

CAROLINA WATCHMAN.

WEEKLY.

VOL. XXI.

SALISBURY, N. C., JULY 13, 1863.

NUMBER 8.

J. J. BRUNER,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Price of the Watchman.

From and after this date, and until there is a change in the prices of provisions, paper and other articles required to carry on business, the subscription rates of this paper will be two dollars for six months, and three dollars for a year.

Advertising, two dollars for the first, and one dollar for each subsequent publication. April 20th, 1863.

From the Raleigh Progress.

Interesting Letters from the Advance of Gen. Lee's Army.

The following interesting letters from over the border are from a field officer of the 23d N. C. T., to a relative, and though not written for publication we have been kindly permitted to use them. Many of our people will recognize the initials of the gallant author of these letters. There is no braver or better man in the service.

OFFICE PROVOST MARCHAL,

Williamsport, Md., June 18

BROTHER GEORGE:—After a long silence and many ups and downs, long marches, many a weary incident, capturing towns and villages, chasing Yankees, &c., I again have an opportunity of saying that I am in the land of the living and doing well. We have had so many adventures of different kinds that I have not the time or memory to enumerate the half of them.

We started from Frederickburg about the first of the month (I think it was), and after a very hard march reached Culpeper and were near by when the cavalry light took place in which Col. Williams was killed. Our division supported Gen. Stuart, but when we advanced on the Yankee cavalry they immediately fell back across the river. We then took up the line of march for the valley, making forced marches and greatly fatiguing the men, we passed over the mountains and through the finest country I ever saw. The valley far surpasses anything that I ever conceived of in beauty and fertility. The whole country, as far as the eye could reach, on every side, is an extensive meadow and clover field, with inexhaustible supplies of forage for the thousands of animals with our army, and in all respects the most splendid country I ever saw.

After entering the valley, we divided our corps, (Ewell's) and Early and Johnston's divisions attacked Winchester, and our division attacked Berryville, both of which were carried in fine style. Our division then advanced immediately on Martinsburg, a town of 3500 inhabitants, on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which we surrounded and charged suddenly before the Yankees knew we were in the country. Such a terrible yell as was raised simultaneously by all the brigade and such a noise as was caused by charging over the numerous stone fences surrounding the town was never before heard on earth. There was much confusion and terror, and running to and fro by the Yankees and citizens I never before witnessed. The Yankees immediately set fire to their army stores and commenced running in every direction. We dashed into the town, capturing all their artillery and stores, and many prisoners, the rest escaping as best they could. We then had a gay time in town. The whole thing was confusion, night had arrived, our troops filled the town and everything was in uproar. I immediately took possession of the Quartermaster and Commissary stores and Provost Marshal's Office, and found everything that could be desired, in abundance. Among the numerous articles on hand in the Provost Marshal's office were several large boxes marked 12 doz. Colt's repeaters, but I found on opening them that they contained each 12 doz. bottles fine French brandy, which I proceeded to capture. After remaining all night in town we advanced upon this place, but the enemy evacuated without firing a gun. So, on the 15th inst., we crossed the Potomac and took quiet possession of the town.

I was immediately appointed Provost Marshal of the place, and I am now engaged in the discharge of the troublesome and important duties belonging to that important office. They are multitudinous and indistinguishable, embracing everything imaginable, the authority in all instances over the persons and property being absolute. This is a flourishing town about the size of Warrenton, embracing several good hotels, one bank, many stores, all filled with the choicest goods, at old prices. Such a scramble for goods was never before seen. I immediately took possession of all stores, hotels, bar rooms, the bank and all other species of property, put them under guard and selected through the Quartermaster such articles as were needed by the government. The stocks are very large, and goods of all descriptions cheap; I could get any quantity, but cannot at present get transportation back for them as we have no railroad, and our teams are all employed in transporting on government account.

I am exceedingly busy, as our army is immediately around town, and to keep order and to manage the various departments is very troublesome indeed. I have charge of paroling prisoners, impressing goods, returning

runaway negroes, regulating prices of goods, giving passports to citizens to pass the lines, also the citizens of Virginia, to get here and back with merchandise, which they buy here.

