☞ The Richmond Examiner of the 28th Feb. says: The President's proclamation of martial law in Norfolk and Portsmouth, will be hailed with delight by every patriot. It is a step in the right direction. We hope that martial law is not only proclaimed, but will be rigidly and sternly enforced by the officers and soldiers commanding in that district. From the fact that it was one of the hot-beds of the Federal office holders and a receptacle of Federal patronage before the revolution, it has been full of traitors during this war.—It is now well known that Burnside's expedition is directed first against Suffolk, but in effect is aimed at Norfolk. Through Suffolk the chief supplies of Norfolk must pass, and it can be preserved only by the valour of our soldiers. They must, then, be rendered certain that they have no villains behind to stab their backs while they confront the open foe that is matched against them.

Whether the Yankees will carry out the design of attack on Norfolk, which they have apparently entertained hitherto, now that they can no longer hope to gain the advantage of a surprise, and now that we are prepared for the encounter, may be doubted. But if they bring up their forces there is reason to hope that Suffolk will not witness a repetition of Roanoke. Whatever their numbers, and whatever our number, Southern officers and Southern men must show their real worth on this occasion, or cover themselves with shame. If they have made up their minds to fight it out to the last man, they will retrieve all our disasters, restore confidence to the country, render their friends proud and happy, and secure for themselves an esteem which will last with their lives, or rest forever on their graves. There are opportunities in wars when a few hundred devoted men can exercise more effect on the course of events than as many hundred thousands at other times. This is one of those occasions. A defeat to the Yankees in the neighborhood of Suffolk would render the Burnside expedition as profitless to the invader as its predecessor at Hatteras, atone for the surrender of Roanoke, and turn the tide of fortune again in the favor of the South.

WESTERN CAROLINA THREATENED.

We make the following extract from a letter of Lieut. Parker, of Col. R. B. Vance's regiment, published in the last Ashville *News*, and dated Strawberrey Plains, Tenn. Feb 17, 1862. It will be seen from this that Western North-Carolina is in danger:

"A friend, who has had from his position heretofore the opportunity to know, just told me that 15 or 20,000 in this country will flock to the federal standard the moment it reaches East Tennessee proper. This I firmly believe. Indeed they are constantly going now. And when the disaffected citizens of this country feel that they are safely and snugly housed in Abraham's bosom then we be unto all who have incurred the slightest displeasure of the loyal subjects."

It cannot, in good faith to my beloved Buncombe bills, close this paper without giving you and our fellow-countrymen one more hint. It is this: I have it from the lips of some of the Union leaders, that the Federal forces intend to sack Asheville N. C., as soon as they can possibly get there. They actually hate Asheville with a perfect hatred.—Yes, they say they "intend to show you how to make guns up there to shoot us with." Now call together your best and most skillful engineers—lay off, draw up, plan, and propose impenetrable fortifications.—If you don't you are gone, unless some unforeseen circumstances turns the scale of destruction. I do not wish to scare you—you know me, and you know the writer is no alarmist, but writes the facts as they now, and every circumstance must necessarily exist."

Col. Vance's regiment has been ordered to Cumberland Gap.

Yankee Elated.—Distressing as was the rumour from Tennessee which prevailed in this city on Tuesday, we could almost find it in our hearts to wish it had not been so soon corrected. The Yankees in our midst were on the *eve* of proclaiming themselves, and in one day more we might have had the satisfaction of seeing and knowing by their own acknowledgment our internal enemies. Putting the Roanoke disaster with our rumoured Tennessee disconfiture, they thought the cause of the South desperate, and so great was their joy, that it could scarcely be contained.

We learn that a man went throughout this city on Tuesday morning, trying to sell sixty thousand dollars worth of dry goods, *still in Philadelphia*, to be delivered in Richmond in ten days. Another is said to have gone up to a gentleman in the Second Market Tuesday morning, and slapping him on the back said, "Ah, ha, what do you think now? I thought you said we could not subjugate you?"

We have no doubt many similar instances occurred which have not reached our ears.—*Richmond Examiner.*

The Northern Congress.

THE CONFISCATION OF ALL SOUTHERN PROPERTY—THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUBJUGATION—WHAT WE HAVE TO EXPECT.

