

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 Richmond Examiner.

From General Lee's Army—Severe Cavalry Fight near Brandy Station—The enemy driven across the river.

The Central train last evening brought the tidings of the recommencement of hostilities on the upper Rappahannock. On Friday afternoon our pickets, near Brandy station, composing a portion of General Mahone's brigade, were driven by a large body of the enemy—said to be three brigades strong—cavalry and artillery. Our infantry fell back, and Gen. Hampton's cavalry, commanded by Lieut. Col. Baker, advanced, Gen. W. H. F. Lee's and Jones' brigades being within supporting distance. Hampton's brigade fell upon the enemy at a brisk charge, and for a few minutes the fight was fierce. But the impetuosity and dash of the old brigade was too much for the Yankees, and they broke and recrossed the Rappahannock in confusion. In the short time that the battle lasted Hampton's brigade lost every Colonel of the command by wounds, but none were killed. Lieut. Col. Baker, in command, was shot through the left arm, as also was Colonel Young, of Cobb's Legion; Col. Black of the First South Carolina cavalry, shot crosswise through the palm of his right hand by a minnie ball; Captain Blair, First North Carolina, shot slightly in the left breast. Our loss in the fight was said to be upwards of fifty killed and wounded. The Yankee loss was heavy, and we took a number of prisoners, and lost but a very few.

The Yankee cavalry is said to have been commanded by Kilpatrick, but we rather expect it was Stoneman, with perhaps the bulk of his force, operating as a feeler for the whereabouts of General Lee. Passengers represented General Slocum, of General Mead's army, on this side of the Rappahannock, but we heard no confirmation of it.

It was in the first part of this engagement, that Capt. E. W. Branch, commanding the Richmond Greys, in the Twelfth Virginia regiment, in Gen. Mahone's brigade, was shot through by a ball in the breast. The deceased was a son of Moses Branch, merchant of Richmond, and had passed through many of the most ensanguined battles in Virginia, and beyond the Potomac, to fall in a minor skirmish on his native soil.

His body arrived on the train last evening, and was escorted to his late residence by a portion of the City Battalion, headed by Capt. Smith's band. All the officers named above as wounded, came down on the train, except Col. Young.

The Situation round about Fredericksburg.

The Fredericksburg train, which arrived at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, brought very few passengers, and there was hardly a grain of information among them all concerning the situation of affairs in that vicinity. A portion of Meade's army had certainly entered upper Stafford from the direction of Fauquier. None had appeared in Fredericksburg. The heights on this side were secure against their occupation.

Some skirmishing had taken place between the rear and advance of the two armies at points not designated. Of the whereabouts of the different corps and divisions of Gen. Lee's army it is not our province to speak. Their presence will be made known to the enemy at the opportune moment.

Further particulars of the recent Yankee raid in the direction of Weldon.

By a gentleman who reached this city yesterday from Weldon, North Carolina, we are put in possession of some of the particulars of the recent Yankee raid from Winton to Murfreesboro', Jackson and Boone's Mill, where they encountered Gen. Ransom, and then back to Winton, on the Chowan, on their return route at a faster rate than they went. The Yankees came

salping back to Winton at about noon on the 23d of February last. They carried with them a great deal of stolen property, horses, mules, milk cows, negroes, wagons, buggies; in fact, a specimen of everything that could walk on legs, run on wheels, or be carried in the arms. The force immediately commenced embarking on board transports and gunboats. They seemed to be in a hurry, and for fear that General Ransom should appear in pursuit, and attempt a ransom of some of the stolen property, pickets were thrown back for several miles.

The Yankee commander was Colonel Speers, the same who led the raid on the Central and Fredericksburg railroad recently, and was too badly frightened to do much harm.

The forces embarked at Winton consisted of 1,700 cavalry, three regiments of infantry, and six pieces of artillery. Dodge's cavalry, a set of thieves, and who have never achieved an exploit in any other line, were along with the command.

They loaded the horses, negroes, and wagons on the transports, but a great many horses and broken down wagons were left upon the shore, to be reclaimed by their owners. They carried off in all about three hundred horses, some four or five hundred negroes, and many wagons and private carriages.