Every officer or soldier in town has to have my pass before entering a store. I have to grant passes to all the Brigadier Generals in the division. When I took charge of the town there was a mob breaking open stores and committing every possible depredation. The streets were crowded with hundreds of drunken men as there are any number of bar rooms and distilleries in town. The citizens were shut up in their houses and frightened nearly to death, but in less than an hour I had order and quiet restored, the stores and houses guarded and the citizens protected. Everybody is loud in praising my management, while our Generals are perfectly satisfied with my government of the city. The citizens, all friends and enemies, (most of them are Unionists,) are highly pleased, and offer me every possible honor and accommodation.

I took possession of the best hotel in town for my headquarters, and we are living in fine style. Our brigade is about two miles from town, our advance cavalry now in Penn., and we are expecting every day to advance, but cannot say what is the programme at this time. The capture of Winchester, &c., gives us 5000 prisoners, and much artillery and stores. We have also captured thousands of horses and many hundred slaves. I have several negroes, free and slaves, in my hands, but negroes are worth nothing at all. No kind of negroes will sell for more one hundred dollars. I expect to make some purchases in that line for Southern exportation. We are now busily engaged in gathering up our immense stores and sending them back to the rear. Our corps are now all occupying this side of the river for two miles, and there is a report that Gen. Longstreet is also crossing at some point below, but we are entirely cut off from Southern news, and I have not heard a word from that country since we left Culpeper.

Our Division is still in front and we are expecting to enter Pennsylvania in a few days. Yours, &c., C. C. B.

GREENCASTLE, PA., JUNE 23.

BROTHER GEORGE: After much hard marching, some spirited fighting, many interesting incidents, adventures and episodes by the way, we are safely camped in the enemy's country, having arrived at Greencastle, a large and flourishing town, on yesterday, our division (Rhodes') being in front—our Brigade being the first brigade of infantry that ever entered Pennsylvania.

We crossed the Potomac into Maryland on the 15th inst., at Williamsport. On taking possession, I was appointed Provost Marshal of the place, which I held until our army advanced into this State. While in command at Williamsport, I had full and entire control of all persons and property there, and gave entire satisfaction to Gen. Rhodes, besides getting a unanimous vote of thanks from the citizens for the manner in which I commanded the department. I took possession of the largest hotel in the place for myself, and aids, where I fared sumptuously, having everything that I could possibly desire. I had a great deal of business to do, as we had to impress all the stores and government goods in town, all of which was done by my order and under my instructions. We got an immense deal of goods of all descriptions.

I could get any amount of articles at old prices, but had no opportunity of sending things back, as the government had use for all the transportation we had.

We have captured towns, cities, villages, prisoners, &c. Our march through the Valley was a triumphal procession. We swept the enemy before us and captured everything they had—the result of the campaign being six thousand prisoners, half a dozen towns and cities, villages without number, government stores in great abundance, and all without any loss of consequence. We are now in the most splendid country I ever saw, everything in the way of subsistence being in the most profuse abundance, our army being amply and abundantly supplied from this country, and we cannot consume one tenth of the supplies before and around us—wheat, corn, oats, clover, beef, bacon, butter, &c., being in waste on all sides. We have secured thousands of horses and cattle, sending out parties in every direction to bring them in. We find no enemy to check our onward march, except small bands of cavalry. There was a little brush with them yesterday evening here. We killed two and put the rest to flight.

The citizens are all hostile to us, but are quite docile, as they are frightened out of their lives, and offer us everything we wish, to save them from utter destruction. I have visited a good many of trembling culprits and gave them some wholesome lectures concerning the war and invasion of our territory. They all profess themselves as in favor of peace. We will move onward in a day or two, but I don't know the programme. Our success until now has been brilliant and imposing. Our army is in splendid condition, and the spirits of the men better than I have ever seen them. I think that we can continue our advance with slight resistance. We are having beautiful weather for operations, and everything is going on satisfactorily. I have written once or twice home, but think it doubtful about the letters going promptly as we have no mail.

CHAMBERSBURG, June 25.