In the Northern Congress the confiscation bill has lately been thoroughly ventilated. Mr. Trumbull, Senator of Illinois, has made a speech which may be received as the true expression of the deliberate intentions of the more moderate, or majority of the Northern States and people with regard to the future treatment of Southern people and property in case the Confederacy should be beaten in this war and the country subjugated by the United States. It will be perceived that Mr. Trumbull does not go so far even as Willey, the Virginian, the Pride of the Pan-Handle. Willey's plan is short—it is to hang. The majority of the Yankees, however, are in favor of the middle course of Trumbull, and will, in case of success, do nothing worse to us than he has indicated in the following speech:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26th, 1862.

THE CONFISCATION BILL.

Mr. Trumbull, (Rep.) of Illinois, moved to take up the bill for the confiscation of the property of rebels. He said there was pressing necessity. Within a few weeks the property of a rebel general in this city had been sold, and the proceeds transmitted to him, while we were sitting here and imposing paper currency on suffering soldiers.

The bill was taken up.

Some verbal amendments were made to the bill, when the morning hour expired, and the Chair called up the special order, the "Stanton" case.

Mr. Trumbull, (Rep.) of Illinois, moved to postpone the special order and continue the consideration of this bill.

Agreed to—yeas 22, nays 15.

Mr. Trumbull said the bill was calculated to affect the property of those rebels who are not under the jurisdiction of the United States at this time, and to avoid the charge of unconstitutionality that could forfeit the estate of traitors except during life. Mr. Trumbull referred to, and read at some length, from the decision of Judge Sprague, of Massachusetts, made last month on the condemnation of Warwick, and then proceeded as follows: But what seems to embarrass some minds is the difficulty of treating these men, both as citizens and traitors—These rebels in the Southern States occupy just exactly that position. When an insurrection assumes such formidable proportions as this has, and when armies are arrayed against the government and against each other, all the writers on the international law agree that the rebels are entitled to be treated as belligerents and enemies; and we have been treating the rebels at the South as belligerents during the present war. We have sent flags of truce to them and taken them as prisoners, and whenever a rebellion becomes of such magnitude as to be entitled to be called a civil war, the parties are to be governed by ordinary rules of war while it lasts, and in the prosecution of such a war the government is bound to observe the same rules as it would observe in a war with an independent nation. But that does not prevent the government, after the war is over, from trying as a traitor any person that may be in its hands, and that is the way, I take it, which this rebellion is finally to be put down. Nobody expects to try all the 300,000 men now in arms against the government and hang them, though they are undoubtedly traitors. But will give them the rights of belligerents, and take them as prisoners of war, and when they return to their loyalty again, those who have been seduced from it, we will release them; but the ringleaders of this rebellion, the instigators of it, the conspirators who have set it on foot, will be brought to the halter, and never be discharged unless they are discharged by a petit jury, who shall say they are not guilty of treason. These are our rights as against these people; but our rights as against an enemy is a right of confiscation. We have now the right to take the personal property of the enemy and destroy it wholly, if necessary. I know that, according to the modern usage of civilized nations, total destruction does not follow. I know that, in our modern times, prisoners who are captured are not put to death or reduced to slavery, and property has not generally been confiscated; but the right to confiscate property, real and personal, for there is no distinction, is undoubted. Look at the condition of things at Port Royal, where all the inhabitants have fled, and left the country deserted. Is it to remain unoccupied, and a wilderness, or shall we treat it as the European nations did the places in the continent where the savages fled and left the territory unoccupied? How does the conduct of the people at Port Royal differ from that of the aborigines? They leave everything to come, abandon the country, and we may take possession of that country and apportion it out among the loyal citizens of the Union; and this act of confiscation by which we do this is not a bill of attainder. Some have objected to the constitutional power to pass this bill, because, they say, it is a bill of attainder. It is not a bill of attainder at all. It does not corrupt the blood of a person; it operates upon his property. The Supreme Court has expressly decided, in the case of Brown vs. the United States, that Congress has authority to pass a confiscation bill. And if Congress has the power to confiscate the property of an enemy, then an act of confiscation must be something different from a bill of attainder; for the Constitution expressly declares that no bill of attainder shall be passed.

