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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Col. Vance's Official Report.

No honest man in North Carolina doubts that Col. Vance behaved with great coolness and bravery in the battle of Newbern. His enemies, who seem to be lost to all shame, have charged that he was "not in the fight." For the gratification of our readers we have at length been able to obtain Col. Vance's official report, and annex it hereto. Let his libellers and enemies read it and cover their faces.—*Rich. Exam.*

HELENBURGER, When Gen. N. C. Vance
Kinston, N. C., March 17, 1862.

GENERAL L. O. R. BRADSHAW,
Commanding District Forces.

GENERAL:—I have to report, in addition to my military duties, the share of my command in the operations of last Friday. While in the temporary command of the post of Newbern on Thursday, my regiment was ordered to Croatan Works, under command of Lieut. Colonel Burgwyn, to assist Colonel Sinclair's regiment should the enemy land below those works. Learning soon after that Col. Campbell was at his post, I instantly transferred to him my temporary command, and proceeded to Croatan to assume command of my regiment. When near there I met Col. Sinclair retreating, who informed me that the enemy were landing in force at Fisher's Landing, and nearer still to the works I met Col. Campbell, who had just ordered my regiment to take the cars and return to Fort Thompson. Before my return they had been posted by Lieut. Col. Burgwyn in the series of redans constructed by me on the right of the railroad, in the rear of Bullen's Branch, extending from the railroad to the swamp, about 500 yards from the road by Weatherly's. At this road, as you will remember, I had constructed the night before a breastwork, commanding the passage of the swamp, with the assistance of Mr. Hawks, a gentleman whose skill in Engineering, utilizing energy and zeal I take pleasure in noticing favorably. And there was placed a section of Capt. Brem's Artillery, Lieutenant Williams commanding, Capt. McRae's company of infantry, with a portion of the companies of Captains Hays and Thomas and N. C. Cavalry, dismounted.

About two o'clock Friday morning, in compliance with orders received, I pushed companies E, K and B of my right wing across the small swamp alluded to, so as to make my extreme right rest on the battery at the Weatherly road. This was our position on Friday morning, which remained unchanged during the day, except that two companies of the 33d regiment, under Lieut. Col. Hoke, came to my assistance about nine o'clock, who were placed in the redans vacated by my right companies, who were thrown beyond the swamp. You will perceive that my forces covered almost as much ground as all the rest of our troops together. Taking my own position near the centre, a little nearer to the right, under Lieut. Col. Burgwyn, about whose position I was considerably uneasy, owing to the unfinished state of our works there, I placed the left under command of Major Carmichael, and awaited the engagement. It began on my left wing about ten minutes to eight o'clock, extending toward my right by degrees, until about half past eight, when all the troops in my command were engaged so far as the swamp referred to. The severest fighting was on my extreme left, the enemy advancing under shelter of the woods to within easy range of our lines. Whenever they left the woods and entered among the fallen timber of the swamp in our front, they were driven back in confusion by the most deadly and well directed fire from our lines, who with the greatest coolness watched for their appearance. The fight was kept up until about twelve o'clock, when information was brought to me by Captain J. T. Young, my Quartermaster, who barely escaped with life in getting to me, that the enemy in great force had turned my left by the railroad track at Wood's Brick Yard, had pillaged my camp, were firing in reverse on my left wing, and were several hundred yards up the railroad, between me and Newbern; also, that all the troops on the field were in full retreat except my command. This being so, there was no alternative left me but to order an immediate retreat, or be completely surrounded by an overwhelming force. Without hesitation I gave the order. My men jumped out of the trenches, rallied, and formed in the woods without panic or confusion; and having first sent a messenger with an order to Lieut. Col. Burgwyn to follow with the forces on the right, we struck across the Weatherly road for Brice's Creek, with the intention of getting to

