

J. J. BRUNER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

For the Watchman.

FROM THE 4TH N. C. S. TROOPS.

CAMP NEAR WINCHESTER, VA., October 21st, 1862.

Smoke, wind, dust, and a thousand and one rumors are whirling about our ears, all agreeable enough, but the dust and smoke. We cannot avoid it or find a place where it does not come. Our eyes are sore—our nostrils are clogged, "lunged up," as the boys call it. We sneeze, cough, and hicough, all to no purpose—matters grow worse, if possible. There is no use growing angry either, but "grin and bear it" is the best philosophy. Not all the rumors are so very agreeable. We have just received the news of the death of our General, George B. Anderson, and Ashe Fraley, Lieutenant in Co. A. Our General died from a wound in the foot, apparently slight, too, received at Sharpsburg. Fraley died of disease, at Staunton. I believe. Aside from this, we have intelligence from the West of the most cheering nature, in consequence of which, our troops are unusually lively. It is true, times are tight here with us; our rations are short and consist of nothing but beef and flour without a particle of salt, excepting about twice a week. These nights are chilly, and our clothing is not sufficient to make us comfortable, with a host of minor privations, each of which, is greater than we ever experienced at home. Still we have abundant reason to be thankful that it is no worse. I need not recapitulate the news from the West—they got to North Carolina before they reached us, and have undoubtedly caused a thrill of rejoicing to arouse every indifferent soul in the old North State. Aye, there may be many indifferent, and no doubt are rather inclined to rejoice over our reverses, but thanks to our Congressmen, the conscript law is a most valuable institution for them. It may compel many of them to see a little service, though they should desert and make their homes in caves and rocks of the mountains; an experiment which a dozen or more from our regiment are trying now. It is even so, and this is how it happened. Three or four days ago we received orders to get ready for a march at short notice. Our small rations were cooked, knapsacks packed, cartridges given out until every man was supplied. Companies A and F were sent out on skirmish, and the remainder of the brigade was held in readiness to march at an instant. Besides these preparations, the wagons and sick, cooks, &c., were sent to the rear. Thus things remained until near sunset, when we were relieved, partially, by orders to "rest on our arms that night." The time passed on, but little sleeping was done. The darkness was intense, and a fine mist was falling; every thing favored the deserters. They decamped about two o'clock, on the morning of the 18th inst., and have not been heard from since. Various conjectures are about as to the motives that induced them to leave. Some think they are gone to the lick for a little, some that they are attempting a flank movement on the enemy on their own hook;—others think they are bound for home, since one of them has been much distressed about a ground full of whisky he left there, and "his wife might drink it all before he got back, if he staid till the war ended." Another wanted to train some young hounds to hunt possums, and so on. But the most plausible theory is, that they did not like the signs of the times during the day preceding. Well, in truth, those cartridges, burnished bayonets and gun barrels, and whetted swords, did look suspicious; but the next day passed quietly, though ready to march, and that evening brought the welcome news that the enemy had retreated across the Potomac, and the unexpected news that a parcel of our conscripts, including two or three old soldiers, retreated "the way Ward's ducks went."

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For the Watchman.

EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF DECEASED SOLDIERS.

This subject has engaged the attention and cordian of a number of influential and enterprising gentlemen in different denominations of the Church in our State. Stirring appeals are made to our sympathies, and agents are in the field to raise subscriptions. That the design is, per se, highly praiseworthy and noble—no friend of

humanity—no patriot will deny. But we submit that this is not the time for such an enterprise—and even if it were, the published plans are by no means the most expedient.

First, as to the time. We are engaged in a war of terrible proportions. The strength and resources of the whole people are severely taxed, and will probably be much more so. All that can be done and given is demanded by the immediate necessities of our Country. Every dime that can be spared is needed by our army and by the poor, who are multiplying in their numbers and their wants in every community. The patriot, the philanthropist and the Christian, after giving and doing what they can, must sigh from sweeping hearts for more efficient offerings to lay upon the altar of their Country—more sufficient gifts to believe and to prevent the sufferings of the brave and self-sacrificing in the army—of the innocent and destitute at home. Instead of having ought to spare for new educational schemes—they need millions more than they have for present urgent purposes. Furthermore, it is certainly premature to establish such institutions now. We know not what a day may bring forth in such a struggle as this. The whole nation is in the tumult and confusion of a vast revolution drenched in blood. A numerous and powerful invading foe presses us by sea and by land. Extensive incursions have been made already upon the territory of almost every State of the Confederacy. They are attempting to penetrate yet further. They have shown themselves insensible to the claims of civilization, humanity, charity, innocence, virtue and religion. We should wait till the times are more settled—till the problem involved in our struggle is at least more nearly solved.

