From the Washington National Republican.

THE GREAT FARCE—THE EVENT AT CENTERVILLE.

Human history contains no parallel to the military performances on the Potomac. Of course the *finale* is the bill pending in the Senate, to impose an annual internal tax upon the people of this country, estimated to produce one hundred millions of dollars. When the facts are all brought out and established by such evidence as is necessary to inspire belief in what is apparently so incredible, it is not merely America which will be amazed. Blundering no Stupendous will receive, as it deserves, the attention of the world.

We obtained yesterday, from a most careful and reliable gentleman, for many years a member of Congress, who had just arrived here from a thorough personal inspection of Centerville and Manassas, the following accounts:

The fortifications at Centerville, (distinguished by the letters of the alphabet,) have the number of embrasures, and of wooden guns pointing terribly through them, as stated below:

Batteries.	Embrasures.	Wooden Guns.
A	7	7
B	7	6
C	3	1
D	7	3
E	5	–
F	9	9
G	6	7
H	5	5
I	4	–
Number of Embrasures,		54
Number of wooden guns,		31

The guns were pine logs, charred black, with muzzles orlineated with chalk, and properly protruded from the embrasures.

No real guns had ever been mounted. This was the representation made by the negroes, and the appearance inside of the work proves this representation to be correct.

A negro, who had been kept at work for months by the Confederates, reports them as having said that these pine logs would answer just as well to "skeer the enemy."

Of the number of the Confederates, the highest estimate obtainable from the negroes was sixty thousand men, and this predicated upon the basis of one thousand men to a regiment, which is double the actual fact. The bulk of the Confederates were at Centerville, as appears by the huts in which they lived. Our informant says that the most intelligent person he saw, thought that the number at Centerville was twenty thousand. The Confederates had had at Centerville about twenty pieces of field artillery.

The fortifications at Manassas, five in number, had been mounted with real guns, and guns, too, of good size and description. But, of course, they were not formidable to those who kept out of their reach, and these would easily have been passed on either flank, and reduced by cutting off their communications in the rear if a direct assault was not thought desirable.

But the works at Centerville were a mere sham, built only to "skeer," and most admirably serving that purpose.

It was for the nineteenth century, and for this new world, that these performances on the Potomac were reserved. The old world was too much exhausted, and former centuries had not the necessary science and money, even if they had the genius. An army nearly double that which Louis Napoleon fought the battle of Solferino, held at bay for nobody can recollect how many weeks, by thirty-one wooden guns, is something which mankind never saw before and may never see again. Let us of the contemporary generation rejoice that it has been our pre-eminent fortune to witness it.

GENERAL JOHNSON.

The masterly movement of Gen. Johnston in falling back from the Manassas line has disconcerted the enemy as profoundly as his movement last summer from Harper's Ferry to Winchester, which everybody denounced at that time, and which, with characteristic composure, the veteran warrior left them to denounce till exploited by results at Manassas which silenced every tongue and converted the croakings of the fault-finders into shouts of applause.—The New York Evening Post considers that the late retreat is the masterly military movement of the war. But profound is the disappointment which it has brought upon the enemy. McClellan has been outwitted just as Scott was before him.—He had prepared a grand plan for taking the position of Johnston at Manassas in the rear, but an eagle eye was watching and anticipating his movements, and when his advance guard was actually crossing a gap in the Blue Ridge at Snickersville, for the purpose of executing a projected movement, Johnston, who had been preparing for it for weeks, had successfuly removed the whole of his immense armament and stores, and was bringing his last man out of the trap which McClellan had laid for his destruction.

The Army of the Potomac is, by his masterly movement, in a more secure and stronger position than ever before, and has new reason for confidence in this great General, who, as a strategist, has successively baffled the best plans of Scott and McClellan, and as a soldier is one of the best and bravest of modern times. We know that he cares as little for popular applause as for popular censure, and is one of those rare men who perform their duty with all the powers God has given them, and are supremely indifferent to the *vox populi*, whether it chant hallelujahs or deal in curses. For this we honor and confide in him all the more. He has given repeated proof since the war commenced of signal military abilities, and he has never said nor done one foolish thing to mar his great reputation.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

Fatal Affray.—A difficulty took place at Mrs. Mebaugh's, Fredericksburg, on Monday last, between Thomas Ryan and Michael Russell, which resulted in the former shooting his pistol and shooting Russell, killing him instantly. Ryan is in jail. Both were members of the Second North Carolina Regiment.—*Petersburg Express*

TO THE PATRIOTIC—THE VALUE OF CHURCH BELLS.