Since writing the above we have advanced to this place, which is a city of 6,000 or 7,000 inhabitants, situated in a highly beautiful and fertile country. The people here are peaceable, quiet and prosperous people. They are terribly alarmed at our invasion, but as they have been well protected have suffered but little, only having to furnish our army with abundant supplies of all kinds.

We see nothing of the enemy, but hear that they have collected 15,000 or 20,000 militia near Harrisburg to oppose our progress, but they will present but slight obstructions to our onward march. I cannot say what our plans may be, but think that great results will be accomplished. I write in great haste. We are having fine times, and in good spirits. Yours, &c., C. C. B.

No Virginian can read the Message of Gov. VANCE without a sensation of shame. The late General Assembly of Virginia, after many acts of bad faith and bad policy, crowned its infamy by a law discrediting the Confederate currency. The measure was adopted, no doubt, under strong influences from the brokers and their ally in the basement story; and three-fourths of the members voted in ignorance of what they were doing, and altogether unsuspecting of the schemes which the speculators, who contrived their action, were concocting. But ignorance furnishes no excuse for their proceeding. They voted a law for the enrichment of brokers, bankers and speculators at the expense of the people. They voted a law to discredit the currency of the Government which is charged with the defense of the public liberties. They enacted a measure declaring that the money which paid the soldier, and which feeds the soldier's wife and children, unfit to pay the salaries of the auditors and clerks.

The action of the Richmond banks was taken under the shelter of this law of the State. The speculators, who perceived the order of the banks discrediting Confederate money, no doubt had had some agency in promoting the action of the Legislature, which furnished a color of excuse to the banks. The result of the machinations of the Virginia Legislature and the Richmond banks, brokers and speculators, is great shame to the Commonwealth, and irreparable injury to the Confederate currency. Another deplorable result is, that the city of Richmond, which has performed noble services during the war, and the great body of whose population deserves the respect of the country, is brought to shame and disgrace by the acts of her banks, brokers and speculators.

There is no act so intensely selfish at the present juncture as speculation in the currency; there is no crime so abhorrent to the mind as an effort to put down the money by which our armies are maintained in the field, our soldiers paid, and their families subsisted. Yet a band of evil spirits in Richmond are engaged in the systematic practice of these nefarious cruises.

There would be no speculation in the Confederate currency, if those engaged in the practice, were not assured of its intrinsic value. They know it will be redeemed to the last dollar. They know that the South would be forever infamous among nations if it failed to meet its obligations. They know that the property and resources of the South are ample to sustain a much heavier debt than this war can possibly entail. They know that direct trade with Europe will relieve us from an annual tribute to the North, which in itself will far more than compensate for any possible tax that may be necessary for the support of the Confederate debt. They know that a good name for honesty and fidelity to obligations among nations will be worth more to us than any possible sum which might be gained by repudiation. They know too, that the latter degrading measure would bring upon us new wars far more burdensome than the debt incurred for the present war.

It is their plan, therefore, to mass large amounts of Confederate paper, and they seek to embrace their investment by frightening the people into selling at a heavy sacrifice the money which they hold. The very issues which they are endeavoring to throw out of circulation, and to buy up for a song, is like to be the most valuable of all. It is payable six months after peace with the U. States. It is payable at the very time when all sorts of commercial enterprises will be in process of organization, and when their funds now engrossed by speculation will become capital to be employed in healthy lines of business. The simplest mind can perceive how notes, payable six months after peace, may be the most desirable sort of funds that a man of business can obtain. Yet, strange to say, this is the very money which Richmond banks endeavor to discredit, and which the Virginia Legislature rejects in levying taxes. There is but one explanation for the discredit in Richmond and our capital of this money, and that is speculation. It is the very money which the speculators prefer over all other paper of the Government; and it is because they wish to engross and hoard it, that they are using so many arts to put down its price.

We are just beginning to witness the first rays of peace. It may be sometime before we enjoy their full effulgence; but assuredly the day is beginning to dawn. These six months after peace notes are just beginning to possess a distinctive and extraordinary value. The speculators are more than ever eager to frighten the people away, and to catch the prize for themselves. This is the ex-

planation of a fact, which under any other hypothesis would be inexplicable. Have the people good common sense? Are they quite willing to be fleeced by a gang of unconscionable speculators having their headquarters in Chambersburg? Once again we ask, do they deserve so well of the country, that the people should be made poor in order that they may grow rich?—Rich. Examiner.

