

and unsafe, a retrograde movement will undoubtedly follow. Should Van Dorn and Forrest continue successful in the rear of the Federal army, as at Holly Springs, necessity will soon compel an evacuation of North Mississippi by Grant's army, and his retreat will only end when he reaches supplies at Memphis.

The Federals are laying waste some of the plantations on the Yazoo river. Our sharpshooters on the river bank in the West are doing good service. They secrete themselves in the woods and amuse themselves by killing the Federals, and the Federals in return shell the woods without any damage to us. We are decidedly the winners in this game—sure.

Jeff Thompson, the famous partisan fighter, has turned up again. He reported to General Sherman that he had captured a Yankee plunder and sent him a large lot of shoes for his soldiers. He was at the head of three thousand men, and said to the General: "I want to be let alone and have no orders."

#### ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS IN THE RECENT YANKEE RAID IN TENNESSEE.

The Lynchburg papers have some additional particulars of the recent raid in Tennessee by the Yankees. The *Virginian's* account says:

The raid in East Tennessee appears to have been a more important affair than was supposed. It seems that it was made by a cavalry force of the enemy said to be two or three thousand strong, who came from Kentucky through Pound Gap. They burnt the railroad bridge over the Holston at Zollicoffer, not far beyond Bristol. They burnt the wagon bridge over the same river. A considerable portion of the track was also torn up, and the telegraph broken down.

The expedition then started west, and no doubt succeeded in doing a good deal of other mischief. The bridge over the Holston was quite a long one, and is the same that was destroyed last summer. We believe that about three months were occupied in its reconstruction. The interruption which will thus be caused in the transportation of freights will be a very serious matter. This is the main route for Government transportation east, west and south, as well as for the public.

Passengers by the Western train yesterday evening brought some additional particulars. After burning the bridge at Zollicoffer, the party passed on to the Watauga and burnt the bridge across the river. The distance between these two points is nine miles, and there is no engine between them. The wagon road is, we learn, a very bad one, so that little can be done in that way towards transporting freight. After burning the bridge at Watauga, the party set out on their retreat. They camped the night before visiting Zollicoffer at Blountville, and the number was estimated at from 1,000 to 15,000! They stretched out along the road a distance of three miles. They are said to have been led or guided by a man named Otey Ward, who formerly resided in Scott county, Virginia, but removed to Kentucky before the war began. A body of 1,000 soldiers left Bristol Tuesday night to endeavor to intercept the villains on their retreat.

We learned from a gentleman just from Tennessee, that there were but five companies of the Yankee cavalry, supposed to be not more than 250 men, who made the raid on the bridge at Zollicoffer. They were commanded by Major Russell, came from Eastern Kentucky, and had been five days and nights in the saddle. After they had surprised our men, numbering about one hundred, and accomplished their work, they threw themselves down and slept soundly from sheer exhaustion. Horses as well as men are reported to have been completely worn down. They were guided by an East Tennessee Tory.

#### The *Virginian* adds—

This is one of the boldest and most successful raids the enemy has ever made on us, and the damage done is very great. It is singular that the gaps in the mountain should not have been so guarded as to prevent raids of this kind. Such an oversight is inexcusable. We seem to profit but little by experience. A lesson was taught the authorities last spring on this same subject which ought to have proved salutary, but it seems not to have been heeded. Now, all the same terrible delays, inconveniences and expense are to be encountered over again. What is that happy specimen of Generalship, Humphrey Marshall, about? Are his capacities even below the ability to keep back Yankee cavalry raids? If so, would it not be well for him to retire from service which does not seem to prosper specially in his keeping.

#### The Abingdon *Virginian* says:

The particulars, as far as we have heard them are, that the Federal force, consisting of three regiments, comprising some fifteen hundred men, principally from Ohio and Pennsylvania, under the command of Gen. James Carter, a renegade from Carter county, Tennessee. They entered this State by a bridge way in Black Mountain, a high point in the Cumberland range, leading from Letcher Court House, Kentucky, into the upper end of Lee county, Virginia. This pass is said to be twelve miles through, and is nearly opposite the Big Stone Gap, in Lee county. It is surprising that so large a force could get through so difficult a way, and that, too, without tidings of it preceding them.

