbands and sons to battle without a murmur of regret.

It was, perhaps, in the ordination of Providence, that we were to be taught the value of our liberties, by the price which we pay for them.

The recollections of this great contest with all its common traditions of glory, of sacrifice, and of blood, will be the bond of harmony and enduring affection among the people, producing unity in policy, fraternity in sentiment, and just effort in war.

Nor have the material sacrifices of the past year been made without some corresponding benefits. If the independence of foreign nations in a pretended blockade has deprived us of our commerce with them, it is fast making us a self-sustaining and an independent people. The blockade, if effectual and permanent, could only serve to divert our industry from the production of articles for export, and employ it in supplying commodities for domestic use.

It is a satisfaction that we have maintained the war by our assiduous exertions. We have neither asked nor received assistance from any quarter. Yet the interest involved is not wholly our own. The world at large is concerned in opening our markets to commerce. When the independence of the Confederate States is recognized by the nations of the earth, and we are free to follow our interests and inclinations by cultivating foreign trade, the Southern States will offer to manufacturing nations the most favorable markets, which ever invited their commerce. Cotton, sugar, rice, tobacco, precious timber, and naval stores will furnish attractive exchanges. Nor would the constancy of these supplies be likely to be disturbed by war. Our Confederate strength will be too great to tempt aggression, and never was there a people whose interests and principles committed them so fully to a peaceful policy as those of the Confederate States. By

the character of their productions they are too deeply interested in foreign commerce, to attempt to disturb it. War of conquest they cannot wage, because the Constitution of their Confederacy admits of no coerced association. Civil war there cannot be between States held together by their volition only. This state of voluntary association, which cannot fail to be conservative, by securing just and impartial government at home, does not diminish the security of the obligations by which the Confederate States may be bound to foreign nations. In proof of this it is to be remembered, that at the first moment of asserting their right of secession, these States proposed a settlement on the basis of a common liability for the obligations of the General Government.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: After the struggle of ages had consummated the right of the Englishman to constitutional representative government, our colonial ancestors were forced to vindicate that birth-right by an appeal to arms. Success crowned their efforts, and they provided for their posterity a powerful remedy against future aggression.

The tyranny of an unbridled majority, the most odious and least responsible form of despotism, has denied us both the right and the remedy. Therefore we are in arms to renew such sacrifices as our fathers made in the only cause of constitutional liberty. At the darkest hour of our struggle the Provisional gives place to the Permanent government. After a series of successes and victories, which covered our arms with glory, we have recently met with serious disasters. But, in the heart of a people resolved to be free, these disasters tend but to stimulate to increased resistance. To show ourselves worthy of the inheritance bequeathed to us by the patriots of the Revolution, we must emulate that heroic devotion which made reverse to them the crucible in which their patriotism was refined. [Applause.]

With confidence in the wisdom and stateship of those who will share with me the responsibility, and aid me in the conduct of public affairs; securely relying on the patriotism and courage of the people, of which the present war has furnished so many examples, I deeply feel the weight of the responsibility I now, with unaffected diffidence, am about to assume; and fully realizing the inadequacy of human power to guide and to sustain, my hope is reverently fixed on Him whose favor is ever vouchsafed to the cause which is just. With humble gratitude and adoration, acknowledging the Providence which has so victoriously protected the Confederacy during its brief but eventful career, to Thee, O God! I trustingly commit myself, and fervently invoke Thy blessing on my country and its cause. [Continued and enthusiastic cheering.]

The Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C.

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 3, 1862.

The moral force of numbers is an important part of success in battle. Let an army feel that they are vastly outnumbered and it must necessarily weaken the confidence of many who would otherwise be very efficient in an engagement. The Yankees understand this important fact, and have managed, in all their successful encounters, to bring against the Confederates such an overwhelming force as to ensure their moral effect upon their troops. And we may safely conclude that the same wise policy will be attempted by them in the future. It is quite impossible for the Confederates, at all times, to excel them in numbers. Indeed, our troops do not expect or require it. But they do expect, and will require that our forces shall approximate equality, or half at least not be exceeded. If assured of this, they will be satisfied, and will do all that men can do to make up by their valor the deficiency in numerical strength. Let us, therefore, have strong armies in the field by the 15th March next. The ranks of all our companies should be speedily filled up, and the men put in the best possible trim for service. The enemy is flustering himself with the hope and belief that the Confederates will not sustain their army of the Potomac, and that the Spring will open upon a shattered and disorganized body there, which will be easily put to rout, and then he will indeed march to Richmond. Give our veteran friends there the sustaining aid of numbers—full companies and full regiments, and we venture the prediction that the "on to Richmond," if undertaken at all, will scarcely meet with a less terrible defeat than that of the 21st of July last. We are all immediately interested in the result of the Spring campaign, and should make sure work of it by filling the ranks. Fall in, fall in!

