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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.

NORTHERN NEWS.

Assistant Commissioner of Exchange.—Lieut. Col. Irvine, formerly member of Congress, has been appointed Assistant Commissioner to effect an exchange of prisoners, and will report to Gen. Meredith. He has left Washington for Fortress Monroe. Irvine was a prisoner at Richmond four months. The New York Times says:

The rebels, as well as we, now hold respectively a large number of prisoners; and there are difficulties pending in regard to the matter of exchange. The quicker these difficulties can honorably be solved, the better for us, most unquestionably.

Charleston Through a Glass.—A correspondent of the Baltimore American, writing from the fleet off Charleston, says:

Lying well up, nearly opposite Fort Wagner, we have across the narrow part of Morris Island, so full a view of Charleston that I have studied the aspect of the city until it has grown familiar to me. We can see the shipping, what there is of it, at the wharves; the plying of one or two small steamers to and fro; trace the streets up from the battery, and, almost fancy we see the people moving in them. The tall steeples of Grace, St. Michael's and Christ's churches have grown accustomed sights, and those in the fleet who have been familiar with Charleston in other days point out prominent buildings, and speculate as to the fate of old friends whom the war has swept into the vortex of treason and disloyalty. But, though Charleston is thus near to us, the same glass that seems almost to place it within our grasp shows to us Sumter, ruined yet defiant; the threatening embrasures of Fort Johnston, and the long line of batteries which fringe the shore of Sullivan's Island from Moultrie upwards, until these sandy outlines are lost in the woods about Mount Pleasant. These are the sentinels that guard the road to the city. They will be overcome, humbled, and captured—not a doubt of that—but whilst they remain, though near, Charleston is not ours.

Yankee Speculations.—A special dispatch to the New York Times, from Chattanooga, October 27th, via Nashville, 28, says: "Unreliable intelligence has been received that Longstreet is moving up the Tennessee river, with the intention of operating against Burnside, and it is believed that Ewell is moving on East Tennessee by way of Lynchburg, with the same purpose."

Another Chattanooga dispatch, dated 24th, via Nashville, 28, says: "The enemy's action indicates that Bragg is moving a large force on Cleveland, Tennessee, with the intention of breaking our lines in that direction. It is generally believed that the movement is cooperated in by a portion of Lee's army moving via Lynchburg and Bristol, with an intention to drive Burnside out of Tennessee, flank the Union army and compel it to retire from Chattanooga."

The Actual Result of the Late Draft at the North.—According to Gen. Fry's report to the United States Secretary of War, dated the 19th inst., the conscription brings only one of the conscripted men into the army for every nineteen drawn. The New York World gives a synopsis of the statement in his report:

For every 100 men wanted 150

were drawn, in order to make sure of the hundred. Gen. Fry says that of those drawn 80 per cent. have reported, that is, 120 have reported for every 100 drawn. Of those reporting, he says that 30 per cent. are exempted for physical disability and 30 per cent. under the second section of the act; leaving 40 per cent. who have been held to service. Forty per cent. of 120 is forty-eight; and of these he says one half have paid commutation—so that the 150 men drawn are reduced to twenty-four. Of this small remainder Gen. Fry states that about one third have gone in person and two thirds have furnished substitutes. The substitutes are of course volunteers; they go into the army not by compulsion, but of their own accord, induced by the bounties they receive; so that the net result of drafting 150,000 men is to bring 80,000 conscripts, and no more, into the army. Could there be a more striking proof of the inaptitude, bad judgment and want of foresight which direct the proceedings of the administration? If they had really understood the machine they were putting in operation, instead of adding 50 per cent. to cover deficiencies, they would have added 1,800 per cent. The draft bringing only one conscript in nineteen into the army, the President, to get 800,000 conscripts, ought to have ordered 7,600,000 men to be drawn.

