THE CONFEDERATE.

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WEEKLY CONFEDERATE.

VOL. I. RALEIGH, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1864. NO. 2.

THE CONFEDERATE.

ADVERTISING.

ADVERTISEMENTS will be inserted at two [illegible] for each [illegible] ten lines (or less) for each [illegible]. Marriage notices and obituaries will be charged as advertisements.

JOB WORK

JOB WORK [illegible] will be [illegible] and as neatly [illegible] in the Southern Confederacy.

THE CONFEDERATE.

WEDNESDAY, February 9, 1864

From Below.

The city has been excited with reports for a day or two, of important movements among our troops in the Eastern counties; and the rumor has extensively prevailed of great deeds accomplished. We have been in possession of important information for a day or two, but thought it prudent to withhold all we know. But as we learn from our very reliable Correspondent below, that the expedition is no longer a secret, we may be at liberty to give to the public some of the information he has communicated to us.

He informs us that every thing is working well—that our forces were moving towards [illegible] both on the north and south sides of the Neuse. He says six brigades (giving us the names, which we withhold) with two [illegible] of artillery and two regiments of [illegible], were moving from the south side of the [illegible], under the immediate supervision of Major General Picket, (who is in full command of the entire expedition) while a portion of our forces were marching in a certain direction to cut off the enemy's retreat. At the same time another column was moving in another important direction, given the place to be attacked was to be assailed at [illegible], and the assault was supposed to have taken place on Sunday night last.

We received this information from our correspondent on Monday, who promised to write us again on yesterday. We have not received his letter and fear it has not been delivered by the person to whom it was entrusted, as it was forwarded (if sent) by private hand. We hope to receive something by telegraph from him before going to press. If so, it will be found under our Telegraphic head. In the meantime we say to our readers—be of good cheer—inspiriting news will be received from that quarter before many hours.

The North Carolina Frontier.—The Richmond Examiner has learned from a most reliable source, that a detachment from a Massachusetts negro regiment, under the colonel commanding, left Norfolk last week for Currituck county, North Carolina, to attack, and capture if possible, some of our guerrillas of Lieutenant White's command. Failing in this, they visited a second time the house of Lieut. White, and, after abusing the family, took his daughter, an accomplished young lady of seventeen years. After having her hands tied in front of her and the rope thrown over her shoulders, she was driven, by a big negro, with curses and abuse, in front of the command, towards Norfolk. When within [illegible] miles of Norfolk they met a regiment of New York white infantry, who, with its colonel at the head, knocked over the negro driver and rescued Miss White from the negro guard, and sent her to Norfolk in a carriage.

From The Blackwater.—The Richmond Examiner learns from Col. Griffin's lines, that a Yankee gunboat, with troops aboard, approached Winton, North Carolina coming up Kesiah river, which unites with the Roanoke river, near its mouth. When within five miles of Windsor, the boat was attacked by thirty cavalry, belonging to Company B, Sixty-second Georgia regiment, who, after killing three and wounding seven of the enemy, succeeded in driving the boat back down the river. We lost one man and horse.—Examiner.

Skirmish on the Chowan.—The Petersburg Express of yesterday, had learned of passengers from Weldon the day before, that it was reported that the Yankees were advancing in that direction. On Saturday, Colonel Griffin's Cavalry had a skirmish with the advance forces at some place in the vicinity of Winton or Colerain, and were compelled to fall back before superior numbers. No further particulars could be learned.

If Butler has determined to advance on Weldon, we feel sure, that like Colonel Spears, he will be apt to meet a Colonel Ransom on the road, ere he gets to the end of his journey.

Important Decision.—The last Fayetteville Observer contains the first decision that we have heard of under the new law of Congress concerning the principals, who had hired substitutes, made by Judge French, at Fayetteville, on Friday last, in a case of habeas corpus from Moore county. It affirms the constitutionality of the law and remands the applicant to the custody of the Enrolling Officer. It appears to be sustained by the previous decisions of the highest Courts of this State and of the United States.

The Standard has at length learned that "a meeting was held and resolutions adopted," at [illegible] Store, in this county, ten days or a fortnight ago; but says—"We have not yet received the proceedings." Will it publish them when it does receive them? Will it make any efforts to procure the "resolutions adopted"? It makes no promise as to either.

The course pursued by those who quarrel with the President, our Generals, Congress and every body else, because they do not do as they advise, reminds us of the juror who complained against the other eleven jurymen because they would not come in to his views:

"Mr. Foreman," says the Judge, "what's the matter with the jury?"

"Please your Honor," said the Foreman, "they vex me into fury;

There's eleven other fellows that won't give up to me.

If they would only think as I do, we could very soon agree."

Mrs. Seaton, wife of Mr. Seaton, and sister of the the late Joseph Gales, of the National Intelligencer, at Washington, D. C., died recently at the age of 74. Mrs. Seaton was a native of Raleigh, and daughter of the venerable Joseph Gales, sr., the founder of the Raleigh Register.

What Does it Mean?

[continued.]

