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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THE FIGHT ON THE RAAPAHAN- NOCK.

Through parties down from the army we gather some particulars of the late fight on the Raappahannock. The accounts we get are confused and conflicting, and we give that version which seems to us to be best authenticated:

The fight was a severe one. The enemy outnumbered us three to one. Our force actually engaged was not more than twelve hundred men. The fight opened with great spirit on both sides. The first charge by our men was with the sabre. On dashing on the enemy they were discovered posted in great strength behind a stone fence, when the order was given for our men to fall back—turning obliquely to the right and left. Some of our men in advance charged over the fence and were thus made prisoners. The Yankees poured a tremendous fire into our men, but so wild were their shots that not a man of ours was killed in the charge—the shots passing over their heads. The charge was repeated a second and third time, when the enemy fled in great disorder. All accounts agree that the enemy's retreat was a perfect rout and panic.

Our loss is not so severe as was first reported. It is said that our total loss in killed, wounded and missing will not exceed one hundred and twenty. Most of our wounded are but slightly injured—shot in the hand and arm. But very few indeed are seriously injured—a smaller number, it is said than were ever known out of so many. Among those mortally wounded we hear was a Mr. Cunningham, of Prince Edward county.

As far as we have heard of our casualties there were but few killed. The only company from which we have a complete list of casualties is the Hanover Troop, in which J. R. Harris, of Beaver Dam, Hanover county, was killed, and Gilman, Sydney Brown, Brook Purdy, Kimbrough and two names not given—seven of this company were made prisoners, but four of them managed to subsequently escape by a bold and ingenious manner. It appears that on being made prisoners they were placed in an ambulance, to be taken to Aquia creek, but before they had proceeded for the ambulance broke down. Not able to repair the accident, the driver left them for a moment to summon assistance, when four of the men, but slightly wounded in the hand, gave him the slip in his absence, and eluding their vigilance, succeeded in making their escape to this side by swimming the river. The others were two badly injured to avail themselves of the chance of escape.

Among the names of our killed are a Mr. Fowler, of Cumberland, and Wm. J. Trice and B. S. Danbridge, both of Goochland county.

The loss of the Yankees is thought to have been heavy. A party who assisted in burying their dead says that he alone buried sixty bodies, and that the ground was thickly strewn with the dead.

The loss of prisoners on both sides was about equal—we losing about thirty and taking about the same number.

The enemy was undoubtedly routed badly—all accounts say this. It is believed that the Yankees fell back in such flight because they thought that reinforcements were coming up to our side.

We hear that there was a day or two ago, near Parcellerville, between six of our men and fifteen of the enemy. Our men were barricaded in a house, but the Yankees, after a running fire on both sides, brought up a reinforcement of two hundred men, burnt the house, and captured the party. The house belonged to a Mr. Tompkins.

Our men, while out on this scout, learned that Milroy was making frequent incursions into the country around, stealing and entailing away every slave he could find, and abetting and instigating every outrage upon the people.

Richmond Examiner.

The Movement Towards Newbern.—There was no attempt after all to take Newbern. Gen. Hill has retired with his troops. His object was, we suppose, to drive in the enemy and bring out supplies of corn and bacon. We learn that a goodly quantity of the "stuff of life" was secured. It was much needed.

Ral. Standard.

A servant in Baldwin County, Ga., has lately sold \$230 worth of brooms, from broom corn grown and made up by himself in his intervals of leisure.

Few papers will attract more attention than the new impressment bill reported from the Congressional Committee of Commerce, and the opinions of Judge Lyons upon the arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional impressments made of late by the Commissary Department of the Confederate Government. The decision of this Judge, the statements of fact and law which the source contains, will create a considerable sensation. It will be seen that not one scintilla of law or shadow of morality supported the action of the Commissary Department, that the late seizures of private property without just compensation are nothing more than the despotic acts of usurped power by the office-holders of the Commissary Department. It will also be seen that Northrop was ready to employ an armed force in case resistance should be attempted to those impudent and outrageous robberies, and to shoot, stab, and kill the lawless owners of the property who were willing to stand and deliver at his bidding. From the tone of his orders to Chiborne, it would even seem as if he was somewhat desirous that the owners would try to oppose their legitimate to his illegitimate force, so that he might improve the opportunity by taking away their lives as well as their property. What then is wanting to qualify the late impressments as simply the acts of "banditti, defiant of law, human and divine!"

