

J. J. BRUNER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

The following is a description by a Northern man of a battle which may now be considered old; but as showing how our troops fought on the first day of the battle before...

The Rebel Onset—An Awful Scene.

A member of one of the New York artillery companies, prominently engaged in the first day's fight in front of Richmond, writes as follows in regard to the action:

Our spherical case shot were awful missiles, each of them consisting of a clotted mass of seventy-six musket balls, with a charge of powder in the centre, that is fired with a fuse, the same as a shell. The missile first acts as a solid shot, plowing its way through masses of men, and then exploding, hurling forward a shower of musket balls that mow down the foe in heaps.

Our battery threw 24 of these a minute, and as we had the exact range of every part of the field, every shot told with frightful effect. But the enemy were not at all daunted—they marched steadily on, and hailed a perfect torrent of balls upon us. Why we, as well as our horses, were not shot down, will forever remain a mystery to me. We did not mind the leaden hail, however, but kept pouring our case shot into the dense masses of the foe, who came on in prodigious and overwhelming forces. And they fought splendidly, too. Our shot tore their ranks wide open, and shattered them asunder in a manner that was frightful to witness; but they closed up again at once, and came on as steadily as English veterans. When they got within 400 yards, we closed our case shot and opened on them with canister; and such destruction I never elsewhere witnessed. At each discharge great gaps were made in their ranks—indeed whole companies went down before that murderous fire, but they closed up with an order and discipline that was awestruck. They seemed to be animated with the courage of despair, blending with the hope of a speedy victory if they could, by an overwhelming rush, drive us from our position. It was awful to see their ranks torn and shattered by every discharge of canister that we poured right into their faces, and while their dead and dying lay in piles, closed up and still kept advancing right in the face of the fire. At one time, three lines, one behind another, were steadily advancing, and three of their flags were brought into range of our guns, and a gap was opened through those three lines as if a thunderbolt had torn through them, and the dead lay in swaths. They at once closed up and came steadily on, never halting or wavering, right through the woods, over the fence, through the field, right at us to our guns, and sweeping everything before them, captured every piece. When we delivered our last fire, they were within 15 or 20 paces of us, and as all our horses were either killed or wounded, we could not carry off a gun. Our whole division was cut to pieces, with what loss I do not know. We fell back to a second line of entrenchment, and there held the enemy in check until reinforcements arrived, and then we kept our position until night put an end to the battle.

A LONDON PAPER.

We have before us the London Index, of January 1st, 1863, which of course "run the blockade." It is a large double sheet, very handsomely printed. The Index is the Southern paper in London. The number before us contains in full the message of Gov. Vance to the Legislature of this State, in November last, together with much other matter relating to our State, and the Southern people generally. The Index, in its notice of Gov. Vance's message, says:

"Regarded simply as a study of the political institutions to which both of the great American Federations profess themselves equally attached, but which in the South alone survived the onslaught of Democracy and the shocks of a great revolution, this message, despite its great length, will well repay perusal. It is impossible to read it carefully and not obtain from it clearer ideas of the relations of the State to the central government or common agency of all the States—the very point which forms the complex problem of American politics, and presents the greatest difficulties to the European student. The message is not an essay on this subject, but is all the more instructive for not being an essay. * * * This message is calculated to raise the character of Southern State government in English estimation. At all events, it throws much light upon the internal workings of the Confederate political system."

This is high praise from a journal which views the message from a position unaffected by prejudice or party feeling. Indeed, the publication in full of the document in the Index, is in itself a compliment to the State and to our worthy Governor.—N. C. Standard.

Movement of Yankee Prisoners.—About six thousand Yankee prisoners, from all parts of the South, will arrive at Richmond during the next two weeks, to be sent North per flag of truce. Preparations are being made at the Libby prison for their reception. Petersburg Express.

Death in a Church.—Miss Jane M. Cuyler, a lady of advanced age, died suddenly while at her devotions in Christ Church, Savannah, on the 1st instant.

The Confederate Congress.

THURSDAY, March 5, 1863.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

be suspended for the purpose of considering the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That when the House adjourn to-day it adjourn to meet at 11 o'clock tomorrow, and at the same hour each morning thereafter."

The motion was lost, when, on motion of Mr. E. M. Bruce, the House went into secret session and resumed the consideration of the Tax Bill.

In the abstract of the bill reported from the Committee of Ways and Means, to lay taxes for the common defence and carry on the Government of the Confederate States, published yesterday, the reporter gave only the amount of tax proposed to be levied on the various trades and occupations mentioned. With a view to impart a more thorough understanding of the scheme now under consideration, (which will probably be amended in some particulars,) it must be stated that the bill prohibits any person, association of persons, or corporation, from engaging in, prosecuting or carrying on, after a date not yet fixed upon, either of the trades or occupations mentioned in the list given in our last report, until he or they shall have obtained a license therefor in the manner hereinafter provided. The mode of obtaining the license is prescribed in the following sections:

"Sec. 3. That every person, association of persons, partnership or corporation, desiring to obtain a license to engage in any of the trades or occupations named in the ninth section of this act, shall register with the collector of the district in which he shall design to carry on such trade or occupation: First, his or their name or style, and in case of an association or partnership, the names of the several persons constituting such association or partnership, and their places of residence; Second, The trade or occupation for which a license is desired; Third, The place where such trade or occupation is to be carried on. All of which facts shall be returned duly certified by such district collector to the State collector; and thereupon, upon payment to the collector of the district of the amount hereinafter provided, such collector shall make out and deliver a license for such trade or occupation, which license shall continue in force for one year at the place or premises described therein.