The Ordnance Bureau of the Confederate States, solicits the use of such bells as can be spared during the war, for the purpose of providing light artillery for the public defence. While copper is abundant, the supply of tin is deficient to convert the copper into bronze. Bells contain so much of tin that two thousand four hundred weight of bell metal, mixed with the proper quantity of copper, will suffice for a field battery of six pieces.—Those who are willing to devote their bells to this patriotic purpose will receive receipts for them, and the bells will be replaced, if required, at the close of the war, or they will be purchased at fair prices.

Bells may be directed as follows:

Richmond Arsenal, Richmond, Va., Capt. R. G. Baldwin.

Fayetteville Arsenal, Fayetteville, N. C., Capt. J. C. Booth.

Charleston Arsenal, Charleston, S. C., Capt. F. L. Childs.

Augusta Arsenal, Augusta, Ga., Lieut. Colonel W. G. Gill.

Rather Funny.—The Greenville Banner relates a funny incident of the war which happened lately in one of the border counties of Tennessee, as follows:

A company of some thirty or forty Union men were trying to make their escape to Kentucky, to join the Northern army; they came to a creek which they were compelled to wade. Not wishing to get their clothes wet, they "shelled off" all to their shirts, and while in this condition they were surprised by a company of Jeff's cavalry boys, who were in hot pursuit of them. Being somewhat frightened, they fled in double quick, making a "straight shirt tail" up hill and down hill, leaving their clothes in possession and appropriated the same. What became of the rogues we are unable to say; but rather suppose they are in a poor condition for the cold weather.

What the Yankees are doing with the Contrabands at Port Royal.

The steamer Atlantic left New York a few days since with a large cargo of army stores, and about sixty passengers who accompanied Mr. E. L. Pierce, the Government agent in charge of the plantations and contrabands at Port Royal. Three-fourths of the number are men who are to be superintendents of the abandoned estates, and will direct the labors of the negroes, who are to be employed in such agricultural pursuits as cotton culture and raising vegetables for their own support, and for the use of the army at that point.

Twelve or fifteen of the passengers are ladies, who will become teachers of an industrial school which will be at once established at Port Royal, under the superintendance of Rev. M. French, of New York. Mrs. Senator Harlan, of Iowa, is among the ladies, and will assist in some department of the work.

About three thousand dollars worth of agricultural implements, including plows, hoes, and others in most common use have been purchased by Mr. Pierce, and will be taken to Port Royal in the Atlantic. He takes also a quantity of seeds, including one barrel contributed from the Patent Office at Washington, as well as some medicines and other necessary articles.

CABBAGE SPROUTS.

Very few people take half the pains they ought with cabbages. When they are cut no matter how—the stumps are left to bring sprouts no matter when, nor how many. Now, the fact is, than when the sprouts begin to come they should be all rubbed off but the best, or at most two; but if there be only one left to grow on each stump, it will grow faster and better, and be occasionally as good as the first head that was cut; instead of which, a multitude of small ones are allowed to grow, not any of which bring good hearts, and all are, for the most part, but a poor apology for greens. When a cabbage is cut, the leaves should be cut off the stem, and as soon as the buds of the stump begin to grow, rub off or cut all that are not wanted, leaving one of the strongest and best to grow into a head, which it will do in incredibly short time; equalling and more frequently excelling, the first head itself, in flavor and appearance. This is adopted for families more than market gardens, because there is some trouble in rubbing or taking off the useless shoots; but it is well worth while in the case of early cabbages, in a private family, for it forms an excellent second crop.

Rye Coffee not Poison.—Several physicians and chemists are out in the papers in denial of the statement recently made of deleterious effects of rye coffee. We have no doubt that Dr. Crawcour, Professor of Chemistry in the New Orleans School of Medicine, is right in saying that the whole story about rye being a poison is "one tissue of absurdity and error. The public may rest assured that rye coffee is perfectly innocent, and may be used with as much safety as the finest Mocha."

A TATTOOED ENGLISHMAN.