That they had the effrontery to appear in the Court by their counsel and attempt to defend acts which have no support except from superior force, is not the least curious feature of their conduct. Many columns of soporific twaddle, supposed to be intended as an attempt to justify their robberies of the people, have been lately printed. Because no one condescends to contradict the reasoning of Robert Macaire when repeated without the wit which once rendered them famous in the criminal court and on the stage, have they really persuaded themselves that they have changed the belief of mankind in the distinction between *meum* and *tuum*; and consequently hoped to eradicate the idea of property from the mind of the Judge, or upset in a Court the laws which are made to regulate it!

If they did so, and resisted the petition of Isaac with the hope of success, their delusion lasted not longer than yesterday. The Judge whom they addressed, decided against them on every point, in terms too peremptory to admit of the least doubt, and rebuked their conduct with severity all the more withering, because inseparable from the right interpretation of the law. Their past acts have been clearly without a colour of just authority; they were both illegal and immoral. Whether the individuals who committed those crimes, and those who incited and conspired their commission, will ever be punished for them, is uncertain. But let us it is not uncertain that they will soon be deprived of power to renew these injuries to the Confederate Government, to the Southern people, and to the Southern cause. The Impressment Bill now before the Senate is the law which will satisfy the conscience and the understanding of the country. If it becomes a law, and the commissaries are compelled to observe and obey its provisions, the just complaint of the people will cease, and the difficulty of finding food for the army will never again frighten and puzzle the nation. We repeat our sincere conviction that the scarcity and high price of provisions is caused by the folly and turpitude of the system of illegal impressments pursued by the Commissary Department. The land contains an abundance of meat and corn; but no more of it is brought to the markets or exposed for sale anywhere, because the owners of it are not and cannot be willing to surrender them for less money than they have cost. Hence there is famine in the midst of plenty. When the people are satisfied that they will not be forced to part with their property without just compensation, determined by fair assessment of vicinage, as they will be when the bill we print to day has become a law, the framers of that bill and the whole Government, will be astonished to find how much of those troubles have been of our own creation.

Richmond Examiner.

Liberal.—Mrs. Marshall, residing near Wadesboro', has given 25 bushels of meal for distribution among the families of soldiers. John S. Little of Anson has given a like quantity and sells corn at \$1 and meat at 20 cents to the families of soldiers in his neighborhood. James Dun of the same county has 150 bushels of corn to sell to soldiers' families at \$1. In Smith's beat, in Anson, there is not a man who will charge the wife of a soldier more than \$1 for corn. Well done, Anson!

Fog. Observer.

Hon. John Bell, of Tennessee, is still a refugee, residing in Rome, Ga.

The Army and the Contrabands— What will the Yankees do with the "Elephants?"

A correspondent of the Boston Courier, writing from the West says:

Cairo, you know, is a military post. From my hotel window I see gunboats under arrest, army supplies and ammunition, soldiers' barracks, and last, and most revolting of them all, the freedmen's quarters. If I did ever have a doubt about the policy of the abolition of slavery, humanity shudders at the awful condition of the negroes here, and justice is outraged by the sending them away from their homes. They are huddled together in very foul places, suffering and dying from exposure and disease. They are dying at the rate of about a dozen a day. Small-pox is very prevalent.

They will not work. They are freemen and their idea of liberty is freedom from work. I saw, this morning a captain loading grain for the army down the river. He had a gang of fifty, and they would not work. A half a score of Irishmen would perform more labor than all of them. They all want to go home, and, if the Government would allow it they would all go back. We have taken upon ourselves a contract to fight for, feed, clothe, and bury four millions of negroes. That is the plain statement of facts.

Our army about Vicksburg is in a lamentable condition—more than a third are sick. They are camped in the lowland. The Mississippi is now rising, and if it continues to rise the camps will be submerged. No boat comes from below without bringing more or less coffee, and no train leaves here without the remains of more or less gallant soldiers. The war is a dreadful reality here. The soldiers, God bless them, are resolute and hopeful, ready to fight for and if need be, die for the old Constitution, but not for the negro.

THE TWELVE-POUNDER NAPO- LEON GUN.

This gun, introduced by the French Emperor into service, is lighter than the former twelve-pounder, and thus capable of being manœuvred by six horses on the field. It has a smaller charge of powder than the old twelve-pounder, and is employed to project either shot or shell; hence called by the French, "Gun Howitzer."