This is no time to erect buildings and supply institutions of learning with the requisite apparatus and facilities. Labor is too scarce, men are needed elsewhere—every thing is too costly. The children of deceased soldiers can't generally leave home now, any way, even if there were a possibility of opening the halls of those institutions soon. The sons and daughters are required at home to assist their mother and those who are younger than themselves.

When the time arrives for the inauguration of this most excellent purpose of educating the sons and daughters of the defenders of our rights—the achievers of our independence—there are other plans preferable to those now proposed. Does it not appear to any reflecting mind that it would be better to deposit a fund for the education of these orphans at some of the Colleges already built and in operation? Why should it be thought necessary to expend such a large portion of the money when we already have buildings, that are furnished with apparatus, Libraries, and every thing belonging to such establishments? Again, has not the history of Education in our country, generally, yes, almost invariably, proven the inexpediency of building extensive schemes on a single idea? What has become of the High Schools and Colleges of the Masons, Old Fellows, &c.? They have nearly all entirely failed. It is well, too, to inquire to what degree the education of these orphans is to be a gratuity. Are they only to have their tuition free? Will they be clothed, boarded, supplied with books and other facilities? They are essential considerations.

In writing these thoughts, we cordially disavow any intention to interfere with any undertaking that promises to bless the fatherless trusts committed to the mercy of the surviving by the noble-hearted martyrs of our cause. Show the expediency as to the time and the manner—and we end all will espouse the interests of the enterprises and give heart and hand to aid them. If our views are incorrect, we hope to be set right by those who know more of such things than we. But until we are convinced, we must enter our kind, but earnest protest against any effort to draw money from the pockets of the friends of those soldiers and their families—for new and impracticable educational purposes—while the immediate necessities of the body and the soul are so great.

October 27, 1862.

For the Watchman.

A WORD OF WARNING TO ALL.

Dear Friends: The time has come, when we should begin to inquire into the state of things relating to the great struggle now amongst us, what may not be some of the causes that so many of our fellow-men are falling on the right and on the left? and why the prospect for peace is so better now

than when the war first commenced? The Lord said to his ancient people Israel, that if they would walk in his statutes, and keep his commandments, that he would give them rain in due season, and the land should yield her increase, and he would give peace in the land; neither shall the sword go through your land, and ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword, and five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight, and so on.

But if they would not hearken unto Him, that he would send terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that should consume their eyes, and cause sorrow of heart, and they should sow their seed in vain, for their enemies should eat it. Time and space will not allow me to dwell on the promises and threats of Providence, but I will refer you to the twenty-sixth chapter of Leviticus and twenty-eighth chapter of Deuteronomy, and, in fact, through the greater part of the Bible; but in the first verse in the first chapter referred to, you will find an idol spoken of. Now, we may ask, is it possible, that in a land like ours, that there should be idols? Alas! 'tis too true. What is it that so many are worshipping in these trying times? I answer, it is money. Extortioners take warning, you, as well as all others, who are not obeying the Bible, have an idol; one, too, that cannot help you, when the Lord says, I will bring seven times more plague upon you, according to your sins. Now, then, if we believe the Bible, and believe that what was necessary to save Israel, is also necessary to save us, how important is it, that we should, without delay, turn from our evil ways; that we should worship our Creator, instead of money, or idols of any kind, for, be assured, that the cry of those who, through speculation, are made to suffer for the necessities of life, will be heard by Him, who hath declared, that if ye will not, for all this, hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me, then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. Now, if these things be so, (and I am sure that we cannot dispute what the Bible says) that the Lord of heaven and earth will fight for those who keep his commandments, and deliver those that fear Him, why? I ask, why is it that we do not turn, as a people, from our evil ways, and be saved from utter ruin? I will simply say, then, to all those that are getting rich, through speculation, in these war times, to stop and read the chapters referred to, and many others that might be pointed out, and see if they cannot find out some of the reasons why times are the way they are.