Their robbery of private individuals was systematic and general. Dr. Sneed and Lewis Daniels, of Hertford county, were arrested by them, and held during the progress of the raid. No resident was allowed to move about, and no communication was permitted between one plantation and another. This accounts for the secrecy which marked the movements of the raiding party.

John Southall, Esq., a resident of Murfreesboro', and who has never been esteemed a secessionist, *per se*, lost all he possessed in the world, at their hands.

Horses, flour, grain, negroes, went the way of all things in the Yankee's path. The hotel of James Newsom, at Jackson, was searched and ransacked from garret to cellar, and the proprietor's desk robbed of six thousand dollars in money. Mr. Dickson was robbed of eight thousand dollars mostly gold and silver. Samuel Colvert, a Confederate States Quartermaster, was captured and robbed of three thousand dollars, in funds. In some instances, the Yankees got drunk on the liquor stolen from gentlemen's sideboards, and acted like demons. They dashed in the mirrors with their sabres, slashed at the paintings on the walls, hacked the most elegant furniture, and tore up the ladies' and children's clothing.

An old negro named Billy Jones they seized in the road and robbed him of one hundred and fifty dollars. On their retreat the Yankees burned the Murfreesboro' bridge, and Carter's large grain mill. That head "buffalo," Charles Henry Foster, was with the Yankee expedition, and it will afford the public a better estimate of his despicable character, to know he was married in sight of the mill to which the torch was applied, and that Mr. Carter, the owner of the mill, is his father in law! He has a Captain's commission, and is authorized by Lincoln to raise a regiment from among the buffaloes of North Carolina—if so many as a regiment can be found.

CORRESPONDENCE.

We have been furnished by the Department of State with the following correspondence between the Confederate authorities and those of the French Government, relative to the assistance lately rendered at Charleston to the Despatch Ship *Renaudin*:

CONSULATE OF FRANCE AT RICHMOND, RICHMOND, 29th July, 1863.

Sir: On the happening of an accident on the 23d of last February, in Sullivan's Pass, which caused damage to the Steam Despatch Ship, "*Renaudin*," belonging to the Imperial Navy, the Confederate authorities hastened to tender to the commander of that vessel the gratuitous use of the floating dock of Charleston, and he was thus enabled to make the necessary repairs and continue his voyage.

The Government of the Emperor having been informed of this circumstance, desires, sir, that the expressions of his very warm thanks should be transmitted to your Government, as well as to the authorities at Charleston.

I have the honor of enclosing to you a copy of the despatch just addressed to me by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, on this subject. I am happy to be thus made the interpreter of the sentiments of my Government upon the present occasion, which affords fresh evidence of the friendly disposition and courteous spirit of which

the Confederate authorities had previously been distinguished.

Conformably to the instructions of the Department of Foreign Affairs, as you will perceive in the enclosed copy of its despatch, I appeal to your obliging favor, sir, for the transmission to the Charleston authorities of the expression of the thanks due to them, and for the assurance that the Emperor is deeply sensible of their generous conduct which enabled the Despatch Steamer *Renaudin* to complete its repairs.

I pray you, sir, to accept the assurance, &c. &c. ALFRED PAUL, To the Hon. J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State, Department of State.

Copy enclosed in foregoing: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, POLITICAL BUREAU, PARIS, June 10, 1863.

Sir: On the 23d of February last, His Imperial Majesty's Despatch Steamer *Renaudin*, which had received the order to touch at Charleston, got aground at Sullivan's Pass, and only succeeded in escaping from this critical condition by the aid of the *Milan*, and of the English sloop-of-war *Petrel*. On the happening of this accident, the Confederate authorities were kind enough to tender to the Captain of the *Renaudin* the gratuitous use of the floating dock at Charleston; and he was thus enabled to make repairs that were indispensable to the continuance of his voyage. I desire, sir, that you inform the Government at Richmond how sensible we have been of the kind conduct of the authorities at Charleston, and that you pray it to transmit to those authorities the expression of our lively thanks.