the Pollockville road. On arriving at the creek we found only one small boat capable of carrying only three men in which to pass over. The creek here is too deep to ford, and about 75 yards wide. Some plunged in and swam over, and swimming over myself, I rode to Captain Whitford's house, on the Trent, and through the kindness of Mr. Kit Fox, a citizen, procured three more small boats, carrying one on our shoulders from the Trent with which we hurried up to the crossing. In the meantime Lieut. Col. Burgwyn arrived with the forces of the right wing in excellent condition, and assisted me with the greatest coolness and efficiency in getting the troops across, which, after four hours of hard labor and the greatest anxiety, we succeeded in doing. Lieut. Col. B. saw the last man over before he entered the boat. I regret to say that three men were drowned in crossing. I must here mention favorably the good conduct of the troops under these trying circumstances, a large Yankee force being drawn up in view of our scouts about two miles away, and their skirmishers appearing just as the rear got over. Musician B. F. Johnson, Company B, deserves particular mention for his exertions, having hurried over the greater portion of the troops himself, assisted by a negro boy. Once over, we were joined by Lieut. Col. Hoke, 33d regiment, with a large portion of his command, and took the road for Trenton. We marched night and day, stopping at no time for rest or sleep more than four hours. We arrived at this place safely at noon on the 16th. The loyalty and hospitality of the citizens greatly facilitated our march, furnishing us cheerfully with provisions, wagons, shelter and guides. I regret to say that many of our men, despairing of the boats at the creek and determined not to be taken, threw away their guns to swim over; a serious loss to our Government, but scarcely blameable under the circumstances. This concludes the narration of the principal matters connected with my command during the engagement and retreat. The number of my killed and wounded has not yet been ascertained. Our baggage, of course, was lost, but our sick were safely brought away. It remains for me to speak of the noble dead we left upon the field. Major A. B. Carmichael fell about 11 o'clock, A. M., by a shot through the head, whilst gallantly holding his post on the left under a most galling fire. A braver, nobler soldier never fell on the field of battle. Generous and open-hearted as he was brave and chivalrous—he was endeared to the whole regiment. Honored by his memory. Soon after Captain W. P. Martin of Co. H also fell, near the regimental colors. Highly respected as a man, brave and determined as a soldier, he was equally regretted by his command and all who knew him. The 29th regiment are justly proud of their glorious fall. The fate of Capt. Rand, of Co. D, is as yet unknown. When last seen he was almost surrounded by a large force, but declining to fly or surrender, he was fighting desperately with Lieut. Vinson and a large portion of his company who refused to leave him. Lieut. Porter of Co. A was also left behind, wounded. Capt. A. N. McMillan was badly wounded, but got away safely.

In regard to the behavior of my regiment generally, I am scarcely willing to mention particular instances of gallantry, where all did their duty. Observing a large portion of the regiment myself, and making diligent inquiry as to the rest, I could learn of but one man in all my command who remembered that he had legs until after the command to retreat was given. They were the last of our troops to leave the field.

I cannot conclude this report without mentioning in terms of the highest praise the spirit of determination and power of endurance evinced by the troops during the hardships and sufferings of our march. Drenched with rain, blistered feet, without sleep, many sick and wounded, and almost naked, they toiled through the day and all the weary watches of the night without murmuring, cheerfully and with subordination, evincing most thoroughly those high qualities of adversity which military men learn to value still more than courage upon the field.

I have the honor to be,
most respectfully,
your obedient servant,
Z. B. VANCE,
Col. Commanding 26th N. C. Vols.

Texas is said to be in a better condition than any State in the Confederacy. She has an abundance of beef, corn, wheat, &c.; and withal, is able and willing to defend herself against any force the Yankees can bring upon her.

THE HERALD ON THE GLOOM PERSUADING.

The New York "Herald" says the civil war has cost the U. States \$200,000,000, and the bodies of its dead soldiers would make a Golgotha monument higher than that of Bunker Hill. It says:

"It seems for this immense outlay of blood and treasure, what have we gained? Are the rebels subdued? On the contrary, they seem stronger than ever. Is the rebellion at its last gasp? It has to day more soldiers in the field than the Union. Have we succeeded in reviving the Union feeling at the South? Why, every day the two sections drift further and further apart; every day we become more and more ignorant of the sentiments of the Southern people; every day that this so-called rebellion is permitted to continue the number of Southern Union men becomes less as the old Union seems more powerless and remote, and the new Confederacy more powerful and successful. What then have we gained? In spite of our brilliant victories, our naval superiority, our numerous but isolated triumphs, we have practically and in results gained very little and lost very much.

"What, then, shall we do next? Shall we give up the war, disband our army and navy, and let the rebels go in peace? Never! It is too late to think of such a course. The recognition of the Southern Confederacy by our own Government is no longer among the contingencies of the war. The rebels may defeat our armies and capture our capital—these are possibilities—but the rebels can never conquer their independence. The conflict has assumed a new and a sublimer aspect. We have to decide now not whether the rebels can be subdued, but whether the country is to be saved. The question is no longer the putting down of the rebellion, but the salvation of the nation. We are in *cul de sac*, from which our only escape is the suppression of the rebellion by force."