FROM A FRIEND.

Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroad.—The annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad Company was held in Lincoln on Wednesday last, the 22d instant. Doctor W. T. J. Miller, of Cleveland, president, and James L. McCallum acted as Secretary.

The usual business was transacted—receiving the Reports of the President and other officers, &c. The board of Directors was authorized to subscribe such sum as they may think proper for the establishment of works on Deep River (as recommended by a late Railroad Convention) for the manufacture of Railroad iron, &c.

The following gentlemen were elected Directors for the ensuing year: H. W. Guion and C. C. Henderson of Lincoln; A. G. Logan of Rutherford, G. Dickens of Cleveland, S. W. Davis of Mecklenburg, S. H. Walkup of Union, S. W. Cole of Anson, W. L. Steele of Richmond, R. S. French of Robeson, John A. McDowell of Bladen, Jas. Green of Brunswick, R. H. Cowan and John Dawson of New Hanover. Messrs. Green and Dawson are new Directors in place of Messrs. Meares and Van Bokklyn.

H. W. Guion was re-elected President. Officers for the Eastern Division—N. S. Carpenter, Superintendent; J. L. McCallum, Secretary and Treasurer; R. P. Atkinson, Chief Engineer and Master of Transportation; J. B. Gayle, Master of Machinery; C. M. Thompson, Road Master.

Officers for the Western Division—B. S. Guion, Engineer and Superintendent; V. A. McBoe, Treasurer.

The Road is completed ten miles beyond Lincoln, and graded to Shelby; but not enough iron at hand to finish it to the latter place. On the lower end, it is finished to within 12 1/2 miles of Rockingham in Richmond county; from that point to Charlotte, part is under contract, and negotiations pending for letting the balance to contractors.

Rockingham, Richmond county, was selected as the place for holding the next annual meeting.—Chr. Democrat.

A Pressing Yankee Want.—The Philadelphia Inquirer thus enlarges upon the necessity of subjugating Virginia:

We want Virginia; eagerly, earnestly, and in a hurry; scores of victories elsewhere, Smith's redoubtable, Kentucky "cleared out," Charleston taken, cannot make amends for Virginia unconquered; the seat, stronghold and main stay of the rebellion itself. Let our policy be to conquer Virginia at once; to place the axe at the foot of the tree; to dictate terms from Richmond; and to destroy the tobacco warehouses with grand bonfire and illumination.

To do this, let us concentrate all our forces which can now be spared, or which shall be raised for this purpose, and move without any further delay. Let every regiment in garrison be sent into the field, and replaced by one of the new levies, and then marched forward. Let us push forward through and over all obstacles, harassing the enemy day and night; when he advances, drive him back; when he retires, pursue him; when he halts an hour at bay, overthrow him; if there are to be overpowering numbers, let them be on our side, and not his. Let us conquer Virginia, or expend every man and every dollar in showing that it cannot be done.

The want of the Government and the nation is Virginia. Happy the man who supplies the want; happy now and in eternum; for, when we have Virginia, then cometh the end.

Fendish Outrage.—A deed committed by Federal soldiers has come to the knowledge of the writer, which is shocking beyond description, and the bare mention of which will produce a thrill of horror in every Southern breast. The information comes in such a shape as to leave no doubt in regard to the truth of the story.

A few years ago, a young lady of Columbia, Tenn., was married to a young lawyer of Helena, Ark.—She was educated, talented, witty and accomplished in a high degree. We speak from personal knowledge in making this affirmation. They were comfortably settled in Helena, and were blessed with one or more children. Her husband is in the Southern army. Five Federal soldiers, including an officer, forcibly seized this lady, carried her to a barn, and each of them committed an outrage on her person. In two or three weeks she died, a victim to their brutality, and the grief and mortification produced by their treatment of her.