"Sec. 4. That if any person or persons shall exercise or carry on any trade or business hereinafter mentioned, for which a license is required by this act, without taking out such license in that behalf required, he or they shall, for every such offense, respectively, forfeit a penalty equal to three times the amount of the duty or money imposed for such license, and of all other assessments upon the business one moiety thereof for the use of the Confederate States, the other moiety to the use of the informer.

"Sec. 5. That in every license to be taken out under or by authority of this act, shall be contained and set forth the purpose, trade or business for which such license is granted, for the manner and extent of conducting the same, and the true name and place of abode of the person or persons taking out the license, the time for which such license is to run, and the true date or time of granting such license, and (except in case of auctioneers and peddlers,) the place at which the trade or business, for which such license is granted shall be carried on; Provided, That a license, granted under this act, shall not authorize the person or persons, association or corporation, mentioned therein to exercise or carry on the trade or business, specified in such license, in any other place than that mentioned therein; but nothing herein contained shall prohibit the storage of goods, wares or merchandise, in other places than the place of business.

"Sec. 6. That every case where more than one of the pursuits, employments or occupations, hereinafter described, shall be pursued or carried on in the same place, by the same person, at the time, except as therein mentioned, license must be taken out for each, according to the rates severally prescribed."

AN ACT for the relief of the Wives and Families of Soldiers in the Army.

SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the sum of one million dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated to the use and benefit of the wives and families of indigent soldiers, who now are, or may hereafter be in the service of the State, or Confederate States, and all the wives and families of all indigent soldiers who have been or may hereafter be killed or die in the army or service of the country.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That at the earliest practicable time, it shall be the duty of the Chairman of each Court to notify the justices of his county to meet in the Court House, for the purpose of electing some person, to be styled a County Commissioner, a majority of the Magistrates being present.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That the sum of one million of dollars, as aforesaid, be equally divided amongst the several counties of the State, according to the white population, to be ascertained by the census of 1860.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That as soon as the Commissioner aforesaid, shall be elected and enter into bond with approved security, by the Court, it shall, and may be lawful, for the Treasurer of the State to pay

said Commissioner the amount due his county, of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and that the Treasurer shall be allowed for the same in the settlement of his accounts.

the County Commissioner, it shall be the duty of the Court to direct and establish such rules and regulations in the division and distribution of the money appropriated to the use and benefit of the wives and families of the indigent soldiers as to afford the greatest relief and comfort to them, whether the same shall be paid them in the whole, or in part, in cash or provisions, with power to purchase or receive produce or provisions of any kind from the State, in lieu of money, or such amount as the Court shall from time to time prescribe.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, That all counties that are or may be in the possession of the enemy shall receive the amount that they may be entitled to under the provisions of this act in North Carolina Treasury notes, and that the said counties shall receive the money direct from the Treasurer of the State without being subjected to the provisions of the bill in regard to the action of the justices, the said amount of money to be paid to the County Trustees of said Counties, and to be by them distributed according to the provisions of this bill. The said Trustees giving bond to the State in double the amount received by them to be distributed.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, That this Act shall be in force from and after its passage. Read three times and ratified in General Assembly this 10th day of February, A. D., 1863.

R. S. DONNELL, S. H. G. GILES, MEBANE, S. S.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Office of Secretary of State:

I, Jno. P. H. Russ, Secretary of State in and for North Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the original on file in this office. Given under my hand this 6th day of March, 1863.

JNO. P. H. RUSS, Secretary of State.

NEW ORLEANS.

[From the Picayune, February 18.] MARDI GRAS.—Yesterday was Mardi Gras, but how unlike the same day in the calendar of former years. Where are the merrymen and melodists that kept high carnival? "Where is the 'Mystick Krewe of Kemus'?" We saw nothing of them yesterday. Last night the merry maskers met, neither at the ball nor the festive board. There were no sounds of revelry, for mirth is no longer one of our "peculiar institutions."

The Overflow—Remarkable Escape.—Yesterday the city was visited by a shower or series of showers of wonderful force and volume, so much so indeed as to completely deluge our thoroughfares, making Canal street impassable, as almost all the streets in the city. During the overflow a little girl attempted to cross Julia street, at its intersection with Baronne, but as the crossing was completely hidden from view, she made a misstep and was at once drawn by force of the current beneath the iron bridge plates. Several persons, who saw the occurrence, attempted to snatch the child from the angry current, but were unable to do so. She was swept in beyond their reach, and it was impossible to save her life. Fortunately, however, the sluice was free from obstructions, and in half a minute after she went in at one end she emerged from the other. The water which she had swallowed during the "middle passage" made her sick, but after she had relieved her stomach of the dose she walked off as if nothing had happened, not even complaining that she was wet.