Receive, sir, the assurance, &c. &c. DROUYN DE L'HUYS.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHMOND, July 31st, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 29th inst., enclosing copy of a communication addressed to you by M. Drouyn de L'Huys, in which you are desired to convey to this Government the assurance that the Government of His Imperial Majesty is deeply sensible of the services rendered by the Confederate authorities in placing the use of the floating dock in Charleston at the gratuitous disposal of the Despatch Steamer "*Renaudin*," belonging to the Imperial Navy, when that vessel was damaged by grounding in Sullivan Pass. You further request me to be the medium of transmitting to the authorities at Charleston the warm thanks of His Majesty's Government for their generous conduct on the occasion.

The Confederate Government is much gratified, sir, at having had an opportunity of testifying to his Imperial Majesty the sentiments of cordial regard entertained by it for him and for the French people, and the President desires me to say that he fully appreciates the promptness which the Emperor has displayed in responding to the manifestation of these feelings.

I will very cheerfully communicate to the authorities at Charleston the message for them transmitted by our Government, and I receive with pleasure your own acknowledgement of the friendly courtesy which has always been displayed by this Government towards that of his Imperial Majesty. I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

J. P. BENJAMIN, Secretary of State.

M. ALFRED PAUL, Consul of France, Richmond Va.

MORRIS' ISLAND.

The impression seems almost general that the safety of Charleston depends entirely upon our holding Morris Island, and that any sacrifice of life should be made, ere it is abandoned. We do not concur in this opinion. It is true Fort Sumter was reduced in part by batteries erected by us on Cummings Point, but every one who is familiar with these localities knows that no battery can be erected on Morris Island sufficiently near Fort Sumter, but must be subjected to the control of that fortress. Batteries Gregg and Wagner are both under the guns of Sumter, and the amount of metal that would be concentrated on these points, would render it both uncomfortable and hazardous for the Yankees to erect guns of such size as to do material injury; but Sumter is not the only battery that commands Morris Island, and if it should be abandoned as a military necessity, (which we do not believe,) the Yankees will discover they have got a difficult road to explore, ere Charleston falls into their hands. The fact is, neither the abandonment of Morris Island nor the destruction of Fort Sumter neces-

sarily causes the fall of Charleston, and we are not prepared to see the tax which cost, when with blinded conscience they make the attempt. But why should our people excite themselves about Morris Island? It is only within twelve months that any merit has been attached to its importance; besides, one of our greatest Generals now in Virginia is said to have declared it quite impossible so to fortify that island, as to render it impregnable against a formidable iron clad fleet, and such batteries as our enemies could erect at will on Folly Island; yet witness what the noble Beauregard has already done—almost stripped of his entire forces, without guns, and without labor to complete his line of fortifications, with a mere handful of brave, determined men, his works have resisted for weeks, a bombardment such as has not been surpassed in this war, repelling two desperate land attacks, slaughtering and capturing over 3,000 of the enemy. Let us not demean our nature by expecting impossibilities from those in authority, nor permit our confidence in our commanding General to waver. His early deeds in our cause have so identified him with Charleston and her people, that he may be said to live only in her safety.— Let us abandon all else and rally to his support in this his, and our time of trial, believing that if Charleston can be saved from the vandals' tread, he will save it; but if God decrees otherwise, then let us submit as becomes a Christian people, resolved never to desert the noble old city until reduced to an uninhabitable waste. Never say die. We will yet triumph.— *South Carolinian*.

From the Richmond Whig.

RETALIATION.

In an article exposing the bad faith with which the Yankees have acted in the exchange of prisoners, their inhumanity to those now in their hands, and the atrocity of their threat to execute Gen. Fitzhugh Lee and Captain Winder, in retaliation for the two condemned men now in this city, the *Enquirer* says:

"There is no use in disguising to ourselves the purport of the policy we have here described; it is war to the knife.— Our Government has done all that was possible to do in order to avoid the terrible issue. When we had a large excess of prisoners, we sent them away before they were exchanged. When our army has been in the enemy's country, it was strictly ordered to respect private property and to spare non-combatants, though the property of our people had been systematically destroyed, and our helpless women and little ones had been driven out homeless and naked upon the world. All this forbearance and chivalrous courtesy on our part—all this 'Christianity and civilization,' as Gen. Lee says—has been thrown away upon such an enemy. We have been casting our pearls before swine, indeed."