As soon as the news reached General Marshall at this place, he immediately dispatched all the troops he had in pursuit of the devils, and accompanied them in person. A volunteer company was also raised here in a few minutes, who proceeded to Tennessee on Tuesday night, under the command of Lieutenant Warren M. Hopkins, who happened to be here from the Rappahannock on short furlough.

A dispatch from Gen. Marshall, Wednesday night at nine o'clock, states that the Federals were near Blountville, and he expected to attack them Thursday morning.

#### FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

We have private advices from Bristol so late as the 1st instant. On that day the firing cannon was distinctly heard in the direction of Moccasin Gap, a point in Russell county, Virginia, towards which the Yankees retreated after their raid upon the Virginia and Tennessee railroad. General Marshall, with three thousand men, infantry, cavalry and artillery, was known to be in pursuit of the enemy, and it was thought would overtake them in the vicinity of Moccasin. The Yankee force, both men and horses, were in a terribly jaded condition, and would, it was thought, prove an easy prey to General Marshall's fresh troops.

The damage to the bridges on the railroad is not near so serious as was at first supposed. Their destruction was so far from thorough that the heavy timbers were reconstructed.

A gentleman who was in Union when the Yankees visited that place, after their performances on the railroad, says they were very civil in their intercourse with the people and interfered with no private property except horses, which they took wherever they could find them, leaving their own broken down beasts in exchange. They were well supplied with counterfeit Confederate notes, with which they offered to pay for everything they wanted, and manifested a great desire to buy watches. Some of the unsophisticated citizens of Union were imposed upon with the bogus currency.

The result of General Marshall's movements will certainly be authentically heard from in the next day or two. At last accounts an unconfirmed rumour had reached Bristol that the enemy had been overtaken and severely handled near Moccasin Gap. *Richmond Examiner.*

The most startling political crime, the most stupid political blunder, yet known in American history, has now been consummated.—The promised proclamation of Abraham Lincoln to decapitate the abolition of negro slavery, in all the States of the late Union not yet subjugated by the arms of the United States, is laid before the reader this morning.

It is difficult to decide whether wickedness or folly predominates in this extraordinary document.—When it is remembered that the man who signs his name beneath it has sworn, by the most solemn of human oaths, to maintain, enforce, and obey that Constitution which guarantees the present relation of master and slave, in the most express terms; that he has been educated, like every other American, to a full sense of his obligation on every citizen of the country; that vast powers have been entrusted to his hands, for the express purpose of defending every letter in that Constitution; when we remember these things, and here see a President of the United States flying in the face of that oath, proclaiming the annihilation of that Constitution, and using the forces confided to him, for its destruction—the exaggerated enormity of such a perjury is calculated to shock the most hardened. The pretence that slavery is abolished as an act of justice to the negro, will provoke a smile if the hypocritical falsehood did not excite disgust. In Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky, and those portions of Virginia and Louisiana now in possession of his armies, the institution of slavery is left in its full force. Yet these are the portions of the late Union in which this violator of human and divine laws possesses the power—the actual, practical power—of destroying the relation between master and slave. If sympathy for the slave and justice to the negro were the least of his motives, he would take especial care and pains that his proclamation should be fully applied to those districts where he has the means of executing its provisions. But he directs it only to those portions of the Southern Confederacy still inhabited by free citizens, where his armies have never been, and where his proclamation can take effect only in the bloody scenes of foreign conquest or servile insurrection.