Her husband is said to be a Lieut. Colonel of some regiment. The writer knows him, and could give his name, but forbears to do so.

Soldiers and men of the South, think of this unparalleled deed of crime and infamy, and let it nerve you to fight for the protection of your wives and children, and to drive back and destroy the invaders of your country and despoilers of your homes.— Knoxville Register.

Foreigners going North.—The Confederate Government has offered every facility, by truce boats, to foreigners, who wished to go North to do so, since the commencement of hostilities. But it seems that the Federal Government, in its desperation to obtain recruits, requires that hereafter "no alien, claiming foreign protection, can have any demand for transportation or subsistence on truce boats, without previous arrangements, authorized, granted and recognized by the United States authorities." Thus, it will be seen, says the Richmond Enquirer, the foreigner in the South must obtain authority from the North before he can obtain egress, and this authority, for the present at least, must be based upon the condition alone that he will sell his soul to the Federal Government.—South Carolinian.

ANOTHER APPEAL FOR OUR SICK AND WOUNDED.

The condition of our sick and wounded soldiers is most distressing. Thousands are daily turned from the army in a state of utter destitution—naked, hungry, mutilated and suffering. Something must be done for the relief of these brave but unfortunate men—these noble patriots who have sacrificed so much to uphold the honor of North Carolina. To every true and loyal son and daughter of the State, I appeal, then in behalf of these bleeding, hungry and dying heroes, urging them, in the name of religion, humanity, patriotism and every ennobling sentiment of their nature, to contribute of their abundance or of their poverty—the rich man's offering, or the widow's mite—something, at least, for the benefit of this suffering but most gallant army of martyrs.

All donations should be forwarded to the N. Carolina Depot, either at Raleigh or Richmond, to the care of the undersigned.

EDWARD WARREN, Sarg. Gen. of N. C. STAUNTON, Va., Oct. 10, 1862.

The Charlotte Democrat, in giving the statement from the K. Standard, that some of our manufacturers refuse to comply with the exemption act and to be satisfied with seventy-five per cent profit, says:

"Any reasonable man ought to be satisfied with 75 per cent profit, and we have heard of a few instances where the manufacturer was satisfied with less than 75 per cent.—But the instances are precious few. Mr. John F. Phifer, of Lincolnton, until recently sold his yarn at \$1.50 per bale, and he now only charges, \$3, while others charge \$4. Gen. Neel of this county, we learn, has been selling at \$3 and \$4. Young, Wriston and Orr, of this place, proprietors of Rock Island Woolen Factory, have agreed to furnish cloth to the State for soldiers' clothing at about 50 per cent profit."

We have heard it said by the spinners themselves, in the piping times of peace, that if they could sell their yarn for double the cost of the raw material, they would be satisfied, for they would be making a handsome profit indeed. We learn that factories in this neighborhood are selling yarn at \$4.50 and \$5.00 a bunch, and yet cotton can be bought in this county for from 15 to 18 cents per pound—good clean cotton at that. Even at 20 cents according to what they have heretofore said; a bunch at this time ought to bring only \$3.00.—N. C. Argus.

The Accident on the Wil. and Weldon Railroad.—We learn from Mr. Blaney, Conductor on the above Road, that the reported casualties by the accident near Maguolia on Saturday last, have been greatly exaggerated. There was one man, a colored brakeman, killed, and he was standing on the platform. Two others, soldiers, somewhat injured, but not seriously. The accident is supposed to have been caused by the falling of a brake, which threw the after cars off, upsetting some four of them.—Wil. Journal.

Remarkable Mortality.—Within a year past the Principal Bank of Cape Fear, at Wilmington, has lost by death, its President, Cashier, and five of its ten Directors. Two of the latter died of Yellow Fever. Truly is Wilmington an afflicted city. We have heard it stated that in the large congregation of St. James' Church there is not a pew whose occupants are not clothed in mourning.—Fay. Ob.

Small Pox in Guilford.—A soldier returned from the army by the name of Francis, is sick in the north-west part of this county, some fifteen miles from this place, and the disease is said to be small pox. No other case, so far as we have heard, has occurred.—Greene, Pat.