The canoe came alongside. Init were eight or ten [illegible] all [illegible]; the red feathers in their [illegible] perpetually nodding. With them [illegible] stranger, a renegade from Christendom and humanity—a white man in the South sea girdle, and tattooed in the face. A broad blue band stretched across his face from ear to ear, and his darkened and [illegible] taper figure of a blue shirt, falling half [illegible] from head to tail. Some of us gazed upon this man with a feeling akin to horror, no ways abated when informed that he had voluntarily outraged and defaced the embellishment of his countenance. What an inferno. Far worse than Cain's—his was perhaps, a wrinkle, or a freckle, which some of our modern cosmetics might have effaced; but the blue shark was a mark indelible, which all the waters of Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, could never wash out. He was an Englishman. Lem Hardy he called himself, who had deserted from a trading brig, touching at the island for wood and water some ten years previous. He had gone ashore as a sovereign power, armed with a musket and a bag of ammunition, and ready; if need were, to prosecute war on his own account. The country was divided by the hostile kingdoms of several large valleys. With one of them, from whom he first received overtures, he formed an alliance, and became what he now was, the military leader of the tribe, and war god of the entire island. His campaigns beat Napoleon's. In one night attack his invincible musket, backed by the light infantry of spears and javelins, vanquished two clans, and next morning brought all the others at the feet of his royal ally. Nor was the rise of his domestic fortune at all behind the Corsican's three days after landing, the exquisitely tattooed hand of a princess was his; received along with the damsel, as her portion, one thousand fathoms of fine tapa, fifty double-bruided mats of split grass, four hundred hogs, ten houses in different parts of her native valley, and sacred protection of an express edict of the Taboo, declaring his person inviolable for ever. Now, this man was settled for life, perfectly satisfied with his circumstances, and feeling no desire to return to his friends. "Friends," indeed, he had none. He told me his history. Thrown upon the world a foundling, his paternal origin was as much a mystery to him as the genealogy of Odin; and, scorned by every body, he fled the parish work-house when a boy, and launched upon the sea. He had followed it for several years, a dog before the mast, and now he has thrown it up for ever.—[Adventures in the South Seas.]

ANTIPATHY OF LIKE FOR LIKE.

Wherever two natures have a great deal in common, the conditions of a first-rate quarrel are furnished ready made. Relatives are very apt to hate each other, just because they are too much alike. It is frightful to be in an atmosphere of family idiosyncrasies; to use the hereditary uncomeliness or infirmity of body—all the defects of speech—all the failings of temper—intensified by concentration, so that every fault of our own finds itself multiplied by reflections, like our images in a saloon lined with mirrors. Nature knows what she is about. The centrifugal principle which grows out of antipathy of like for like is only the repetition a character of an arrangement we see expressed materially in certain seed capsules, which burst and throw the seed to all points of the compass; a house is a larger pod with human germ or two in each of its cells or chambers; upon by dehiscence of the front door by and by and projects one of its germs to Kansas, another to California, another to Illinois, and so on; and this that Smith may not be Smithed to death, and Brown be Browned into a mad-house, but mix in the world again and struggle back to average humanity.

FORGOTTEN ARTS.

The ancients were undoubtedly in possession of many secrets which have perished with them. Cleopatra's celebrated dissolution of the pearl in vinegar, which she drank, is beyond the power of modern chemistry.

The reduction of the golden calf, by Moses, into potable powder, was another effort of the wisdom of Egypt, to which we have made but some doubtful approaches. The Tyrian dye, which, according to Pliny, was of the color of our oriental amethyst, has escaped us. The invention of malleable glass, perhaps the most curious and useful legacy to the comforts of posterity, is distinctly stated by Pliny, Petronius, and Diodorus. In the invention of gunpowder, we have been anticipated by the remote antiquity of the Incians and Chinese.—The actual recipe for its composition, and the manufacture of a rocket, are detailed by Marcus Graecus in the eighth century. The only grand invention to which the modern world can lay claim, is printing, and this was borrowed from the Chinese.

Exclusion of Northern men from citizenship in Florida.—The Florida Legislature has added the following important amendment to the State Constitution:

Be it ordained, That no citizen of any of the States or Territories of the United States, which are now at war with the Confederate States shall ever be admitted to the rights of citizenship in this State; no such person shall vote at an election, be eligible to office, hold real estate, exercise any profession or trade, be engaged in mechanical, manufacturing, commercial, banking, insurance, or other business, under pain of confiscation, to the use of the State, of all property held by such persons as shall violate this clause of this Constitution.