Sixteen free States and two slave States have sent to the field 1,276,246 volunteers, of these 1,068,769 were three years' men Pennsylvania has supplied 200,336 volunteers, of which 20,969 were three months', 15,100 nine months' and 164,257 three years' men. New York has furnished 222,836 volunteers, of which 30,131 were two years', and 15,922 three months' men. Illinois has sent out 185,440 volunteers; Massachusetts 71,038. Kentucky has contributed 43,908 men, and Missouri 27,947. New Jersey comes in for a total of 30,214, of which 17,395 were three years' men, 10,714 nine months and 2,105 three months' men. The above statement has been compiled from official sources, and may be relied on as being correct, up to January 1, 1863.

The Rebel Rams.—The question of the seizure of the so-called rebel rams had not been adjudicated. From the news we now get of them, it is not improbable, that instead of defending Charleston or devastating New York, these formidable ships may, before many weeks have passed, mount guard in the Bosphorus or the Dardanelles. The Levant (Turkey) Herald says:

A telegraphic correspondence has just passed between the Porte and Her Majesty's foreign office, through the Turkish Embassy in London, on the subject of the arrested iron-clads in the Mersey. The Ottoman Government is willing to purchase the vessels at Mr. Laird's prices, £130,000 each, and Earl Russell, though unable at present to give effect to this wish, has expressed his readiness to promote it at the earliest moment the existing embargo can be removed.

OUR ARMY IN MOTION.

Yankee papers say that Longstreet's corps has crossed the river above Chattanooga, and are supposed to be concerned in a flank movement by Bragg. They also state that A. P. Hill or Ewell is coming down upon Burnside at Knoxville, while other troops (Stevenson's and Cheatham's) are advancing from Loudon on Knoxville. We believe for once that the Yankees may be right and are not lying, and that when the millstones meet, the grinding process will commence, which is to pulverize Grant's army. Our own information induces the belief that Gen. Bragg, suspected of being a sort of Quaker, has spells when the spirit moves him. He is most likely under influence at present. Yes, verily, the army is in motion.

South Carolinian.

The Rev. Dr. Moses B. Hoge's Address before the Synod.

The Finest (Va.) Express of Friday last furnishes the following outlines of the Rev. Dr. Hoge's address before the Synod of Virginia, which was held a few days since at Salem:

We had the pleasure of attending the Session of this Body, at Salem last week, and whilst we met many learned Doctors and heard various discourses, there was nothing which excited so general interest and attention as the simple narrative by Rev. M. D. Hoge, of the *res gestae* in his late mission to Europe. In a plain narrative, unadorned by anything of the thrilling eloquence with which he is accredited by general repute, he entertained the crowded audience with the incidents of his voyage and subsequent business and social intercourse with various associations and men of distinction in London and other places, for two hours, on Friday morning. He stated briefly the purposes of his mission and his cordial reception and liberal treatment at Nassau. How that on his arrival in London he was invited to appear before the Board of Publication (presided over by Lord Shaftesbury) who after listening with profound interest to his statement of our condition on this side of the water—refused to sell him any books, announcing their determination to make him a magnificent donation of books suitable to the wants of our soldiers (mostly Bibles.) This gift was subsequently proposed, at the instance of some few Quaker Abolitionists, members of the Board, to clog with certain conditions of distributions to slaves.

This donation, as qualified, Doctor H. very promptly rejected—assuring them that we were better qualified to provide for the spiritual wants of our slaves, and at the same time, fully as much disposed to do so as they could be—that the best way for them to contribute to the spiritual wants of our slaves was to put the bible into the hands of their masters. That all slaves in this country who could use and desired to have a copy of the Scriptures could always obtain it. The result was that the gift was made absolute and unconditional. Besides the various contributions placed at his disposal he purchased to the amount of funds on hand,—amounting in the aggregate, to the larger supply than we have ever been in possession of. In response to enquiries as to how the Christians in England regarded the religious attitude of our enemies—Doctor H. asserts that it is universally looked upon as the greatest phenomenon of the times that professed christians of the North can adopt a course of conduct so at variance with the teachings of the creed. That whilst there are no pro-slavery men in England, yet, during a stay of ten months he had met but one single individual who did not avow decided sympathy with the cause of the South, against the North, in our tremendous struggle for existence.