In another article it says that "this summer's campaign must end this rebellion or that this may be a very long and eventful war." It adds:

"We call upon the government to supply, at once, from our troops in the field elsewhere, an overwhelming army to McClellan and Pope in Virginia, and upon our loyal States to push forward their volunteers or militia. If within two or three weeks we can reinforce our Virginia armies to the extent of a hundred thousand men it may save us a vast amount of human life and a thousand millions of dollars, which may otherwise be required for the suppression of this rebellion. Now is the time for action, if we would save the Union. We can. Let action, then, be the word."

We should have regarded the above extract if it had appeared in any other Northern journal, as a slight indication of a peace current; but in the "Herald" it amounts to but a *feeler* of a public sentiment, a sounding to find the depth of Northern feelings, after the recent defeats. "Shall we give up the war, disband our Army and Navy, and let the Rebels go in peace?" asks the "Herald." "Never," it replies.

The "Herald" will be the first paper to shout the cry for peace, as it was the first to sound the bugle blast of war, after the mob had visited its office. Ever active and vigilant, the "Herald," while utterly unprincipled and unscrupulous, is the best barometer of Northern sentiment. Catering to the public, no matter how wicked the popular cry may be, that journal leads all others in quick perception of popular sentiment. Its tergiversations have always been rapid and regardless of all consistency; it has always truly represented the popular excitement of the moment and maintained its course only so long as its daily sales indicated popular approval.—But the "Herald" is just now in a fog. The tardiness of volunteering, and the embarrassments that beset the public finances, indicate, if not a change in public sentiment, at least a hesitancy to pursue the war policy that has brought distress to so many hearts and ruin to so many purses. But the "Herald" is not yet satisfied, and hence it adds: "The recognition of the Southern Confederacy by our own Government is no longer among the contingencies of this war."

But why make so positive an announcement of the fact that has been reiterated for a whole year by the entire North, unless there were indications of a change in public sentiment? Why not leave, as taken for granted, a question that every man at

the North would have answered years before the Richmond Battle?

The "Herald" recognizes in the slow response to the call for volunteers, in the evident necessity to resort to a draft, in the transfer of gold from the country, those indications of a change in public sentiment which forebode the revolution from the extreme of war to the extreme of peace. But while these are our deductions from the "Herald's" article, we would not have our people in what one iota their anger for a vigorous prosecution of our present success.

From the Richmond Examiner.

The accounts which we have of public sentiment and action in the North, with reference to the prosecution of the war, are some of them, amusing, some grave and some, in fact, truly alarming. The mass meetings in New York, Boston, Springfield, Portland and other places, are to much sound and fury, they signify nothing. The Yankee country is the land of cheap paganism. A mass meeting in the city of New York is about the cheapest public demonstration in the world. If a jockey was to be buried in the Park, and the notice of it was given in the newspapers, fifty thousand idlers, hammers, baggage smashes and gentlemen of leisure might easily be called to attend his obsequies.

There are graver aspects, however, of public sentiment in the North. The Congress at Washington, which is about to adjourn, has under consideration a bill calling all the militia into the field. This bill has already passed the Senate. Its provisions are large and important; it proposes that the President shall call out the militia of the States for nine months, and also authorizes him to call into the field one hundred thousand volunteers, besides such number of troops as may be required to fill up the regiments of infantry now in the service. A bounty of twenty-five dollars is to be paid to every soldier who enlists, and the additional bounties offered to volunteers by States, cities and corporations have raised this sum to an average of at least one hundred dollars.

That the North is able to raise large additional forces for its armies, and that its people are determined to prosecute the war to the extent of their men, means, and resources, does not admit of a reasonable doubt. If the Yankee Congress had found improvement necessary to raise the additional troops asked for by President Lincoln, it certainly would not have hesitated to have recourse to it. The calls upon the militia and the temptations of the bounties will undoubtedly raise all the troops the North requires, and in a few months more, unless some special providence or the miracle of an aggressive policy on the part of this government intervenes, we may expect to meet these fresh levies in the field.

There is really a good deal of sound sense in the statements of the Northern journals and the exhortations of their orators to the effect that their defeat before Richmond has made them stronger than ever. There is force and philosophy in this view. As long as the North is conducting the war upon the soil of the South a defeat there involves more money expenditure and more calls for troops; it involves nothing else; it has no other horrors, it does not imperil their homes; it is easily repaired by time. The North recovers from the force of defeat to put forth its energies anew, to take advantage of experience, to multiply its means of success, and to essay new plans of campaign. No one can doubt but that the celebrated Massachusetts defeat really strengthened the North; and there is no candid and logical mind but must admit the same consequence of the second repulse of the enemy's movements on Richmond, if it is to be attended by the same conditions on our part of inaction and repose.