COLLECTION OF TAXES.

TREASURY OFFICE.

Raleigh, July 3, 1863.

To the Sheriffs and Tax Collectors of North Carolina:

The following is a copy of the act just passed by the General Assembly, intending to expedite the collection of the State and county Revenue, in order that the issues of Confederate currency, dated prior to 6th of April, 1863, may be funded.

I congratulate you on the adoption of a plan, which will relieve you and the tax-payers, and protect the State and county Treasurers from loss, growing out of the legislation of Congress, and sustain as far as the legislation of this State can do it, the currency of the Confederate government. To make this plan successful, your energetic co-operation is required in order that the taxes may reach the hands of the Treasurer and other fiscal agents, on or before the 26th instant. The State expects that you and the tax-payers will heartily co-operate in carrying out the plan.

Where you may not be able to get here by the time indicated with the money, you are at liberty to carry the Confederate notes you may have received, dated prior to the 6th of April, 1863, to any depository of the Confederate government, and fund these notes in seven per cent bonds of the Confederate government—and these bonds, or the certificates of the depository, will be received at the Treasury as payments made on or before the 26th July, instant, though they may be delivered here at any time before the first day of October next.

It will be due to all of you who pay into the Treasury on or before the 26th July next the taxes due from your counties, that publication of the fact be made and, I shall cause it to be done.

J. F. E. Hardie, of Asheville, is appointed an agent of the treasury, in compliance with the regulations of the 3d section of the act. The appointment of agents at other points, under said section, is left discretionary with me, and I appoint no other, believing the object can be better accomplished, by your funding the money and bringing here the bond or the certificate of the depository; because, under existing laws, the Treasurer is authorized to receive the taxes only upon the settlement and certificate of the Comptroller.

As I have not the power myself to receive the taxes excepting on the certificate of the Comptroller, I deem it best to appoint an agent at Asheville only; which I do because the act, as to the appointment of an agent there, is imperative. Very respectfully, JONATHAN WORTH, Public Treasurer.

AN ACT

In relation to the payment of Taxes and to authorize the Public Treasurer and other officers of the State to fund certain issues of the Confederate Treasury Notes in the seven per cent Bonds of the Government.

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 all Sheriffs and Tax Collectors be required forthwith to proceed with collecting the taxes due to the State, and all levied by the counties, and make payment of the public taxes, as far as they may be collected, into the office of the Public Treasury on or before the 26th day of July, instant, or into such office of deposit as the said Treasurer may direct, and all County taxes within the same time to the proper fiscal agent of the county to receive the same, as far as the said county taxes may be collected; and in all such collections the said officers may receive, and when tendered they shall receive, the Treasury Notes of the Confederate States of America without regard to the dates of the issue of said Notes.

Sec. 2. After the 26th day of July, instant, the said collecting officers shall proceed further to collect the taxes due and yet unpaid to the State and their respective counties, still receiving, whenever tendered, all Treasury Notes of the Confederate States of America, as declared in section 1st of this Act. Upon all sums paid as aforesaid on or before the 26th day of July, the collecting officers shall receive an additional commission of one per cent.

Sec. 3. Whenever the taxes aforesaid shall be paid into the public Treasury on or before the 26th day of July, instant, or into any office of deposit where he may require the same to be paid, the Treasurer is directed to fund the monies so received, if paid in fundable notes, and all other fundable monies in the Treasury, not necessary or available for the current public expenses, in the seven per cent Bonds of the Confederate Government, when such monies are of an issue previous to the 6th of April, 1863. He shall appoint agents at Asheville and elsewhere in his discretion, to receive and receipt for the taxes so paid on or before the 26th day of July, and to fund the same, and he shall make compensation to the agents whom he may thus select.

Sec. 4. All Confederate Treasury Notes paid into the office of the Treasurer after the 26th day of July shall be held to be of equal value, and in making payment from his office the Treasurer may apply the said notes at his pleasure, without discrimination between the issues of different dates.