We are grateful to learn from Doctor H. that contrary to the assertions of Yankee papers and correspondents—Spurgeon the distinguished Baptist revivalist is certainly now, decided and severe in his condemnation of the Yankee Government.

And likewise, that the eminent historian, Thomas Carlyle, is friendly to our cause; and that the old jocular laugh-moderately at the mention of the mob in New York, hanging the negroes to the lamp posts. Two significant facts brought out by Dr. H.'s observations, are that there is, still, even in well informed circles of England and Scotland, a surprising degree of ignorance as to the conditions of the slaves in the country; and that the overthrow of our Government has rendered them immediately attached to their own establishment,—and hence opposed to any war measures that may have the most distant bearing upon the permanency.

BOMBARDMENT OF FORT SUMTER.

The Yankees on Morris Island are evidently growing weary of their ineffectual and disappointed efforts to reduce the grand old fortress with the stubborn and unconquerable Major Elliott and garrison to submission.

The present bombardment, considering the tremendous and unprecedented weight of metal fired at the short range of between twelve and fifteen hundred yards only, having failed after a period of fourteen days to accomplish its object, furnishes not only a business but a valuable and highly important record to future historians. Major Elliott, when offered, declined to be relieved, and

is still in the fort, in good health and spirits, giving his utmost efforts and attention to the dispositions and welfare of the garrison and the defence of the fort.

At our last accounts, the enemy's fire was getting to be slower and slower, and since then has narrowed down to an occasional gun, with how and then spasmodic intervals of a more activity. In the meantime, Major Elliott and the garrison have collected and sent to the city a large number of the various shots and shells of all descriptions lying in piles in the fort. During Friday night, but sixty eight rifled shots were fired from Gregg, twenty-nine of which failed to explode, or exploded after passing over.

The number of vessels reported inside the bar Saturday morning was twenty eight, in addition to the Ironsides, four monitors, the flag ship, two mortar hulks in Folly Inlet, twenty-one in Folly River, four in Folly Creek, three in Stono, twelve gun-boats, besides a number of schooners, transports, &c.

During Saturday night, sixty-three shells with time fuses, were fired from Cumming's Point Battery, sixteen of which missed. On Sunday, ninety-three shots from the rifled gun at Gregg were fired, twenty-three passing over, one hundred and eighteen shells from the mortar battery, of which forty-five missed; and eleven shots from the monitors, five missing the fort. Lieut. T. Davis Wates, 1st South Carolina Artillery, concussion, slight. One negro was severely and one dangerously wounded.—Charleston Courier, 9th.

IMPRESSMENTS—AUGUSTA (GA.) CONVENTION.

In accordance with the request of the Secretary of War, the Commissioners appointed in the different States, under the Act of Congress, "to regulate Impressments," met in Convention in Augusta, on the 26th of October, last. North Carolina was represented therein by H. K. Burgwyn and R. V. Blackstocks. We extract from the proceedings of the Convention, the following—

REPORT.

The Committee of one from each State to whom was referred the preamble and resolutions offered by Commissioner Burgwyn, of North Carolina, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report favorably thereon, & recommend their adoption by the Convention.

WYLLIE W. MASON, Ch'm.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, it is obvious that in the struggle between the speculators on the one part to gratify their avarice, even to jeopardizing the safety of our country, and the Government on the other, to protect that country, it becomes important to strengthen the arm of the Government by the action both of the Legislatures and the people; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the several States of this Confederacy be requested to pass such laws and take such measures as will most effectually cause the prices fixed by the Commissioners of appraisement in their States, to be observed by sellers and purchasers. And this Convention is of the opinion that the most effective mode of doing this would be for the Legislature to impose a tax on all articles sold over the schedule price for the same, equal to the amount of the difference between the schedule price and that at which the article is sold.

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the several States be requested to have these Resolutions laid before their respective State Legislatures.

The Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted.

