

J. J. BRUNER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Camp Near Fredericksburg, Va., April 1st, 1863

Left Salisbury—Behind time—Raleigh Sem-noles—The effect—Richmond—In Camp—All O. K.—Concert and Ball in Salisbury—More rudi boys—Times dull—The Dance—Why I didn't—A surprise ended with a night's march—Who ought to dance a Schottisch—Jemima again.

It would interest my readers to know something about our trip from home to this place, and about this I shall write first, though I have many other things about which I must say something as soon as opportunity presents itself. Well, then, on Tuesday night the 24th ultimo, the who's 4th N. C. Band, with the exception of Charles H—, who procured an extension of ten days, got aboard the train at Salisbury bound for Raleigh. We traveled "slow march tune," and, as was expected, fell behind and "missed connexion" at the place, the Weldon train having left an hour before we drove up on Wednesday. When we found that there was no help for it, we sagely concluded to "lie over" till eleven o'clock that night; accordingly we jumped aboard an omnibus, and at half past eleven, A. M., alighted at the Exchange, a fourth of a mile from the depot, and for the ride, don't you think the colored militia had the audacity to charge each of us one dollar;—no use to growl about it, so the best we could do was to pay the yellow scound—thank our stars it was no worse, and determine to walk back that night—That's economy for you. We got a right good dinner reasonable enough, (\$1.25), and the afternoon every fellow spent according to his own tastes, some, I fear, rather on the wrong side, others not altogether so bad. For my part, I desire to see the strange, the wonderful and the beautiful, induced me to visit, first, the Lunatic Asylum, then the Institution for the deaf and dumb and blind, and lastly, the Capitol. I'm not so sure that Dr. Fisher thought that I was going to take lodging in the first, but I guess I didn't though—any way, I consider myself richly paid for my afternoon's trouble, and in the future will have something to say about such. At sunset in the evening, according to agreement, the Band met at the Exchange and began playing. Before we closed the second piece the side-walks, yards, gardens, palling, and even the very streets were jammed with an appreciative audience. Not gentlemen and ladies, nor men and women, nor white, nor black, nor man, nor beast—what in the name of common sense were they then? You ask—a cross between wise-men and—and—and, our "colored brethren"—an amalgamation of two races, the extremes of color and intellect—Raleigh Sem-noles, or what will convey the idea better, Mongrels—in short, good reader, Malattoes—no a "brack nigger" was to be seen among them all, and if I should say five hundred souls of the aforesaid species, were congregated, I don't think I would "stretch the blanket." What a slamming enema on our Capitol and the virtues who rock there! Nevertheless, I speak truly; we always take notes as we journey through this howling wilderness, seeking not "whom we might kill somebody," but something to write about. Since I have promised to keep the readers of the Watchman and the Express posted in matters of general interest, why I shall do so to the best of my ability, so long as I am favored with opportunities to mail my letters. I know that many of my friends have never seen the Capitol of our State, I mean the town around the capitol building, (it is well worth a trip) and no doubt many would like to visit the place; not in the capacity of legislators, senators, governors, or even editors, or their wives, but merely a social visit, or one for curiosity's sake. Now, take a bachelor friend's advice, and if you ever do allow such a fool notion to take possession of you, don't fail to provide yourselves with an abundance of "torch pine," it is plenty round there, and "light up" when you enter; if you don't, you will think a perpetual twilight reigns there, or the sun is in an everlasting eclipse, or something of the sort, all the effect of so many copper-colored descendants of Pocahontas strolling about. Apart from these, there are, doubtless, many pure Anglo-Saxons resident in the town, but, unfortunately, they kept themselves close while we were sojourning in their midst. It is true, a score or two of "genuine white" ladies and gentlemen ventured within sight of the outskirts of the yellow rascals around us, but the fact is, they had no showing at all, and retired, satisfied with a "long range" peep at the elephant—so did we at the close of the third peep. At supper, took a nap, (very much needed too) and at midnight found ourselves comfortably seated in the ladies' coach and whirling on towards Weldon. At eight o'clock, Thursday morning, we arrived in W—, took breakfast off an empty table, and plates filled with the same stuff. Half an hour's rest, and we were again rolling on for Richmond, where we arrived at sunset the same evening. Ran the blockade of guards, put up at the Spotswood, got transportation and passport, and after all, found ourselves seated in the theatre before the performance began. I am sorry that I didn't have an opera glass, for the lack of one I cer-