To produce this last named effect—servile insurrection—is the real, sole purpose of this proclamation. No glazing words, no whining exhortation of good order to the slaves, conceal or disguise this horrid intention. No other translation of this paper will be given to it either in Europe or America. That it will fail to accomplish this vile end, and be void and entirely without effect in the Southern Confederacy, unless our armies should be not only beaten, but destroyed, are truths which need not be explained or argued before our readers. So far from being a cause of alarm, this proclamation is a subject of congratulation to the friends of the Southern cause. It exposes the true character of the enemy, beyond the possibility of misconception and contempt of Europe, and fill every mind of the North that still retains the traces of humanity, with amazement, indignation, and horror. Its effect on the people of the South will be most salutary. It shifts the door of retreat and repentance on the weak and timid. Those who would turn back in their path, if there are any, have now no longer that miserable chance. Even submission now cannot procure mercy. The deed is done, and the Southern people have only to choose between victory and death.

*Richmond Examiner.*

#### Pointed and Truthful Remarks.

We invite the particular attention of our readers to the following extracts from a speech recently delivered in the Legislature of Georgia, by the Hon. Linton Stephens, a brother of Vice President Stephens clearly shows not only the unconstitutionality of the conscription law, but the fact that its passage was not really necessary to the defence of the country.

Mr. Stephens said:

"I beg to refresh the memories of gentlemen as to the history of another government, and ask them if that government deserves contempt? I allude to a government which has passed away—not the old United States government, but that other government which perished in giving birth to the United States government—the government of the old Confederation.—Sir, that was a glorious old government. What

ever its defects and its faults were, it is entitled to the gratitude not only of every American, but of every lover of liberty the wide world over. It was the government that achieved our liberties. It was the government whose Commander-in-Chief was Washington. It was the government that successfully resisted the most powerful government upon the face of the earth. It was the government from whose hands we have received all the blessings we have enjoyed, and for which we are now fighting to-day. It was a government whose memories are dear to our hearts. Who will rise up and say that government deserves the contempt of mankind? and yet, Sir, that government had no compulsory power over the States. That government had not the very power, the want of which gentlemen now affirm subjects any government to the contempt of mankind. Their power over the States was advisory only, and not compulsory. The could not do a thing for the States but such as the States themselves might do for themselves. That government was adequate to the maintenance of its party, and to its achievement against the greatest power that existed upon the earth. Can our people close their eyes to the grand lesson which is to be gathered from the history of that government?—We are warned by gentlemen, and by some of our public journals, against the danger from the State governments. Sir, I have no such apprehension. Let gentlemen who are alarmed from an excess of State rights take comfort from the history of the old Confederation. There is no danger from that quarter. Centralization, consolidation, central usurpation, is the rock upon which we have split, and it is the rock which we have to dread in the future. We judge the future by the past; and judging our future by the American past, I proclaim that the danger which we have to apprehend is not from the States, but from central usurpation, which has already resulted in the destruction of the old United States government, and in our secession, and in our repudiation of it on account of that usurpation.

Gov. Troup has been quoted as authority for this statement, that our government would be deserving of contempt if it lacked the power of conscription. Governor Troup was comparatively a young man when he uttered that sentiment. It was years afterwards that he, as Governor of Georgia, became distinguished as the champion of States rights. If you quote his words, sir, as authority on your side, I point you to his subsequent deed as authority on my side. If you quote his language which was uttered in a heated party contest, and under the indignation which he felt against the New England States for their blue light Federalism, I point you to what he did as Georgia's champion when her rights were assailed by the Federal government. When Governor Troup uttered that sentiment he was under a strong bias, arising out of a particular emergency and out of a desire to compel the New England States to perform what he thought was their duty. He did, in that heated contest, express the idea that sovereign States might be coerced. In my judgment it was a greater error, and was an error afterwards repented of, and boldly atoned for.

And this leads me to remark upon another view in which the conscription presents itself to my mind. The essence of conscription is the right to take away the fighting men of the States against the will of both the citizens and the States. It is the right, make what you will of it, to coerce sovereign States. It is the right which Mr. Lincoln is now claiming over us, and which we are resisting with our blood, and which, I trust, we shall never cease to resist until the pretension is abandoned. I do say it, sir, not with the intention to offend anybody, and I do not believe, therefore, that I shall offend anybody; but I declare, conscription, as it presents itself to my mind, is, in its essence and its constitution, the very embodiment of Lincolnism, which our gallant armies are today resisting. It is a power in the central head to coerce sovereign States.