Yankee Democrats Growling.—The Rhode Island Democratic State Convention, which met recently, nominated Gov. Sprague for re-election, and passed among other resolutions, one declaring that "the effort now being made to divert this war from its original purpose, and to turn it into a war for the emancipation of slaves and the subjugation of the Southern States, or their return to a territorial condition, is an effort against the Union, against the Constitution, against justice and against humanity, and should be promptly frowned upon by all the friends of democratic institutions."

The Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C.

MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 7, 1862.

PROVISIONS.

The farmers in all parts of the South, will, this year, expend their efforts for the production of provision crops. Thousands upon thousands of acres heretofore devoted to cotton and tobacco will be sown in corn and wheat. The farmers of this part of North Carolina have for years given their almost exclusive attention to provision crops, and so far as we can learn will do so this year. Corn, wheat, oats, rye, potatoes, beans and peas, are all very important and of indispensable necessity to the country while at war. Hay is another article of prime necessity; for without it our cavalry will fail. Let all our farmers every where, being themselves to feel that it is their religious duty to exert all their powers to produce more of these articles than they will need for their own family use. With plenty of provisions in the land for man and beast, the enemy, now seeking to overrun and subjugate us to their tyranical dominion, will soon discover that they have undertaken an awful big job; and one in which there is no chance for yankee trickery to help them out. If every Southern man will be truly and zealously devoted to our cause, it will be utterly impossible for the enemy to subdue us. Those who are actively laboring at home for the production of provisions, clothing, &c., should not reproach themselves, or feel as if they ought to be in the camp; because their labor is as necessary to the success of our arms as powder and ball. Therefore, let us all consider ourselves as patriot soldiers, whether on the farm or in the field of battle, and work as if the fate of the country depended on our individual efforts. In due time we shall have our reward.

Infamous.—There are a few persons in this and other communities endeavoring to depreciate our paper currency. No true friend to the South will either engage in this mean work or permit, with silence, others to it. We have no doubt the Committee of Safety in this Town will take such action in reference to this subject as will bring to strict accountability every individual so found employed. There is a secret committee in existence here, also, authorised by the largest Town meeting held in this place for many a day, whose duty it is to report every man found in any manner prejudicing the public welfare or safety, either by word or deed, and the community expect them to be vigilant.

A Gun Boat for the Cape Fear.—The Wilmington Journal having proposed the building of a Gun Boat for the protection of Wilmington, $861 have been contributed, by officers and privates in Capt. Cornelison's Company. The Journal says the proposition is cordially and effectively responded to.

Can't Salisbury do something for the enterprise.

A Faithful Servant gone.—The patrons of Mr. Thomas E. Brown's Livery Stable will learn with sincere regret, that Andy, the ostler of that establishment, died last week. Few who have experienced his prompt, faithful and good humored attentions at the stable, will fail to heave a sigh for Andy. He died of erysipilas, which baffled the skill of our best physicians.

A Cheap Dye.—A gentleman has handed us a specimen of cotton yarn colored to represent copperas, which it does very closely. The dye employed is very cheap. It is made of red or black oak bark, the rough out side of which should be first trimmed off. Make a strong decoction of the bark by boiling, and to a pot of about ten gallons, add a table spoonful of blue vitriol. The yarn to be colored should be put in and boiled for an hour or two, and then washed as much as you please. The color will stand; and the yarn will be found soft and free from the harshness usual in copperas dye.

Mrs. Jacob Wilhelm, of this county, has recently tested this dye, and any one desiring further information on the subject may obtain it by calling on her.

☞ The Surgeon's statement for the month of March, showing the health of the Federal prisoners at this place, exhibits 251 cases of sickness, of which only one died. There being 1427 persons in confinement, in quarters which allow to each man a space not exceeding eleven square feet, it must be admitted this exhibit presents a better state of health than could have been expected.

But we think it very certain we shall soon have a different story, unless these prisoners shall have their quarters enlarged, and additional arrangements be made for their cleanliness. Within the last two or three weeks the scurvy has made its appearance among them; and no one will be surprised if other and more fatal maladies shall manifest themselves on the approach of warm weather.

ITEMS.—We can get no news from Newbern. The Federal pickets have been thrown out some distance from the city. Burnside seems determined to keep his movements secret. No news from Roanoke city, Beaufort or Fort Macon. Our troops in the Fort have ample supplies for six or eight months. Something will turn up there in less time than that. No news of any importance from Roanoke Island. It is supposed, however, the Federal force there is small. A number of negroes have been arrested on their way to the Island. Swansboro', eight or ten miles East of Wilmington is in possession of the Federals, who show no signs of advancing. Dr. Worth, the salt Commissioner, being absent from Morehead city when the Federals took Newbern, his brother Jonathan, who had been left in charge of the salt works there, escaped with all the working hands across the country to Wilmington, where they are now furnishing salt at $2 50 per bushel. The supply is very limited, and there is really none in Wilmington for sale at any price. That made by the State is distributed out to the different counties.