tainly missed the cross, at any rate, a tall, lank, half-witted, bushy-headed Confederate officer sitting in front of me, seemed highly amused with one. Wonder what he saw when peeping through it? But then it was no use to growl about it, so the best we could do was to pay the yellow scound—thank our stars it was no worse, and determine to walk back that night—That's economy for you. We got a right good dinner reasonable enough, (\$1.25), and the afternoon every fellow spent according to his own tastes, some, I fear, rather on the wrong side, others not altogether so bad. For my part, I desire to see the strange, the wonderful and the beautiful, induced me to visit, first, the Lunatic Asylum, then the Institution for the deaf and dumb and blind, and lastly, the Capitol. I'm not so sure that Dr. Fisher thought that I was going to take lodging in the first, but I guess I didn't though—any way, I consider myself richly paid for my afternoon's trouble, and in the future will have something to say about such. At sunset in the evening, according to agreement, the Band met at the Exchange and began playing. Before we closed the second piece the side-walks, yards, gardens, palling, and even the very streets were jammed with an appreciative audience. Not gentlemen and ladies, nor men and women, nor white, nor black, nor man, nor beast—what in the name of common sense were they then? You ask—a cross between wise-men and—and—and, our "colored brethren"—an amalgamation of two races, the extremes of color and intellect—Raleigh Sem-noles, or what will convey the idea better, Mongrels—in short, good reader, Malattoes—no a "brack nigger" was to be seen among them all, and if I should say five hundred souls of the aforesaid species, were congregated, I don't think I would "stretch the blanket." What a slamming enema on our Capitol and the virtues who rock there! Nevertheless, I speak truly; we always take notes as we journey through this howling wilderness, seeking not "whom we might kill somebody," but something to write about. Since I have promised to keep the readers of the Watchman and the Express posted in matters of general interest, why I shall do so to the best of my ability, so long as I am favored with opportunities to mail my letters. I know that many of my friends have never seen the Capitol of our State, I mean the town around the capitol building, (it is well worth a trip) and no doubt many would like to visit the place; not in the capacity of legislators, senators, governors, or even editors, or their wives, but merely a social visit, or one for curiosity's sake. Now, take a bachelor friend's advice, and if you ever do allow such a fool notion to take possession of you, don't fail to provide yourselves with an abundance of "torch pine," it is plenty round there, and "light up" when you enter; if you don't, you will think a perpetual twilight reigns there, or the sun is in an everlasting eclipse, or something of the sort, all the effect of so many copper-colored descendants of Pocahontas strolling about. Apart from these, there are, doubtless, many pure Anglo-Saxons resident in the town, but, unfortunately, they kept themselves close while we were sojourning in their midst. It is true, a score or two of "genuine white" ladies and gentlemen ventured within sight of the outskirts of the yellow rascals around us, but the fact is, they had no showing at all, and retired, satisfied with a "long range" peep at the elephant—so did we at the close of the third peep. At supper, took a nap, (very much needed too) and at midnight found ourselves comfortably seated in the ladies' coach and whirling on towards Weldon. At eight o'clock, Thursday morning, we arrived in W—, took breakfast off an empty table, and plates filled with the same stuff. Half an hour's rest, and we were again rolling on for Richmond, where we arrived at sunset the same evening. Ran the blockade of guards, put up at the Spotswood, got transportation and passport, and after all, found ourselves seated in the theatre before the performance began. I am sorry that I didn't have an opera glass, for the lack of one I cer-

And dreams that all is well:— But first, that braid,—that golden foil— Those scallops, ruffles, garments, all In grand confusion fell!— NAT.

FROM THE DAILY PROGRESS. AFTER A "STRONG" GOVERNMENT.

It is evident that there is a party in Congress and a party outside that are bent on a "strong" Government—or in other words, a party that are trying to fasten a despotism upon the South as odious and as despicable as any that oppresses the sufferers of the Old World. We often hear people, here in this good old freedom-loving State of North Carolina, talking about a "strong government." Don't believe in freedom of the press and of speech, &c.—And is it for this that we are fighting? Are we asked to throw of the yoke of the despot, Lincoln, only to assume one equally as galling? Heaven forbid. But we urge the people—the honest masses in the army and at home who have the right to control the civil affairs of this government at the ballot box—to be watchful of their liberties. No despotism has ever been established by a single stroke of the pen. Usurpers are cautious and insidious, and appear to the world in the garb of the saint while they possess the heart of devils. Tyrants hate a free press and free speech, and idiots, fools and base men sneer at and ridicule these weapons of freemen, but whenever the masses of a people fall so low as to renounce these great levers of civilization and human progress, they not only deserve a King but a master. But these cringing slaves who are so ready to bow the knee to royalty will find that this people are not so depraved as to be ready for their scheme yet.