Again, sir, if Congress declares the property of a rebel forfeited, I want to know who is to construe that question. If it is contended that, according to international law, Congress has no right to confiscate the real estate of a rebel, I ask who is to interpret international law? There is no common tribunal to which all nations submit their questions. International law is nothing more than a uniform usage of civilized nations, and each one at last interprets it for himself, running the hazard, it is true, of bringing upon himself the condemnation of other nations. I suppose if a nation should violate a well settled principle of international law, such as violating the rights of an ambassador or of a passport, it would bring upon itself the condemnation of other nations. But to confiscate the property of your enemy is not a violation of the principles of international law. Suppose Russia, in those interminable wars going on between that country and Circassia, should take the land of the Circassians and apportion it out among the nobles of Russia, would America think of interfering and going to war with Russia? And if other nations would not interfere, who would interfere? Can our courts give a different construction to international law from what a foreign power gives it? Certainly not. The courts are bound by international law as the nation establishes it. They cannot overrule an act of Congress, because, in their opinion, it does not harmonize with international law. They have no such power. The Supreme Court said, in the case of Johnston against McIntosh (8th Curtis, 513,) that conquest gives a title the courts cannot deny. That is settled by judicial decision. It does not lie in the power of Congress to settle international law. It only involves a question of policy and expediency, and that, I think, is so manifest with regard to this bill that I need not stop to discuss it. The second section of this bill confiscates the claim of any person to any person held to service or labor, if the person so claiming has to any manner engaged in this rebellion, and makes the person owing such service forever afterwards free. Make it there can be no doubt of the power of Congress to pass this law. Congress has the power to raise armies, and it may draft soldiers. It may take from my friend from Kentucky (Mr. Davis) his hired man, whom he has hired at a stipulated price to work upon his farm for the next year. Right in the middle of the contract, in the midst of his harvest, the Government of the United States may draft that man into its service. What becomes of the contract? Can you keep it? Can the courts decide that you are entitled to the services of the man, and can the court give them? No. Here comes the paramount authority of the United States and takes this man, if it is necessary to use him for the defence of the country. It is a question of power, and the power to do this cannot be questioned. Does the master hold his slave by any stronger tenure? You cannot draw a contract so strong by which one person shall give his time and services to another, that the paramount authority of the government can not abrogate that contract, and take from your control that person, and bring him into the service of the country. This can be done also in reference to your own child. By the laws of nearly every State in this Union a parent has control of his child till the age of twenty-one years, but, notwithstanding that, if the public necessity requires it, the government may take your son at eighteen years of age, or even younger, from under your control, and bring him into the army of the United States, and into the battle-field, in defence of the honor and integrity of the nation. And does the master hold his slave by any stronger tenure than this. Why, the person and property and everything connected with your enemy may be taken and condemned and destroyed, if it be necessary, for the preservation of the country; and not only your enemy but you may take the property of your friends. We are taxing the loyal men of this country now to the farthest limit in support of the war, and we may call upon them personally to serve in the army. While we can do all this, can it be pretended that we cannot control the negroes and the men who fight against the government? I know this seems to have been the course pursued.

I know that, while loyalmen have been suffering in person and property, the property of disloyalists has been untouched. I know that, while my people are to be taxed to support this war, we are not to touch the property of rebels in arms against the government. But it is said that you cannot enforce the laws in these Southern States now. True, we cannot till the armies advance; and, when they do advance, let us take that property, make it contribute toward the expenses of the war; and save the property of loyal men, and let the men who have instigated the war pay the expense. I know there are various policies pursued by different commanders. One commander, General Halleck, forbids all fugitive slaves from coming within his lines. I want it upon the statute book that he shall not determine anything about fugitive slaves; and if he knew them to be so he should not surrender them, but shall treat them as persons, as they are, and make no distinction between them and other persons whom he may meet; but that we may have a uniform policy in the country, and not have one portion undertaking to ascertain whether a man is free or slave, and then engage in surrendering him up to his supposed owner. The third section makes provision for the negroes who may be liberated by the act. There is a very great aversion in the West to having anything to do with the negro at all. They don't want the free negro to come in and settle Illinois. This bill proposes to colonize them. Such are the main features of the bill, and I now submit it to the Senate.

Mr. Pomeroy, (Rep.) of Kansas, objected to the third section, which provides for colonization. He thought we could not afford to send out of the country the laboring men and producers; and if insisted upon, he should move to amend by providing colonization for slaveholders, who are dangerous to the country, and whom none would not be left.

Mr. Willey, (Union) of Virginia, wanted to know where there was any constitutional power for the President's colonizing negroes. He was willing to co-operate in the most stringent measures for the confiscation of property, but had the Senator from Illinois counted the immense cost of the scheme of colonization? It would cost $500 a head to colonize and keep ignorant slaves.

Mr. Pomeroy said his amendment would obviate that, as there would be only a few slaveholders to colonize.

Mr. Willey—I propose to hang all such traitors, and thus save all the expense of transportation.