A few words now as to the history of conscription, and I have done. Its justification has been placed upon the plea of necessity. Sir, it is a feeble plea. There never was any necessity for it, and there is none now. This plea of necessity is generally a pretext, and, under our happy constitution, it is always untrue. Our Constitution was made for war as well as for peace, and the powers conferred by it upon the different departments of the Confederate Government are adequate to all the necessities of war, without any enlargement of them by doubtful construction, or by usurpation. The particular necessity which has been alleged for conscription was a necessity to seize and hold in service the twelve-months' men whose term was about to expire. But, sir, this is a pretext. It is within my knowledge that, as long ago as last fall, several months before the expiration of the term of the twelve-months' men, General Fremont (then a member of the Confederate Congress) introduced a bill to replenish the army and supply the places of those twelve-months' men who would be going out. His bill was in conformity with the old recognized constitutional mode of requisitions upon the States for troops, leaving to the States the appointment of officers, where the Constitution places it; and I have heard it said by those who heard on that occasion, that, in support of that bill, he made the greatest speech of his life. But it was lost, and it was because the President said he did not want troops at that time. The subject of replenishing the army was then allowed to sleep until the eve of the expiration of the twelve-months' men, and then conscription was sprung upon the country, and rushed through Congress under the cry of necessity. Now, sir, I say, in the first place, if there was any necessity for it at the time when it was adopted, that necessity was created for the occasion. Their attention had been called, in a remarkable manner, to the replenishing of the army in a constitutional way, and they had refused to make the provision for it, deliberately, intentionally, refused. The appointment of the officers was the milk in the coconut.

But, sir, I go further and say that, with all their attempts to create a necessity for conscription, they did not create it; and that at the very time it was passed there was not the slightest necessity for it. The twelve-months' men, whose time was about to expire, could have been retained in the service under the old constitutional mode of making requisitions upon the States, just as well as by conscription; and I defy any man to deny it. It will not be denied in the debate. This, sir, is another one of the points in my argument which I predict will not be touched. Congress, in making its requisition upon the States, had only to shape the requisition so as to specify the twelve-months' men as the troops which they desired, and the States, by their sovereign power, could have furnished, each for herself, her twelve months' men, who were then in the field, just as she could furnish any of her citizens, who were then at home, in response to a requisition.

There was, therefore, no necessity for conscription. But the history does not stop there; we have had two conscription laws. How any man dared to urge the plea of necessity in favor of the second one? When that one was passed, we had just emerged from a series of victories—We had no troops whose terms were about to expire. It was a simple question as to the mode of getting new recruits from home for our armies already in the field. Where was the necessity in that instance, for disregarding the rights of the citizen, and the rights of the States, by repeating conscription upon us?

Again, sir, the old constitutional mode of making requisitions upon the States was tendered by Mr. Yancey of Alabama. His proposition was voted down—deliberately voted down—upon the plea of necessity, and when no man had the hardihood to allege necessity. I tell you, sir, and I tell the people of Georgia, that conscription has never been necessary, and that it never will be necessary, and that it never can be necessary, but from no conviction of necessity, but from premeditation and deliberation. It has been a matter of choice with our government, and they intend to adhere to it to the end unless you drive them from it, by rising in the majesty of a free people, and calling them back to the landmarks of the Constitution. This, sir, is the great reason why I ask and beseech an expression from the Legislature of the sovereign State of Georgia, upon this great violation which has been perpetrated upon the rights of her citizens and of her sovereignty. The object to be accomplished by such an expression of opinion on your part is to prevent its being drawn into a precedent for your subsequent oppression, and to induce your rulers to recede from the existing aggression upon your rights."