The Richmond Enquirer, with its foreign notions, for the reason, as it asserts, that portions of the people of Tennessee and North Carolina are disloyal, favors a change in the manner of electing members to Congress by which each representative will have the whole State for his constituency. The charge as to disloyalty as applied to this State is false in every particular, and the writer in the Enquirer knew it to be false when he uttered it. Why did he not example Virginia, a part of whose citizens have established a new State and been received into the family of Abraham! No the writer is a base, hireling scoundrel, and intentionally libeled the people of North Carolina. But enough of this for that paper is lost to shame, decency and truth, and would be beneath contempt but for the fact that it is the organ of the Government in so far as publishing the advertisements and orders of the Department are concerned.

We copy the following article from the Enquirer simply to show the gradual steps that the advocates of a despotism are taking to enslave the people and place the Government in the hands of a privileged few. We are opposed to any such innovation on the rights of the people, and will denounce at all times and at all places, every man who shall engage in any attempt to deprive the masses of the people of the inestimable privileges heretofore enjoyed at the ballot box.

Here is the article referred to, and we do not see how any true Tennessean or North Carolinian can read it without a feeling of intense loathing for the creature that could pen such a libel on a people who are making such sacrifices for the cause of the South?

ELECTIONS FOR CONGRESS.

A bill has been referred to the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives having for its object a change in the manner and form of holding elections for Congress. It is made necessary at present by the fact that large portions of several Confederate States are overrun by the enemy—and also that a very great portion of the voters are absent from their homes, and serving in the army. The bill is based upon the provision of the Confederate Constitution, (Sec. 4, 1) empowering Congress to make or alter the regulations for this purpose made by the several State Legislatures. This bill connects itself with a general principle.

We favor most heartily the plan of election, (already ably advocated in several journals) by General Ticket—that is, each member to have the whole State for his constituency, and each constituent to have the whole Congressional delegation for his representatives. We should approve of this, even if there were no war and no portions of our States occupied by the enemy.

Elections for State Legislature and for Congress seem to imply two different ideas. In the Legislature of Virginia, for example, charged with the internal and local affairs of the State, seeing that interests of towns may differ from those of agricultural districts, and the policy of the mountain region may conflict with that of the tide-water country, counties are represented by delegates who attend specially to the interests, each of his own locality. But in the Confederate Congress, Vir-

ginia is an unit and a whole. She comes into Congress to take counsel with her sister sovereignties in the name of Virginia, not of the county of Powhatan or the region of Piedmont. And she comes into Congress: a parish, but for those of half a hemisphere. When Georgia comes to Congress in the persons of her chosen men, she does not want to know what Nansmond thinks, but what Virginia thinks of the great broad questions there to be debated. When South Carolina meets Georgia in Congress she comes to consult, not with Rabun county, but with a mighty State—not about the small affairs of Rabun county, but on the grand issues on which hang the fate of empires and the well being and honor of unborn generations. The way to attain that broad State representation is to abandon the lately adopted system of parceling out the representation amongst the counties (which was at best a mere piece of vulgar Yankee demagoguism,) and come back to the true plan of having each representative in Congress voted for by the whole of the constituency he is to represent—that is to say a general ticket. Narrow local reputations would have less chance—intrigue and corruption fewer facilities—the really eminent and educated gentleman of all parties would be solicited to serve their respective States; and we should never have a discussion on broad principles of policy and the destinies of nations lowered and degraded by the narrow calculations of "P. P. clerk of this parish."

These views, if they be correct, apply of course to all States, whether partly occupied by the enemy or not; and apply also to a state of peace as well as to a state of war.

There is another view of the matter, not yet adverted to. The greater number of the voters, and the best of them, are now in the field, far away from their counties, and in many cases from their States. There is no reason why their absence in such a cause should deprive them of their franchise; on the contrary, they have, in that very circumstance an additional title to be heard by their votes in the election of the Congress which is to decide the destinies of the country in the Legislature, while they work out our deliverance in the field. Indeed, the people they have left at home, are in some regions (parts of North Carolina and Tennessee, for example) so timid and so dubious in their loyalty, that if they are to have the whole choice in their hands, the result would be in part disastrous. We say that the soldiers from North Carolina and Tennessee are the best men and the best Confederates of North Carolina and Tennessee; and we want their votes to give us a sound delegation from these States. It will never do, while they are doing desperate battle for our independence entire and simple, that their weaker brethren should send us feeble or false representatives to Congress.

The whole question begins to be discussed in Congress and in the Press; it has been approached in a patriotic spirit, and we trust will be continued with the single-minded aim and desire to ensure both the dignity and the safety of our glorious young Confederacy by committing its destinies to the best and wisest men.

OUR DANGER, AND DUTY.

The most terrible campaign of six months the world has ever witnessed, was that of Napoleon in Russia, in 1812. Amid the horrors accumulated by the ferocity of men and the rigors of climate, there were many splendid displays of heroism and endurance, and one eminent example of patriotism, to which it may be well to draw the attention of our people in this hour of their trial.