Our second proposition was, to prove that *others* understood the intention of the Standard to be secession, by a State Convention, from the Confederacy. Dr. Leach is somewhat of a novice in his association with the Standard. He has not yet learned the art of *holding the bag*, so as not to let the cat out. Certainly he understands the Standard to be in conformity with his views, for he selects that as the organ of their publication; and his communications are familiarly addressed to the Standard, signed with the initials of the writer, with the assurance that they will be published, accompanied by these sweet morsels of honied flattery, so soft, so blandishing, so easy to a politician of the Standard's consummate skill, and yet so grateful to ignorance and vanity. Certainly Dr. Leach knew his friend and sympathizer, when he selected the Standard.

Certainly the two meetings, in Greene and Granville, so understood him, for by each was he selected as the organ of publication—each having resolved him to be the friend and champion of the cause—and one of them being willing to "have its right hand forget its cunning." (which would be a great blessing to Greene county,) and "its tongue cleave to the roof of its mouth," (which would be no loss to anybody.) if it ever forgets the Standard.

The member elect from the Seventh district who rejoices in the name of *Christian*—not the first misnomer by many in this world of queer names—is known very lately and very openly to advocate the secession of the State, and the Editor of the Standard is his favorite for Governor. He knows, or thinks he knows, the sentiments of the Standard. An official of high station not far from the Capital, in a late conversation with a gentleman of this city, announced that the object was to call a Convention to carry the State out of the Confederacy—that *he* favored it, and on being asked what were Gov. Vance's views, he replied he did not care for the Governor, or his views. This conversation was not private, and we are authorized to give the *names of the parties*.—This official we know to be a confidential political friend of the Standard—and we know them to be mutual supporters.

Just as the disloyal peace meetings, which advocated the "Constitution as it is, and the Union as it was"—meaning the United States Constitution and Union—found a publisher in the Standard, so every disloyal meeting now to be held to agitate a Convention for secession, will seek the same outlet to the public. And we hazard the assertion, that there is not a traitor in North Carolina, who hates the Confederacy and pines for re-association with our enemies, if he takes any paper, takes the Standard, and looks to it for the support and encouragement of the end he desires. While her in North Carolina—in the press, and in the loyal press of other States—here among the loyal citizens—and in every Confederate State, whether you meet them at home, in the Rail Road cars, in the public cities—whether they be civilians, or officers, or soldiers of the army, you hear a distrust of our State—aspersions upon her fidelity—and all based upon the publications of the Standard.

Can it be that there is this universal misconception of language and the meaning of words? or has *all the world* arrayed itself against this poor *one man* to oppress and misrepresent him? If this be so, the Standard carries the remedy on the end of its quill. Let it not merely disavow these disloyal objects, but let it separate from those who advocate them. Let it refuse publication to obnoxious sentiments and denounce the authors. One-half of the vituperation lavished by it on our Government, and President, if bestowed on the enemy and their Yankee sympathizers, would make it fewer friends in this category—and tend to redeem it from suspicion.

But our Yankee enemies, in their own lines, understand the Standard to favor the secession of this State and a reconstruction; and though they receive the Standard's disavowal, they receive them as the necessary concessions the Standard is obliged to make to its loyalty and surroundings; but this does not at all lessen their sympathy for it, or their confidence in it.

Witness the meeting of all colors in Washington, N. C., last summer, where confidence and sympathy are expressed towards the "great Conservative party" of this State—where *friends* are recognized who live near the centre of the State," and in which resolutions are passed, asking the Federal Government for reinforcements, that their *friends* may be reached. Witness Mr. Everett's oration at Gettysburg:

"The heart of the people, North and South, is for the Union. Indications, too plain to be mistaken, announce the fact, both in the East and the West of the States in rebellion. In North Carolina and Arkansas the fatal charm at length is broken. At Raleigh and Little Rock, the lips of honest and brave men are unsealed, and an independent press is unlimbering its artillery. The weary masses of the people are yearning to see the dear old flag floating again upon the capitols, and they sigh for the return of peace, prosperity and happiness which they enjoyed under a Government whose power was felt only in its blessings."

The independent *press* of North Carolina alluded to by Mr. Everett, is the Standard. It is located by him *at Raleigh*. The indications spoken of by Mr. Everett as "too plain to be mistaken," are the Standard's denunciations of *our* Government and its call for separate State action. This is the independence that Mr. Everett yearns towards—this is the unlimbering of the artillery, from whose muzzle the fatal shot is to be hurled to batter down the Confederate flag—that some Conservative mass, weary of the battle for independence may raise and float the "federal gridiron"—the dishonored sheet of a corrupt Government and corrupter people. Thus is the Standard *claimed* by this arch enemy of ours—claimed under imposing circumstances—claimed before assembled numbers of our bitterest foes—over the graves of our dead heroes and in hearing of our prison-bound defenders.

And the Standard has been appealed to, to dispute this claim. God wot—it seems to us that the first impulse of a loyal mind, would have been to repel this audacious insolence with fitting indignation; yet the Standard is deaf to the appeal—has remained silent—and permits this title to it to remain undisputed.