#### From the Charlotte Bulletin. THE CONSCRIPT LAW AND THE COTTON FACTORIES.

Mr. Editor.—A recent military order has been issued by Gov. Vance, virtually suppressing the further manufacture of cotton and woolen goods in Gaston County, N. C., and which will, no doubt be extended to other localities. As it will expose a large number of citizens to serious evils and probably to much personal want and suffering at this inclement season, it seems to call for some special public notice.—The public are at this crisis, as much interested as any private individual in the effects of this order. It is on this account, as well as to correct certain mistakes and false impressions in respect to the whole subject, that I ask space in your paper, as one of the sufferers, from what I consider an unauthorized oppressive measure, to be heard over my own name.

I have every confidence in the fairness and sense of justice of our people when they clearly understand the question submitted, and to their judgment, when thus informed, I am always disposed to yield.

As I shall comment on this order I copy it entire as follows:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, N. C.,  
Adjutant General's Office,  
Raleigh, Dec. 23, 1862.

"COLONEL: Information has been received by his Excellency the Governor, that the Factories in Gaston County, known as Stowe & Co., Linberger & Co., and T. R. Tate, are selling their goods at a price much beyond what is allowed by the law of Congress, namely 75 per cent on the cost. In consideration of this you are instructed to arrest and send to camp all white males between ages of eighteen and forty years of age, whether owners or not.

Respectfully,  
J. O. C. WINDER,  
A. A. G.

Col. M. H. Hand, Stovesville, Gaston Co., N. C."

"I should like to know what 'information' the Governor had and from whom obtained? It certainly should have been from a credible source and delivered under the sanctions of an oath and not derived from mere rumor and hearsay. Yet, upon these points, the Governor gives us no light. That his informant was not strictly accurate is manifest, for there is no such firm known to me as 'Stowe & Co.' Had he called on the firm of J. & E. B. Stowe, they, and I am sure Messrs. Tate and Linberger & Co. would have given all proper and entirely accurate information of their business, and they would thus have had the opportunity and right, dear to every freeman, of being heard before being condemned. In this, Gov. Vance has certainly erred.

"2. There is no 'price allowed by law' to cotton and woolen factories. The Exemption Law, now before me, declares that 'their superintendents and managers may be exempted by the Secretary of War' on certain conditions and not by the Governor of any State, and Governor Vance should certainly have informed himself, on competent evidence, that the Gaston County factories were not so exempted before he issued his imperial edict against them. This is certainly error No. 2.

"3. Again, it is the Secretary of War and not the Governor, who, in express terms, is made the sole judge of any violation of the exemption law, for the law reads:

"And it is further provided, That if the proprietors of any such manufacturing establishments shall be shown, upon evidence to be submitted to and judged by the Secretary of War, to have violated or in any manner evaded the true intent and spirit of the foregoing proviso, the exemptions therein granted shall no longer be extended to the superintendents and operatives of said establishments." &c.

From this it is clear that Gov. Vance has authority in the premises and has assumed to himself powers he does not rightfully possess, and has committed an official usurpation against which I have a right to protest and do protest, as arbitrary, illegal and oppressive.

"These conclusions being undeniable, I beg leave to suggest, in this connection, that Gov. Vance who showed such intense devotion to State Rights and to the rights of the citizen as to place himself in direct conflict with the Confederate Government in the case of *Graves*, accused of conspiracy and treason, (the most heinous crimes known to the law) seems to have forgotten what was due to other citizens of the State, above suspicion and reproach, and has actually volunteered to lead on the war against them, to their injury of the material interests of the whole State over which he presides, and to the benefit of no cause or class, besides the slender addition to the army of a mere handful of men who, from their previous habits and training, will probably make very indifferent soldiers, but who are invaluable to the country as experienced manufacturers;—and this has been done, too, I will add, in advance of any general enrollment of conscripts in Gaston County—a fact which might tempt us to indulge the suspicion that the Govern-

ment was intentionally doing and acting in regard to the Gaston business.