Applause in the galleries, which was immediately suppressed by the chair.

Mr. Ten Eyck, (Rep.) of New Jersey, thought the third section very important. He said there was great aversion at the North to having large masses of free negroes turned loose among them to infest other laborers, nor could they be allowed to roam at large in the South.

Mr. Sumner, (Rep.) of Massachusetts, said he entirely agreed with the Senator from Kansas (Mr. Pomeroy) in objecting to any recognition of the fugitive slave law, which he thought never had authority in the Constitution. He moved to make a verbal amendment to obviate all suspicions of anything of that kind. The amendment was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Powel, (Opp.) of Kentucky, further consideration was postponed till to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Sumner, the Senate went into Executive session, and subsequently adjourned.

An extensive gun factory has been set in operation at Holly Springs, Miss. A considerable number of gun-barrels are rolled out every day, and contracts have been entered into to supply the Government with 30,000 guns in a short time.

The Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C.:

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 10, 1862.

GLORIOUS VICTORY.

The reader will find some cheering news in another column. The Merrimac, (now Virginia,) for a long time preparing, has at last made a dash at the enemy, and has accomplished wonderful feats. Hurra for the Virginia, and her daring commander.

If any have been in doubt as to the ultimate object of the war upon the South, waged with such bitterness by the Northern States, the discussion in the Lincoln Congress, a few days ago on Mr. Trumbull's confiscation bill, must certainly help to open their eyes. We give this discussion in another column.

It will be seen that the Southern people, so far as their property is concerned, are to be dealt with as the Europeans dealt with the Indians whom they chased away from their homes in this Western world long years ago. Those who run away, leaving their lands in the possession of the Yankees, will lose them. And those who are over powered, and have to submit to their authority, lose all their property by confiscation. As to those who happen to be slaves, they are to be either hung or colonized. Such is the talk and the feeling now had and exhibited in the Federal Congress; and such will be the result of the war, unless the Southern people conquer a peace ensuring their own protection.

If the Southern people ever expect to lay down their arms until they have secured their independence and taught the North that they will not be subjugated, they had as well do so now. If they intend ever to submit to such dominion as the Northern people propose to exercise over them, it might be something to their advantage to submit now. If they can ever consent to the degradation contemplated for them, it might save human life to do so at once. But where is the free born American in the South, who would for a moment entertain these monstrous propositions!—There may be some who have never felt the power of a patriotic sentiment stirring their souls; grovellers, whose ambition has never risen above filthy lucre, and who, even during this war, have spent weary nights in planing, and tedious days in prosecuting speculations for the amusement of money. There may be some who would choose disgrace and money as an heritage for themselves and children, rather than country, and an honorable renown;—who would consent to be dogs and wear brass collars the remainder of their days, rather than dare to be men. We say there may be some such, but happily they are few in number—usual scoundrels, worthless as citizens and contemptible as individuals;—he, however debased, with the possession of their money, would equal the height of any aspiration they have the courage to seek. The world was never clear of such things to progress; but fortunately the wheels of great enterprises have rarely been stopped by them, but have either borne them through in safety, all aghast and trembling, or—crushed them beneath their ponderous weight. It will be so now. Those who have courage, purpose and energy will shape the the destiny of those who lack the qualities of taking an efficient part in shaping it for themselves.

The Draft.—It will be seen by reference to Col. Moore's Circular, in another column, issued in pursuance of orders from the Adj't General, that one-third of the militia of Rowan county is to be drafted to repel invasion. The propriety and wisdom of this measure must commend it to the approval of every true friend of the Confederate cause. Our State must be defended against the enemy, and will be, if it takes every man able to carry a gun. But the importance of having a force already selected and organized and ready to march at any moment, is so indispensable that our public authorities would be derelict in duty were they to neglect having it speedily attended to. We fear they have put it off too long already, and that we shall hardly have finished our preparations before the enemy will be advancing upon us.

There seems to be no definite length of time fixed upon for the service of the force now called for, nor any limit to the distance they may have to march. They are to repel invasion wherever attempted, which may be beyond the bounds of the State; and they are to be subject to the order of Confederate Generals for this purpose. Nor does it appear that they will be entitled to any bounty, as in case of volunteers; and in these regards it seems that it would be better for men to volunteer at once.

The people of Iredell, Guilford, and most of the counties where drafts have been made, have mostly volunteered, and we suppose the same will be done here. There is a large number of recruiting officers in town, ready to receive new members into companies already organized, so that men in that way, can make choice of their commanders—a privilege not provided for them when serving as drafted men.