The State Journal thinks we did injustice to Judge Biggs in our remarks last week, based upon its hypothetical statement as regards that gentleman's agency in the removal of Gen. Hill from the command of Roanoke Island. We know nothing about Judge Biggs personally, and have no wish to injure him. The Journal volunteered an apology for him in advance of the facts, assuring the public that whatever he may have done in the premises was done from a sense of duty. And we undertook to show that if he did anything by which we suffered the

disaster at Roanoke he should not escape condemnation because he did not intend mischief.

The Journal also denies very emphatically that Governor Clark is to blame in this relation. And yet it says—"we expect to hear the Standard again and again reiterate the charge; and while, in conclusion, 'the people will judge of the motives which actuate such conduct.' How can the people judge of motives when there is such a disagreement between witnesses? The people can't know who tells the truth, the Standard or the Journal."

THE "MECHANICS GUARD," one of the companies of the 8th Regiment, taken prisoners at Roanoke Island, arrived here last week, to the great relief of many families who had kindred, husbands, sons, or brothers in that company. The men generally are looking well, though they are greatly chagrined at the idea of being prisoners of war. They don't hesitate to denounce Col. Shaw in pretty round terms, and say they will never serve under him again. Col. Shaw is pretty warmly defended by a few persons here, however, (not members of his regiment,) who have known him personally long and well. They admit he may have shown incompetency, but utterly disregard the suggestions of cowardice and unfaithfulness—charges of Virginia origin. Presuming that the facts will sooner or later be spread before the public, it is due to Col. S., and to the old North State, that he should not be prejudiced in advance.

IL. SURREYMAN, writing to the Winston-Salem from Camp Martin, Feb. 20th, calls out by name several persons at Salem and Winston, whom he accuses of abject loyalty to the Southern Confederacy. We hope the persons thus accused will speedily clear themselves of such suspicion. This is not a time to tolerate enemies in our midst. Those whose conduct prove them to be enemies to the Confederacy must expect to receive the treatment of enemies; and we suppose the loyal citizens of Stokes and Forsythe will judge their counties of all such.

We have run-on for believing, however, that the stories about disloyalty in Stokes and Forsythe are mainly untrue; and that they have originated out of the strong feelings of antagonism known to exist heretofore between the old democratic and Union parties of those counties. It has been shown that the people, male and female, have responded liberally to the demands of the country in this struggle for independence by men and voluntary contributions; and it is difficult to reconcile these demonstrations of loyalty with the idea that there is a "host," as Mr. Sheppard says, in those counties who are untrue to our cause.

Andrew Rendleman was drummed out of the garrison at this place, Saturday morning last, for too great familiarity, (or something of that kind) with the Yankee prisoners. He is a young man of good sense—a little unbalanced and consequently erratic—and it is hoped this mild treatment may have a salutary effect upon him.

We learn that the late call for troops in the counties of Iredell and Guilford, has been very handsomely responded to. These counties did not, in the first instance, contribute in proportion to some other parts of the State; but now they come forth, just in the nick of time, and who can estimate the value of the services they may render at this critical period in our struggle.

We invite attention to the proclamation of Governor Clark, calling on the brave men of North Carolina to rally in defence of the State. It is a stirring appeal, and will find its way to the hearts of our people.

The Governor and Executive Council of South Carolina have decreed that the distillation of spirits from Indian corn, rice or wheat, shall be discontinued from and after the tenth of March, until the end of the war, except in cases of license, under certain restrictions. The decree is the wisest provision for the arrest of this evil that we have seen.

General Johnson has published a very severe but admirable order in relation to the conduct of troops in battle. No man will be allowed to absent himself from the lines on any pretence whatever, not even to carry back the dead and wounded, on pain of death.

The enemy have erected three batteries near Fort Pulaski, which completely cut off the communication with Savannah. An attack is expected there shortly.

It is reported that Federal gunboats appeared in the river at Nashville, on the 26th.