

The Origin of Impressment.

Soon after Congress met, the House of Representatives addressed an inquiry to the President on the motion of Mr. Lyons...

Executive Office, Richmond, Feb. 7th, 1863.

To the House of Representatives of the Confederate States:

I have this day received the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President be requested to inform this House whether private property of citizens not in the army has been seized...

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

This was not very satisfactory, as it was notorious, that there were persons all over the country, claiming to hold commissions from the President...

A writer in the Enquirer, who signs himself "\*\*\*\*\*" by volunteering as the champion of the Secretary of War...

But whether the Secretary of War, or the starry writer, himself, be the author of this system, which sets aside all law...

That Mr. Seddon, whose antecedents marked him out as the man who, under no possible stress of circumstances would substitute violence for law...

His starry advocate alleges that he was informed and believed, that the great mass of producers had reached the point of speculation on their own productions...

It cannot be too often repeated, or too strongly impressed on Government and people, that the strength of our cause springs from the freedom it is designed to uphold.

Unneighborly and Unjust—Letters from our North Carolina soldiers who have been sent to Charleston and Savannah to defend those places against the common enemy...

We say nothing of the discourtesy offered to the State by the refusal of its notes, though that might be commented on with severity.

THE ADJUTANT GENERALSHIP. Gov. Vance has appointed Col. Daniel G. Fowle, of Wake, Adjutant-General of this State...

CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 22, 1863.

SALISBURY, N. C.:

A FEMALE RAID.

Between 40 and 50 soldiers' wives, followed by a numerous train of curious female observers, made an attack on several of our business men last Wednesday...

They next visited Mr. John Ennis, of the firm of Henderson & Ennis, and made a similar demand on him.

They next called on Mr. Frankford, who, it is reported, told them he had not been speculating in provisions, and that he now had nothing in his store but himself...

They also called on Mr. David Weil, whom they charge with having run up flour from \$40 to \$50, and who was supposed to have a large lot at the depot to be shipped.

They next called on Mr. Thos. Foster, who was advertising salt on consignment. He told them the salt belonged to a man in Wilmington, and that he had no interest in it...

They also called at the door of a building formerly occupied by Mr. Simmons; but we think they found nothing there.

And finally they visited the North Carolina depot, in search of flour supposed to belong to Mr. Weil, and other parties believed to be speculators in this and other provision articles.

This completed the day's work. The next morning was spent in settling the question of division—a delicate, and as it proved, a difficult question.

This movement was aimed as a blow at the practice of speculating in provisions. Whether or not it fell on proper subjects is not for us to determine.

These proceedings were also caused, in part, by pinching want. It is said there are many families in this town and vicinity who have not tasted meat for weeks...

get which threaten the good order and well being of the country. Speculators must stop their operations or they will ruin themselves and every one else.

The Commissioners appointed by the County Court to administer relief to soldiers' families, and who were authorized to use the credit of the County...

If the ladies who composed the party of last Wednesday will take the trouble to talk a little, they will see that although that day's work may not prove hurtful, yet that the experiment of "impressment" is a very dangerous one...

Again, many a speculator whom you did not visit, is as guilty as those you did visit. It is not fair that one should be made to answer and another allowed to escape.

The County of Rowan at the beginning of the war, appropriated \$50,000 for the relief of soldiers' families. The Legislature has also made a liberal appropriation of which Rowan will receive some sixteen or seventeen thousand more.

Mr. Shelan offered the following, which was agreed to: Resolved, That the Military Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of paying for slaves impressed by the Government...

CONGRESSIONAL.

SLAVES IMPRESSED.

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PUNISHMENT OF DELINQUENT QUARTERMASTERS AND COMMISSARIES.

Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, submitted the following, which was agreed to: Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire and report upon the propriety of passing an act providing that should any Quartermaster or Commissary fail to account for money or public property...

Mr. Davis, of North Carolina, introduced the following, which was referred to the Military Committee: A Bill to be entitled 'An act to provide for the payment of certain North Carolina troops from the time of their enlistment.'

deberating in memory of those who have so nobly fallen in our defence, bidding every hope of the present, and drawing down upon our future the blackness of darkness; but rather let us mutually associate, and support each other in these times of trouble and distress.

The weather was somewhat variable last week. Tuesday and Wednesday were fine days for working in the garden, and much of it was done. We had a thunder storm and summer shower Wednesday night, and a cold cloudy day on Thursday.

CONCERT.—The Military Brass Band of the glorious 4th N. C. Reg't., will give a Musical Entertainment this evening at Murphy's Hall. They are entitled to receive a full house, and we doubt not our citizens will so decide.

FASTING AND PRAYER.

Next Friday is the day designated in the President's Proclamation to be observed as a day of Fasting and Prayer. There will be services in the Methodist Church in the forenoon, at which time notice will be given of other services if any are had.

We have noticed that there are crowds of people in our streets, on these occasions who seem to feel no interest whatever in their proper observance. They never go near the church, and altogether, treat the matter with indifference.

The Almighty has never yet undertaken to humble pride but he has done it effectually, whether in nations, communities or individuals; and sooner or later every proud thing in his Government will be brought down into the dust.

THREE LEGGED CHICKEN.—Mr. M. E. Reese, of this county, gave us, a few days ago, a hen with three legs. She has about as little use for the third leg as for the seven toes on it.

ANOTHER WONDER.—Mr. Henry Canup has given us a hen's egg which has on it a representation of the sun. The figure is natural, and no artificial. Whether it is intended to represent the rising sun of the Southern Confederacy or the setting sun of the old United States, is a question which would be better decided by a hen convention.

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Planters, look to your hog-pens. A distinguished author says, "the pen is mightier than the sword."

THE LATEST NEWS.

LATE AND INTERESTING FROM THE NORTH.

PETERSBURG, March 16.—The Herald of the 12th has been received here. Hooker had a conference on Wednesday with Lincoln, Halleck, Stanton and the Committee on the conduct of the war.

The President will call for more troops in a few days. The report is that he will call for 100,000 more troops.

European dates to the 26th received. The American war continues an exciting topic in the House of Lords. Earl Russell alluded to the question of recognition of the Southern Confederacy.

Terrific Engagement between our Batteries and the Yankee Fleet at Fort Hudson.—The Sloop-of-war Mississippi destroyed, two others crippled, &c.

LATER FROM PORT HUDSON. Richmond, March 16.—Official dispatch reached here confirms the victory at Fort Hudson. The Mississippi was burnt, and the Richmond, Farragut's flag ship, went back down the river, disabled.

ANOTHER STEAMER WITH VALUABLE CARGO. CHARLESTON, March 16.—The steamer Gratitudine from Greenock, Scotland, via Nassau, freighted with valuable merchandise arrived at a Confederate port this morning.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.—Passage in the Senate of the Supreme Court Bill. RICHMOND, March 18.—The Senate today resumed the consideration of the bill to organize a Supreme Court.

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