The Napoleon guns, by order of the Ordnance Bureau, are to supersede all other smooth bore field artillery in the Confederate service, which latter will be accordingly gradually withdrawn. These guns are now being manufactured rapidly at the government foundry and machine works, in this city, which will soon be able to cast and complete one every twenty-four hours.

Experiments are now being made, under the direction of Col. Baus, on the new Austrian gun metal, which is a combination of bronze, zinc, and wrought iron, and some guns have already been made for trial. The metal is exceedingly tough, hard, and elastic.

It is designed to make the government works at Augusta, a great Arsenal of construction, where ammunition, field and siege artillery, projectiles, and ordnance stores in general, will be made in large quantities, for the use of the army.

The powder works are daily increasing in capacity; when finished, will be the largest works of the kind, existing. They are now superior to any known, possessing all the improvements that experience suggested, many of which are due to Colonel Rains, who has considerably furthered the process of manufacturing powder, the quality of which is fully equal to the best standard of European and Federal works, proved by tests made here, with the ballistic and gun pendulums. The productions of these works, have already exceeded the entire cost, and saved the government nearly two millions of dollars.

Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle.

Yankees in Bertie.—A friend writing from Colerain, Bertie, under date March 9th, says: "Yesterday, a Yankee gunboat ran in near the land and fired several times; three of the shot or shell fell in and about the village. Besides giving much uneasiness to the citizens, they destroyed some \$6,000 to \$8,000 worth of property in fishing apparatus belonging to J. H. Etheridge. This shows the want of protection in time, and the folly of inadequate protection at any time. We are helpless, and at the mercy of all parties."

Ral. Standard.

It is stated that an insurrection has broken out in Hungary corresponding with that in Poland.

WHAT THE YANKEES MOST DREAD.

The recent summary of John Van Buren and the N. Y. Democracy and the some time of the West, South Herald, indicated in the issue of the 11th, the leading article of which we give a summary of the lively apprehension that has seized upon the commercial metropolis of the United States, that the end of the war, with the acknowledgement of the independence of the Confederate States, would be certainly followed by the recession of the Northwestern States, which, since the loss of the South, are looked to as the only remaining hope and support of the commercial and manufacturing States of the East. With the South irrevocably gone, and the Northwest hanging by a hair, the remaining States look to the close of hostilities as the day of doom to them. Hence John Van Buren, who a few months ago, was in favor of letting the wayward sisters go in peace, finding now that they are not likely to go alone, proclaims himself in favor of unremitting and unrelenting war, and the Herald, which then applauded the position of Van Buren, and has been all along very milk and waterish, now raves as madly as the craziest of them all, about "crushing the rebellion." It does not conceal the reason. It says: "We must put down rebellion by force of arms, or it will tear the country to pieces." Hence it is that we feel called upon by every consideration of law, order and the public safety to denounce these Northern copperhead peace-mongers of the day as public enemies. When such reckless, bigotted, narrow-sighted and brawling demagogues as Vallandigham and Pemberton, of Ohio, Ben Wood, Boby Brooks and their confederates, begin to preach the doctrine of resistance to President Lincoln, and the doctrine of submission to Jeff Davis, it is due to the community that the tendency of their absurd and dangerous instructions should be exposed. "This is the exact issue—the suppression of the rebellion by force of arms, or endless confusion and ruin from civil war in the North, universal chaos and mob law." All this means that the Herald has discovered that to stop fighting is to sever the last ligament that holds the Northwestern States; and, with their withdrawal, the last fountain that feeds the commercial maw of New York, the last prop that sustains the Yankee States, will be gone. It therefore calls upon Lincoln to enforce the conscription act, hints at the duty of arresting Vallandigham, and appeals to the pride of the people of the Northwest, by telling them that their professed sympathies and proposals of peace are received at the South "with unaffected contempt and disgust"—that for all their plans of pacification and alliance, "the responsible and ruling chiefs of the rebellion have no other answer than that of scorn and contempt." This language exposes clearly enough what it is the Herald dreads, viz: the growth of the Peace party in the Northwest, till the Yankee States are left alone, not only for the war, but forever. It makes very plain to us, too, the policy we should pursue. What the Yankee States most dread is exactly what we should most of all desire and encourage. The war is now waged more with the view of holding on to the Northwestern States than with any hope of winning back the South. While this is their policy, it is ours so to wage the war as to promote the detachment of those States—for with their deviations from the Yankee Government the war is at an end—and "the best Government the world ever saw" will sink into such impotency as never again to give us trouble.—Richmond Whip.