WORKING WELL.—The late general order from Gen. Bragg's headquarters, providing that every non-commissioned officer and soldier who secures a recruit and causes him to be mustered into the service, shall be entitled to a furlough of not less than forty days, is already working admirably. Within three hours after the reception of the order, upwards of fifty men in one regiment alone, had fastened their clutches upon delinquents at home, and had written to their relations to adopt measures for their immediate transfer to the army.

THE LATE AFFAIR ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

About one hundred and fifty of our men, who were wounded in the battle at Kelly's Ford, on the 28th instant, reached this city on yesterday morning. From their reports, and information derived from other sources, we make up some account of the affair.

Hoke's and Hays' brigades, of Early's division, with two batteries of artillery, were on picket, north of the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford. The two brigades numbered only about two thousand. About 12 o'clock the enemy made a sudden and unexpected attack in such force that their skirmishers alone seemed to outnumber our whole force, and so quietly had they approached that they seemed to our men to have risen out of the ground. They were evidently well informed of our force and position, and had come down to surround and capture us. With this intent, their first effort was to cut us off from the river.

Our men fought with the greatest coolness and gallantry, and maintained the fight for several hours with a good prospect of victory, and it is thought would have repulsed and driven off the enemy but for the giving out of their ammunition, both for cannon and small arms.

Our artillery is said to have played terrible havoc in the heavy columns of the enemy, but the ammunition being entirely exhausted nothing was left but retreat or surrender. As they were forcing their way towards the river the enemy closed around them, and a hand-to-hand fight ensued, in which numbers on both sides were killed. About six hundred of our men succeeded in reaching the river and escaping. Many are said to have been drowned in the crossing.

It is stated that the two batteries with the brigades were the second and third companies of Richmond Howitzers. But this is doubtful. Our whole loss in this unfortunate affair, in killed, wounded and missing, could not have been more than fifteen hundred. Hays' brigade only numbered nine hundred men at the battle of Gettysburg, and it is not likely its strength has been much increased since. Hoke's brigade, it is not likely, numbered more than a thousand or twelve hundred. Of the two brigades six hundred men escaped.

Col. Godwin, formerly one of the Provost Marshals of Richmond, was in command of Hoke's brigade, and is said to have been wounded.—Rich. Examiner.

The unexpected misadventure on the banks of the Rappahannock occupies public attention in a most disagreeable manner, but the scanty intelligence received from that quarter is still insufficient to understand or estimate it fully. It is said that the cavalry had been ordered to the rear for the purpose of recruiting their horses, and hence the enemy was enabled to attack without ordinary warning or preparation. It is also reported that Hays' brigade did not number more than five or six hundred men, and that the loss in prisoners was, therefore, very much below what has been supposed. However these things may be, let us hope that an event so serious and mortifying may have the good effect of putting a conclusion to the series of similar accidents which have rendered the neighborhood of Brandy Station and Kelly's Ford an ill-omened ground. What else may come of it will be so speedily known that speculation would be imprudent. Naturally, it might be supposed that this success should tempt Meade to immediate battle on an extensive scale. But he is cautious. He is unwilling to tread the path of his predecessors. The "capture of two brigades" may be sufficient to give him a new lease of that life which the next general action, undertaken by order from Washington, will probably terminate.—Id.

From the Richmond Examiner. The Fight Near Kelly's Ford Saturday—Further Particulars.

The excited reports circulated in the city Saturday, about the capture of two whole brigades of Confederates on the Rappahannock by the Yankees, turn out to have been greatly exaggerated. We are enabled from conversation with a number of wounded officers and men who were in the fight to give a fuller and more reliable narrative of the affair than has been published. The fight occurred near Kelly's Ford, our forces being on the further side of the river, and the Yankees appearing in force to drive them off and force a passage of the stream. The Confederates engaged were Hays' brigade, consisting of the 5th, 7th and 8th Louisiana regiments, commanded by Gen. Hays; and the 8th and 30th N. C. regiments of Hoke's brigade, commanded by Col. Archibald G. Godwin.