When Kutosoff, who was in command of the Russians, evacuated Moscow to the French, he made a remarkable semi-circular march of twenty-five miles round the city and fell back to Taroutine, and by this most masterly strategical movement, he secured a strong position which covered his own communications with the richest provinces of the empire, and in a large measure cut off those of the French.

For about one month he held this position, recruiting and re-organizing his army. Although the Russians had suffered much, and their city of Moscow had been given to the flames, the pulse of their patriotism beat more and more warmly as the foe seemed to be penetrating their territories. Perhaps no where in history do we find a more noble example of national zeal, than was exhibited in the provisioning and strengthening of the Russian army at Taroutine.

Every article which the army could possibly use, was freely produced by noble and by serf. Food, arms, equipments of all kinds, horses, clothes, every conceivable necessary or useful thing was brought forward. Regardless of age, those over and under the required ages, poured themselves into the camp and would not be excluded from the service. Many men of seventy years stood in the ranks with the boys, and seemed to have received their youth and ardor. An English spectator of the scene says, "that Governors of distant provinces, without waiting for orders or requisitions, urged forward every supply they could collect; and so many cannon

were dispatched by relays, that 160 beautiful new guns were in one day sent away as superfluous. When the army amounted to 110,000 men, not only were they regularly fed, but 50,000 horses received full rations of hay and corn, without the extension of the foraging range above 20 miles. The whole nation was solicitous to fill the camp with stores and useful largesses." Let the reader remember that this was in sparsely settled and comparatively unproductive Russia, and just before the setting in of the terrible winter the very mention of whose horrors makes one's blood run cold.

The glorious blaze of patriotism which led to such memorable sacrifices, was kindled by the French invasion.

Our land, at this writing, is in a similar position. A foe enters our territories for no assigned high moral reason. He does not come to secure a solitary civil or religious advantage to his own people or ours. He fights purely for the subjugation of our country, that he may have our substance and our service. The French, if successful, could never in the very nature of things, have inflicted such terrible pains and penalties upon the Russians, as the Abolitionists not only may, but own they will visit upon us; and we are fighting for a land in comparison with which Russia is a desert. To drive the invader from our soil, our army must be supplied with all things necessary to their physical well being: Among these, food is the very first. It is the duty of every man to plant and raise, and sell at the lowest possible charges every thing that can be produced for the army, and, if the Government cannot buy, to give all above the amount requisite for his own subsistence. Our people have already done well, but the crisis demands more at their hands.

Can nothing excite our people, in the army and out of it, to vie with one another in generous self-denial? We have all at stake. It will be a fearful error in any man to accumulate money at the risk of our cause. It is not the time to be building up colossal fortunes. The men who do it are weakening our arms, and if our arms fail, because our troops cannot procure food, or are disheartened by the sufferings of their families at home, or are outraged by the reflection that they are submitting to privations and exposing themselves to death to protect other men in their pecuniary gains, all such gains will come to naught, and all such gainers have on their souls the horrible guilt of ruining the nation. Let us all be stirred by every consideration of policy and morality to consider not what we can gain, but what we can give, and our enemies will be appalled by our heroic and stupendous self-denial.—N. C. Christian Ad.

THE ARREST OF COL. TALCOTT.

We copy from the New York World of the 28th, an account of the arrest of Col. Talcott in that city. Another paper says that his wife, on learning of his arrest, was suddenly stricken with partial paralysis.

Some excitement was yesterday caused in this city by the arrest of Colonel Talcott, formerly of the United States Engineers, who was examined by General Wool, and sent by Marshal Murray to Fort Lafayette, on the general charge, as it is understood, of being an officer of high rank in the Southern army, and a confidential agent of Jefferson Davis, on his way to Paris. Colonel Talcott is well advanced in years, and we understand has for more than a year been residing in Mexico, where he has been employed in constructing a railway from Vera Cruz to the capital. It is stated that he left Richmond some fifteen months ago for Mexico, and has had no connection since that time with the Confederacy, the object of his present journey to Paris being to attend in that city to the business interests of the Mexican railway which has been under his charge. If these statements are correct, and Col. Talcott was really passing openly through New York with his family, on his way to Europe, the importance of his arrest would appear to have been singularly overestimated in the first accounts given of the affair. Deputies Dwyer and Young, who had been watching for him, arrested him about noon near Barum's Museum. He had been staying with his family at a private house, No. 144, West Twenty-fourth street.

Stocks.—North Carolina 6 per ct. Bonds were sold in Richmond a few days ago at 170. 8 per cts. brought 118. The 6 per cents are of old issue and saleable in New York by the "blockade runners" who buy them instead of specie. North Carolina Bank Notes command the same premium.

"Ere noon are closed those hazel eyes, While beauty's sleep in slumber lies."