☞ Gov. Clarke has prohibited the shipment from this place, of all bacon and flour, except for army purposes.

Sally Collins, of Raleigh, calls on the State to contribute for the building of an iron clad gun-boat. The people of Wilmington have already raised a considerable fund for the purpose. Mrs. John W. Ellis has been designated as a suitable person to forward the enterprise in Western Carolina.

See Hon. W. S. Ashe's advertisement in another column, calling for guns, and also for scrap iron, cast or wrought. Gather up the iron scraps and send them in.

The peremptory demand for guns don't strike us with much force. There ought to be some arms in the hands of the people; nevertheless, if the public necessity justifies this demand, we doubt not it will be acceded to without serious complaint.

From the N. C Standard.

RALEIGH, Feb 19, 1862.

Mr. HOLDEN: The following receipt for obtaining salt petre was furnished to me by Rev. Mr. Smith, member of the State Convention from Macon who has lately been directing his attention to the subject. The very high price paid for the nitrate by the State authorities at this place, and the simplicity of the process for making it ought to induce every person in the country, to whom it is not all convenient, to do something in the way of an experiment, to say nothing of the profit. It has become a duty of the most stringent character to assist in furnishing this important element as a means of self-defence. Yours, &c., H. C. JONES.

THE PRODUCTION OF SALTPETRE.

Place barrels or hogsheads on a couple of logs so as to raise them some eight or ten inches from the ground. Place straw or hay in the bottoms of the barrels—then fill with the dirt to be used; pour water on until the dirt is thoroughly saturated, sufficiently so that it will leach out the nitre when drawn off; let it stand twenty-four hours, then draw off through small spigot holes near the bottoms of the barrels. The water drawn off contains the nitre in solution, and should be strained through a cloth or carefully poured off so as to free it from dirt and sediment, into a clean barrel or tub; then add clean and strong ley made of wood ashes, in portions, giving time to observe the effect. The lime present will be precipitated. The quantity of ley to be added may be ascertained by frequent tests made upon a small quantity of the solution in a cup or other small vessel—when the further addition of ley no longer produces a whitish or curdled appearance, the solution is right. Then carefully drain it from the precipitate and sediment, and transfer it to the pot or kettle; boil slowly at first, and increase, but not so as to boil it over. When reduced two-thirds or three-fourths; drain it off into a clean tub or trough prepared for this purpose. Acicular crystals will be formed; after crystalization ceases, which will be in twenty-four hours, draw off the remaining ley or liquor, then rinse the crystals with water, which add to the ley drawn off. This remaining liquor, which contains some nitre, may be used in the next operation. Spread out & dry the saltpetre—then box up. The principal source of saltpetre is the dirt found in dry lime-stone caves. It may be made, however, from the dirt under old houses, barns and kitchens.

We have tested the above receipt and have succeeded in extracting saltpetre from the dirt under old houses. We have one-fourth pound of it at our office which can be seen by calling.

But what we want to say is, that the process, though simple and the result certain, we believe no one could undertake the business of manufacturing saltpetre in this way and make money by it, even at the extraordinary price of 60 cts per lb. But those who are willing to take the trouble can, in this way, do something towards relieving one of the great wants of our bleeding country. How many will do it? We hope there are many. There are old houses in this Town where we believe from 20 to 50 lbs. could be made.

Martial law has been declared by the military authorities in Mobile and New Orleans, and a tariff of prices established to protect the government and people from the exorbitant demands of speculators. Sales, except to government, will be made by retail only, and large sales of provisions, of any description, to one person, are prohibited.

Patrol.—Class No. 1, composed of L. S. Aldrich, T. W. Allison, David L. Brinkle, N. Boyden, J. D. Brown, C. F. Baker, Geo. E. Boulton, Lieut. Blackmer, Thos. E. Brown, J. M. Brown, A. W. Bell, Moses Brown, J. E. Burke, Solomon Benjamin, Wm. Murdoch, Jr., and J. J. Brauer, meet at Town Hall, Wednesday night at 10 o'clock, and every thirteenth night thereafter.