On the previous night two horses went through a bridge, the cover of which had been swept away, and it required the united exertions of six men to draw them out again. Such are some of the peculiarities of our water privileges.

Sixth District Court—Judge Howell.—In this court yesterday a petition for divorce, alimony and a division of the community property, was filed on behalf of Mary A. Gough against F. M. Fisk, whose lawful wife she claims to be. A similar petition was filed in 1855 by the same party, but was subsequently compromised and withdrawn on the payment of a considerable sum to petitioner. The parties have not lived together for many years, for defendant had the reputation of being unusually susceptible to passion attractions, and inclined—

"to rove Free and unquestioned in the paths of love."

At present he is supposed to be living elsewhere in the Confederacy, and his large estates here have been completely tied up by the confiscation and sequestration. Finding that creditors of every kind were making a dead set against the property of her erst lord and master, Mrs. Fish, nee Mary Ann Gough, concluded doubtless that she might as well have a finger in the pie, so she renewed her old suit. She is represented in the prosecution by Thomas Howard, Esq., her counsel in the original case, and seldom have the dull records of her courts been relieved by a legal document of such romantic interest and literary merit as the petition filed in the premises.

The Yarkin Factory near Gold Hill N. C., owned by Messrs. Holmes & Co., was destroyed by fire on the 27th ult.

GENERAL ROSENCRANS.—The Winchester (Tenn.) Bulletin is responsible for the following, which is decidedly the best joke of the season:

Decherd, in this county, of course some anxiety was manifested to see the vile invaders of our soil. Among our citizens who were present, was Mrs. P., a woman noted for her Southern feelings, her general stock of good humor, and who has a mind of uncommon natural powers. Among the Yankees was a big back negro in Federal uniform, who had a very important look. Mrs. P. walked up to him, in the presence of all the Yankees, and assuming a very serious contour, addressed him as Gen. Rosencrans. The negro appeared dumb-founded. Our friend appeared not to notice Ebony's confusion. The Yankees seemed amazed. Cuffee said, "I am not Gen. Rosencrans, I belong to a gentleman in East Tennessee." "Ah, General," said our friend, "You can't bluff me that way. Tell me how you come to let the rebels get you." But Cuffee protested he was not Rosencrans. Our lady friend affected to disbelieve him, and the Yankee prisoners seemed confused that a big buck negro should be taken for their commanding General. It was a rich scene.

Yankee Barbarity.—A letter was received in Lynchburg says the Virginian, from a responsible lady in Fauquier, stating that a hospital in Georgetown, containing 500 negroes afflicted with small pox, was burned up a day or two since. This shocking affair, attributed by the Yankees to accident, is not credited. But is believed to have been the result of a cold blooded purpose to exterminate the negroes and the disease by the summary but execrable design of burning the building and the negroes. If this report be true, and from the respectable source from which it comes to us, we have no reason to doubt it is probably the blackest deed in the long and black catalogue of crimes of which the Yankees have been guilty.

With the addition of at least five hundred millions of dollars to the resources of their Treasury, says the Richmond Examiner, there is no impediment to the Washington Government continuing the war, on the present gigantic scale, for another season; and if the effect of their conscription bill, were only to keep in the field the troops that would otherwise soon be disbanded, the prosecution of the war for at least another year would be ensured. It becomes the South to dismiss all thought of peace, and to prepare for resisting the most formidable, because the most desperate, onset that we have yet had to sustain from the baffled and exasperated, but none the less determined foe.

WATCH OUT.—We understand that the smoke-house of Mr. Eml. Reich, who lives in the vicinity of Salem, was broken into on Saturday night last, and some twenty-eight pieces of bacon stolen therefrom.—We are not aware of any clew having been discovered as to who perpetrated this theft. The public prints of this State are almost daily chronicling deeds of this character which should certainly be a warning to all who have property in insecure places. Rogues now-a-days can inflict more injury than common, in purloining property which money cannot buy. So be wise and watchful.—Winston Sentinel.

GARDENING IN CAMP.

The Charleston Courier, in commenting upon a suggestion of its correspondent "Secessionville" in relation to the planting of vegetables near all our camps, adds:

"The notion that labor is less honorable than military service proper, is and should be exploded, if it ever did prevail among sensible men, which we doubt. Were not the lines and batteries which turned back the Yankees and the Pontomas constructed chiefly by the labor of the stout arms that manned the guns behind them? This we believe was the case at Shiloh and other places Westward, and will ever be the case when proper occasions demand. The good volunteer is as ready to work as to fight, when the working is necessary to prepare for fighting advantageously and successfully."

We entirely agree with the good sense of the suggestion and the Courier's remarks, and take the liberty to add, that the species of labor referred to, is not only as honorable, in the largest sense, as any vocation, but will rebound to the pleasure and comfort of the cultivators. It will prove an agreeable recreation to the dull routine of camp life, and in a sanitary point of view, immense in its results. In fact, if the officers will lead off with the "Shovel and the Hoe," the boys will learn to regard it as an amusing pastime.—Charleston Bulletin.