Defeat will not dispirit the North until it is brought to her doors; until it sows her own soil with her best blood and strikes dismay into her homes. Where it does not immediately imperil the safety of the country and homes of the Yankees, where it gives time for the recovery and reorganization of the attacking party, and where it requires, for the prosecution of the war, nothing but more money jobs in Congress, and a new raking up of the scum of the cities, the effect of defeat upon the North will only be to arouse its passions, inflame its cupidity and multiply its exertions, to break and overcome the misapplied power of our armies.

Scott's Partisan Rangers, of Virginia, give notice in the Richmond papers that, inasmuch as four of their number who were captured have been hanged by the Yankees, henceforth they will give no quarter.

THE SHELLING OF HAMILTON, N. CAROLINA.

One of our exchanges has a letter dated Hamilton, July 14, giving a detailed account of the shelling of that town by the Yankee gunboats on the 9th instant. It seems that the gunboats, in their progress up the river, were attacked by a body of our cavalry, who killed five and wounded eight of their men, three of the first falling on board into the river. Our cavalry, consisted to pursue and drive into them until they were within a mile of Hamilton, when the boats began to shell the town. They were so pressed to be under the impression that the attack on them had been made by the shelling of the place, and so reaching the wharf they sent a messenger to the "Herald's" Landing, with two pieces of cannon, with instructions to destroy the town. But on some prominent citizens approaching them under a flag of truce, and understanding that as to their assailants, the Yankees were marched back to the boats, taking with them an old cavalry horse, the only piece of public property in the place, who, it is said, killed one of the Yankees mortally during the return of the boats down the river. Several houses in the town were very much injured by the enemy's shell, but no disease was hurt.

Our cavalry, who attacked the boats, did not lose a man, killed or wounded.—*Rich. Examiner.*

WE HAVE HEARD some queer incidents of the late battles before Richmond, and some interesting accounts of interviews between Federal prisoners and Confederate officers and citizens.

A couple of gentlemen from this town, one a physician, recently went over the battle-field. At one place, at a field hospital, they met up with three Yankee Surgeons who had fallen into our hands, and been detained to attend to the Federal wounded left on the field by McClellan in his "strategic movement."

These men, not knowing from what State our friends were, expressed their surprise at the ubiquity of the North Carolina troops, and at their determined fighting. They had thought North Carolina perfectly safe for the Union. When asked how they could reconcile the number and determination of North Carolina troops with the existence of a Union feeling, they were puzzled, but said that no doubt they had been conscripted and made to fight, but admitted that the style of their fighting did not agree with this theory. It appears to be certain that the Federal soldiers have been taught to believe that North Carolina is all ready to declare for the Union and Abe Lincoln.

Some gentlemen well-known here called last week to see a Pennsylvania Colonel, now a prisoner in Richmond, one of the gentlemen having known him before the war broke out. He was very much surprised to hear that North Carolina was not a strong Union State only waiting for a liberating Yankee army to enable her to throw off the yoke of Jeff Davis. So they had all been assured by Governor Stanley—so the Southern paper has assured them, and so they had been convinced by extracts in the Newbern paper from Raleigh papers that there was a strong party in the State down on the Confederate Government.—*Wilmington Journal.*

We surrender all the available space in the paper this morning to the very late and interesting news we have from the North. The general impression of these news is that the North is determined to prosecute the war with the most vigorous and unscrupulous measures. The supposed appointment of Halleck to take precedence of McClellan, and to assume command of the armies of the North, indicates vigor and determination. General Halleck is an able commander; a quiet, obsequious man, but full of hidden resources, unscrupulous, acute, severe and despotic. The orders of General Pope in Virginia, are the best expositions we have yet seen of the peculiar and horrors we are to expect from the continued invasion of our soil by the enemy. Legalized plunder, forced contributions, slavery of white men, famine, devouring fire, are henceforth to mark the track of the Northern armies in Virginia. Such are the lessons of invasion; such the bitter fruits of the "defensive" policy.—*Rich. Examiner.*

Dr. R. K. Speed.—We are gratified to state that Dr. Speed will serve the people, if elected, as Senator from Pasquotank and Perquimans in the next Legislature. Dr. S. is a sterling patriot and highly intelligent gentleman. The interests of the people of the two counties could not be confided to safer hands.—*Ref. Standard.*