With all deference to the *Enquirer*, and with proper respect for the motive that has actuated the Executive, we are sincerely of the opinion that "our Government has done (about) all that was possible to do" to induce "the terrible issue." The very course of conduct cited by the *Enquirer* has done the mischief. Had we acted on the opposite policy, inflicting stern and ample retaliation, on the very first provocation, there would have been the end of this business. Instead of this, we have fulminated empty proclamations or poured out lachrymose protests, until the enemy have learned to laugh at our threats. When Mansford was hung at New Orleans, for doing an act for which his name will go down with honor to posterity, we waited four or five months and then a proclamation came, which threatened not half enough and effected nothing that was threatened. Had two of their highest officers then in our hands been hung instead, we should have been relieved of further trouble. Ten noble young fellows were drawn up in a line in Missouri and shot down like dogs, for no other reason than an old Unionist had disappeared from the neighborhood, (unhurt, as was afterwards proved by his returning well and sound) and not a hair of any mortal Yankee's head was made to suffer for the bloody enormity. Hundreds of cases, we might safely say thousands, have occurred, appealing to the Government for retaliation—for that just punishment of the enemy that would secure safety to our people—but if yet a single Yankee has been brought to suffer in limb for any of these numberless barbarities, we have not heard of the case. It does not seem to occur to those who have permitted this astonishing state of things, that they have been cruel

to their own friends just in proportion as they have been cruel to the enemy. For a similar consequence, that of this weak-headed and timid-hearted policy, the embarrassments of the Government have greatly multiplied, and it now finds itself in perplexity that would tax its firmness and discretion, if they were double what they are.

HOW THE YANKEES HAVE REVENGED SUMTER.

"The *Old Guard*, a monthly Journal, devoted to the principles of '76 and '77," is now published in New York. It is ardent in its support of State rights, and against the war. Under the caption, "how we are revenging Sumter," it has the following:

The following are the reported casualties of this war from its beginning to January 1st, 1863.

FEDERALS.	
Killed,	43,874
Wounded,	97,029
Died of disease and wounds,	259,000
Made prisoners,	63,218
Total,	459,674
CONFEDERATES.	
Killed,	20,863
Wounded,	59,915
Died from disease and wounds,	129,000
Made prisoners,	22,199
Total,	222,477

They have killed twenty-two thousand and eight hundred and seventy-four more of our men than we have of theirs.

They have wounded, not mortally, thirty-nine thousand four hundred and fourteen more of our men than we have of theirs.

One hundred and fifty thousand more of our men have died of disease and wounds than of theirs.

They have made prisoners of forty-six thousand more of our men than we have of theirs.

Our total casualties are two hundred and thirty-seven thousand two hundred and ninety-seven more than theirs—that is, our casualties have been fourteen thousand more than as much again as theirs.

This is the way we have "revenged the firing on Fort Sumter."

But this is not all. We have spent also most two thousand millions more of money than they have spent. We have made one hundred thousand of our women widows.

We have made one million of children fatherless.

We have destroyed the Constitution of the country.

We have brought the ferocious savagery of war into ever corner of society.

We have demoralized our pulpits, so that our very religion is a source of immorality and blood.

Instead of being servants of Christ our ministers are servants of Satan.

The land is full of contractors, thieves, provost marshalls, and a thousand other illegal tools of despotic power, as Egypt was of vermin in the days of the Pharaohs.

We are rapidly degenerating in every thing that exalts a nation.

Our civilization is perishing.

We are swiftly drifting into inevitable civil war here in the North.

We are turning our homes into charnel houses.

There is a corpse in every family.

The angel of death sits in every door.

The devil has removed from Tartarus to Washington.

We pretend that we are punishing the rebels but they are punishing us.

We pretend that we are restoring the Union, but we are destroying it.

We pretend that we are enforcing the laws, but we are only catching negroes.

That is the way we are "revenging Sumter."

Selling our souls to the devil, and taking Lincoln & Co.'s promise to pay. We have it in greenbacks and blood.

That is the way we are "revenging Sumter."