Sec. 5. All fiscal agents of counties holding county funds, and every Chairman of the Board of Superintendents of Common Schools, may, in their discretion, fund such Treasury Notes in the seven per cent Bonds of the Confederate States, and sell the Bonds or scrip at par or for a premium.

Sec. 6. The public Treasurer or fiscal agents,

and every chairman of the board of common schools, shall be allowed to pay out to parties willing to receive them, or to sell at par or for a premium, all the Bonds which they may receive in lieu of notes fundable under the provisions of this Act, from the time of their receipt, and apply the proceeds in payment from their several offices.

Sec. 7. The Clerks of the several County Courts in this State shall, for the present year, make to the Comptroller's office on or before the 27th day of July, instant, the return required to be made in Section 37 of the Act of the last session of the General Assembly entitled "Revenue."

Sec. 8. The Treasurer shall have printed, as early as practicable, 300 copies of this Act and transmit one to each Sheriff and one to each County Court Clerk in the State.

Sec. 9. This Act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification. Read three times and ratified in General Assembly this 3d day of July, 1863.

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

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, Office of Secretary of State.

I, John P. H. Russ, Secretary of State in and for the State of 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 3d day of July, 1863. J. P. H. RUSS, Secretary of State.

YANKEE RAID ON WARSAW.

We learn that a column of Yankee cavalry and mounted infantry entered Kenansville on Saturday night last, having been sent out from Newberon by way of Trenton through Jones County into Duplin. They proceeded to Warsaw, on the Wilmington Road, some ten miles from this City. We learn they cut the telegraph wires and tore up several miles of the Railroad. The estimate of their numbers, by Gen. Whitehead, of Duplin, in a dispatch to Gov. Vance, is about 2,000, with six pieces of artillery. We learn they seized horses and other property, and destroyed Freolick's armory at Kenansville. If we had any troops in that quarter, we presume their pickets were surprised and captured.

Some little excitement was caused by these reports in this City on Sunday, and steps were taken to give the enemy a warm reception, if they should sweep round in this direction. The 30th militia, Col. Stephenson, was called out, regular troops telegraphed for at Weldon, and Col. Mallett's regiment of well-drilled conscripts were directed to hold themselves in readiness.

On Monday morning, at 9 o'clock, a large meeting of our citizens was held, Mayor Harrison in the chair. Gov. Vance addressed the meeting in eloquent strains, advising the people to volunteer in defence of their homes; and Gov. Bragg followed, urging a general enrollment. A committee was appointed to superintend the enrollment, which is rapidly and enthusiastically going forward.

The enemy, it is said, declared it to be their purpose when at Kenansville to proceed to Fayetteville or Raleigh.

We shall give the latest news from this raid up to the time of going to press.

LATEST.—News from Warsaw up to ten o'clock Sunday night, says the Yankees entered Kenansville, capturing Lane's cavalry company, only five escaping. Took a number of negroes.

Five hundred cavalry pushed on to Warsaw. The train narrowly escaped capture. They returned to Kenansville, and re-appeared at Warsaw at six o'clock Sunday evening.—N. C. Standard.

Resistance to the Supreme Court!—We learn that Dr. G. L. Sellers, belonging to the 51st N. C. troops, stationed at Wilmington, sued out through his counsel a few days since, from the Supreme Court, a writ of habeas corpus, and that the writ was placed in the hands of the Sheriff of New Hanover to be executed. The Sheriff attempted to serve the writ, but the Colonel of the regiment refused to permit him to pass his lines. This is a triumph, thus far, of the military over our Supreme Court. When the writ shall have been returned to that body, or to one of the judges, we do not doubt that prompt action will be taken to uphold the civil law. N. C. Standard.

Harper's Ferry seems to be one of the most untenable points in the country, and in fact, whenever it is threatened, its garrison has but one or two alternatives—either to evacuate it or be captured. When Joe Johnston evacuated at the beginning of the war, most of our enthusiastic people were displeased with him, but subsequent events have shown the wisdom of his course, and that in fact Harper's Ferry cannot be held without the party holding it, or attempting to hold it, running a great risk of being taken. Its capture or evacuation is again reported.