But this is not all. The immediate effect of this measure, thus shown to be unsupported by law, is to stop the Factories in question and thereby inflict on the community at this time of its utmost need, the loss per week, of not less than SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND YARDS of Calaburgs and Sheetings, TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND pounds of cotton yarn and the whole amount of woolen goods manufactured by Mr. T. R. Tate's large Factory, and to throw out of employment not less than two hundred hands, mostly females, without any other means of support, with a large number of children and aged women dependent upon them.

The order will involve the loss in the Factory of J. & E. B. Stowe of only two operatives—a carder and a spinner—whose places it is impossible to supply—of whom it is in delicate health and may be rejected by the surgeon in charge for the army.

It is not to be supposed that the loss of the business will arise from it.

I do not impeach the Governor's motives, with them I have nothing to do. It is his act alone that I review and if I am right in my opinion that his zeal in the public cause has misled his judgment and betrayed him into an error involving these grave consequences, it remains to be seen whether he will retract his steps and repair the injury he has done.

There are other views of this subject which I should be glad to present but time and space forbid me to do so now, further than to remark that in the clamor against manufacturers for selling their goods at prices fixed by the common laws of trade, people forget that all marketable goods are sold at prices fixed by the same laws.

JASPER STOWE,  
Stovesville, N. C., Jan. 5, 1863.

#### The Watchman.

SALISBURY, N. C.  
MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 12, 1863.

We have in reserve several valuable articles for our next paper, which could not be got in this, among them H. A. BARNUM'S Card, giving an account of his visit to Salisbury to execute a writ of *habeas corpus*—a subject of great interest to every body.

Small Pox—This disease has appeared in several parts of our town, and the authorities have been endeavoring to do something to arrest its progress. There is a weighty responsibility upon them, and they are expected to bear it worthy the confidence of the community.

Mr. Nathan Harrison, in the country, and one or two negroes in town, have died of the disease since our last.

Also 12 persons out of 4 families on Sandy Ridge neighborhood. There are two cases at the Way-side Hospital in this town.

Lincoln's Proclamation freeing the negroes, has been issued. It is likely to fail in giving the satisfaction his friends anticipated. He proclaims freedom for all the negroes in that part of the South now in resistance to his authority, and excepts those parts under the restraint of Federal bayonets. The wicked intent as regards territory not under his control is apparent enough; but what becomes of abolition philanthropy in those sections where he had the power to give it a practical illustration? The fact is, old Abe is a great nave. He wants cotton, sugar and rice, and he knows he can't get these without negro labor. Therefore, he declines to free the negroes in his power, and simply intends to make them hoe cotton and raise sugar and rice as they have always done.

The Gaston County Factories, have got into a difficulty with Governor Vance by charging more than seventy-five per cent for the goods they are manufacturing, and the Governor has ordered the Colonel in that County to arrest such of the owners and operatives as come under the Conscrip Act, and send them into the army. Jasper Stowe, Esq., a proprietor of one of these Factories, has written a very plain, pointed and manly letter which shows the Governor to be at a disadvantage. Perhaps if the Governor were to write he would make the case look different. We hope and believe the Governor will do as nearly right as any man can. No one doubts the correctness of his motives, and but few question the wisdom of his actions. He will certainly endeavor to perform his official duties fearlessly, and as promptly as he can.

MOVEMENTS OF THE ENEMY.

A rumor was current on yesterday that General Sumner and his division had left Aquia creek on transports for the South.

It was also reported via Petersburg, that an expedition of gunboats and transports under the command of General Negley, had left Fort Monroe on the 1st instant for some Southern port.

From indications deemed unmistakable, the enemy is preparing to make a grand demonstration upon Goldsboro' or Wilmington, and there is little doubt that the first clash of arms will come to our ears from that quarter. In the Southwest the hostile armies are probably both too much exhausted to do anything for a long time to come.—*Rich. Examiner.*

50,000 FRUIT TREES WILL BE SOLD AT AUCTION THE 20th of January 1863, at CARTER'S NURSERY, Raleigh, N. C.

These Trees are the best ever raised in the Confederacy, true to name and description. Jan 12, 1863

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