One-third of the remaining men in the county will be a heavy draft, and must necessarily produce a marked effect upon the agricultural results of the county this year. But by carefully saving what was made last year, we think there is no little danger of much suffering, which consequence shall not begin to feel the heavy burden already dependent upon great work this year. Let us live, in the strength of Almighty God, to shoulder them and bear them to the end with whatever of ability He may give us. His providence has been over us thus far, and He never disappoints those who put their trust in Him.

The Colonel has requested us state that those who have excuses to offer why they should not be drafted, will be heard and examined on Friday next, at Dr. Criswell's office.

The Winnsboro Governor is meeting the vigorous opposition of the authorities and people all over the South. Governors, Legislatures, Municipalities, military officers, soldiers and private citizens have all taken the alarm at the wonderful development of the whiskey business since the gathering of last year's crop, and have risen almost simultaneous, with the determination to arrest the evil at all hazards. The Governor of Georgia, we see, has taken hold of it in his State with a vigorous hand. He stops all the mills on the 15th March. Any one caught stilling after that time, will close his still and other works to be seized and sent to Rome and worked up into cotton. All liquor brought near military encampments is to be poured on the ground, and Railroads are forbid to transport it. Well done, Governor of Georgia.

It is much to be regretted that the Convention of North Carolina did not exhibit more promptness and firmness in dealing with this subject. The people would have sustained them in any measure to stamp this terrible evil. We have unmistakable evidences of this in Catawba and Iredell counties, where, as we have been informed, the Liquors have made open war upon whiskey, having assembled in force at Statesville, and knocked out the heads of some barrels, and emptied their contents on the ground.

The Hon. Am. Biggs publishes a Card in the State *Journal*, in which he denies having had anything to do with the removal of General Hill from the Command of Roanoke Island. He says: "I only deem it necessary to say that such a report is without the slightest foundation either in thought or act. I was not applied of any movement to that end" (the removal of Gen. Hill) "until it was publicly announced."

The State *Journal* says it *authoritatively* denied that Gov. Clark had any thing to do with this alleged removal.

The Standard of the 8th instant, says it does not know what agency Judge Biggs had in the removal; "but we have heard, on good authority, that several gentlemen from the Albemarle country who waited on President Davis to represent to him the defenceless condition of the island, and of the region of which it was the key, were told by that functionary that he had removed Gen. Hill because he had been informed by the highest authority in this State that he was not acceptable to our people, on account of the call made by him on the militia in the counties referred to; that he had been informed by the same 'high authority' that Col. Branch was the very man to succeed Gen. Hill; and that accordingly, not having been able to acquire higher or better information on the subject, he had removed Gen. Hill and appointed Col. Branch a Brigadier in his place."

Now, supposing all that these two newspapers say on this subject to be true, Gov. Clark has had nothing to do with the removal. But it necessarily follows that President Davis must have acted upon information which he considered higher than if it had come from Governor Clark. Will somebody find out who it is, in North Carolina, whom President Davis was pleased to consider the highest authority in the State. That will settle the dispute in a minute.

☞ It is conjectured that the men of Rowan will volunteer rather than go as drafted men, that being the feeling of all we have talked to. And in view of that course being adopted, we desire to call attention to the fact that W. L. SAUNDERS and Col. MOORE, have each a Captain's Commission, and desire to form companies. They are gentlemen of ability, and well qualified to command. They are personally well known to many of the people of the county, and will no doubt obtain companies.

Dr. A. M. Nesbitt has received a Captain's Commission and desires to raise a Company for the war. He is expected here soon for the purpose of enlisting such as will be pleased to join his corps. His experience in the Camp, his military acquirements, and his well known personal qualifications commend him to his fellow citizens of Rowan for this important trust. His medical knowledge will also enable him to guard the health of his company, which by the way, is one of the most important and difficult duties of a commander.

We are indebted to Major Gibbs, commandant of the garrison at this place, for the Savannah *News* of a late date, from which we extract the following:

On Sunday the 2d inst., as the last train of cars was leaving Fernandina, loaded with citizens and their effects, a Yankee gunboat appeared between the mainland and Amelia Island and fired several shells into the town and at the train. One shell fell in one of the passenger cars, killing two persons instantly, and mortally wounding a third. The town, having been evacuated by the inhabitants, is, no doubt, in the possession of the enemy.