An Unfortunate Marriage.—We find the following in a recent number of the Port Hulson (La.) News:

A paragraph appeared in our last paper stating that Mrs. Harris, of Skipwith's landing, had married the Captain of the Queen of the West. The report is true as we have it from one who knows. This lady was for a long time a resident of the parish of Pointe Coupee—her father, H. K. Moss, being a large sugar planter on the Bayou Fardoche. Her marriage with the Yankee officer was somewhat romantic. It seems that while the Federals were stationed at her house at Skipwith's landing, a difficulty occurred among them and hearing the disturbance Mrs. H. went out to see what was the matter. In the melee, one of the muskets went off and the ball passed through the lady's arm, wounding her severely. As no physician was to be found in the neighborhood, Mrs. Harris was taken on board one of the gunboats for treatment. There she met Capt. Sullivan whom she afterwards married. Her matrimonial bliss, however, was not of long

duration. Heaven refused to smile upon such a union of discordant elements. In the fight with the "Queen," the Captain and Captain of Mrs. Harris were among the few killed, and she was so badly wounded, perhaps to become the wife of another Yankee.

Prison Amusements.—The Yankee Webster, the murderer of Capt. Simpson, a Confederate officer is, beyond doubt, one of the most blackhearted and at the same time smiling and plausible villains of the many who have entered Castle Thunder yet. Watched over closely by a guard, he amuses and startles him at times by removing his irons before his very eyes, and without any physical effort. With a small ordinary stick or piece of wood, without design or shape, he unlocks his handcuffs and leg irons with ten times more dispatch and dexterity than does Jack Sheppard in the play. No irons about the prison can be kept upon him if he chooses to remove them. He is sometimes generous, and keeps them on "just to accommodate the folks," as he says.

Conscious of his skill, or slight of hand, he is profuse in his bets of fifty and a hundred dollars that no ordinary irons can be put upon him which he cannot remove. And he has made his every assertion good in numerous instances, never failing once. Webster is under arrest awaiting trial for his life.

Impressment.—It will be seen, by the remarks of Mr. Baldwin, which we publish to-day, that officers of the government have no authority of law for impressing private property. The Attorney General of the Confederate States has so declared. Congress has passed no law on the subject; and that body has no right under the Constitution to authorize the impressment of private property without making "just compensation" to the owner.—Standard.

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THE YANKEES AT JACKSONVILLE.

We learn from Jacksonville that the Yankee black and white troops at that place keep very close to their quarters since their recent drubbing by Gen. Finegan's boys. They very seldom show themselves in the outskirts of the town, and their pickets have been driven about in. We understand that there are about fifteen hundred negro troops with white officers at the place. These "American citizens of African descent" were sent down from Port Royal, and report that others were soon to follow them. It has been ascertained by persons who resided in Jacksonville, that in the recent fight the Yankees left fifteen negroes and one white officer dead on the field, but succeeded in carrying off their wounded. Very few of the citizens remain in the place, which is represented to have become a perfect negro den. Provisions are very scarce. The whites and negroes freely mingle, and the Yankee officers are extremely immoral and dissipated. At all hours of the day some of them may be seen reeling drunk in the streets. It is not probable that they will be allowed to remain in possession of Jacksonville very long—certainly they will not be permitted to penetrate the interior.

Savannah News.

IMPRESSMENTS.

We are gratified to see that Adjutant General Cooper has issued the following Order on the subject of impressments:

In consequence of numerous applications made by various persons to the War Department, it is obvious that some misconception in regard to the instructions of the Secretary of War in relation to the impressment of supplies must exist on the part of the people; or that the agents of the government have violated their instructions; now, therefore, for the purpose of removing such misconception, and to prevent any violation of those instructions it is hereby ordered:

I. That no officer of the government shall, under any circumstances whatever, impress the supplies which a party has for its own consumption or that of his family, employees or slaves.

II. That no officer shall, at any time, unless specially ordered so to do, by a General commanding in a case of emergency, impress supplies which are on their way to market for sale on arrival.

III. These orders were included in the instructions originally issued in relation to impressment by the Secretary of War, and the officers exercising such authority are again notified that "any one acting without or beyond" the authority given in those instructions will be held strictly responsible.—Extract from Order, March 20, 1863.

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