Later—to-day, almost—see the following:

FROM NORTH CAROLINA—A CONVENTION CALLED TO SECEDE FROM THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

Boston, Jan. 22.—A correspondent of the Traveller, in writing from Newbern, N. C., states that information had reached there that a card had been issued at Raleigh for a State Convention for the purpose of seceding from their allegiance to the Southern Confederacy. The writer says: "Governor Vance and nearly every leading man in North Carolina desire to return to the Union." He also says:—"An army of five thousand men under Gen. Butler could march to Raleigh, take possession of the capital and free the State from the rule of the traitors in one month's time.—Such an army would receive an enthusiastic welcome there and all along the line of march. So say men who know."

What inspires these hopes in our enemies? 'Tis the action of these meetings, and their publication in the Standard. And the reason why Gov. Vance is thus misrepresented is, because these meetings *tie him* to them by their laudatory resolutions.

It is idle for the Standard to say that the misrepresentations of its enemies produce this misunderstanding. One dash of its pen—one column, accompanied by demeanor, conduct and association, would raise it out of these affiliations and set it right before the country and the world. If it fails to try this remedy, thus powerfully invoked by the presence of the malady—it cannot complain if public sentiment shall consign it to the hospital of infections and pestiferous disease.

If the Standard would be assured of the effect of its publications in foreign lands, we tell it for its benefit, that our own State agents, the Confederate Agents, and private enterprise, have all been hindered in Europe, in their efforts to benefit the Confederate States, by a settled opinion of disloyalty in North Carolina, approaching day by day towards the secession of the State, and its reunion with the Federal Government—and this opinion derived from *Editorials* and Communications copied from the Standard into Yankee journals, and thence into the abolition sheets of London. For the truth of this, the Standard may refer to almost any citizen who within the past year has spent much time abroad.

We shall take up our third proposition to-morrow.

Congress and the Press.

The Richmond Dispatch says truly, that the Confederate Congress, unless it is their intention to stop the daily press of the Confederacy, should amend that portion of the act which has passed the Senate exempting only the printers and one editor of a daily press.—We do not suppose that the action of the Senate was designed to paralyze the great organ of the popular mind and heart, and to strike dumb the speaking trumpet which has summoned this nation to the battle.—We are inclined to the belief that their action arose from ignorance of the details of a daily office, and from supposing that a daily newspaper, can be got out like a weekly newspaper, where the editor is often his own bookeeper, reporter, writer, pressman and packer. Now, a daily paper requires, in addition to the editor proper, reporters in both branches of Congress and of the Legislature, and the Courts and markets; and after it is written and printed, it requires the services of several clerks, writing all night long, to enclose and direct the paper to its multitude of subscribers through the mails. These are as necessary to the paper as printers, and such persons have always been found necessary in daily papers since daily papers were in existence. Taking the number so employed in Richmond, which a contemporary states at twenty-four, we do not suppose that the military law would add one hundred men to the army. Is it worth while, for such an addition, to strike down what all free nations have considered the "Palladium or Liberty?"

Joint Resolution of Thanks to North Carolina Troops.—Mr. Reade, our new Senator in Congress, offered the following on Saturday last, which was unanimously adopted.

The Congress of the Confederate State having learned through the public press of the re-enlistment for the war, of the North Carolina brigade in the army of Northern Virginia, serving under General Robert D. Johnston, therefore,

"*Resolved by the Congress of the Confederate States of America*, That the patriotism and spirit of the North Carolina troops evinced by this prompt and voluntary devotion of themselves afresh to the service of the country, are beyond all praise and deserve the unbounded gratitude of the Government."

And Mr. Smith, of N. C., has introduced in the House, a bill to increase the pay of non-commissioned officers and privates in the army one hundred per cent.; and a resolution, instructing the Committee on the Medical Department to inquire into the expediency of increasing the rations of sick and wounded soldiers in Hospital.

We are glad to see these movements. We are in favor of all measures that will add to the comfort and relieve the wants of our noble soldiers.

From East Tennessee.—Information has been received by the Jonesborough (Tenn.) Telegraph, that one division of our army, with the cavalry, had moved forward in the direction of Knoxville. The news was revived as current at Russellville, that the enemy had evacuated Knoxville. The report, however, gained little credence.

The troops were receiving clothing and shoes—which they stood much in need of—and were in fine spirits, and hopeful as to the future.—Rich. Whig.

A deserter was shot near Henderson, Granville county, last week.

The Greensboro' "Peace Meeting."

We are indebted to a friend of this city, for the following extract of a letter giving the particulars of the "Peace Metting" recently held in Greensboro'.

Greensboro', Feb. 1, 1864.

The announcement of a "Peace Metting" to be held in our town, filled our loyal people with the gloomiest forebodings; but now as it is over, we breathe more freely. The meeting was a disgrace to our patriotic little town—but it broke up in a row—and a laughable affair it was. Crowds of people came from the country "to see what would be done," as they said. The three leaders, R. P. D, D F. C and J. L., tried to get up a meeting. The Court House bell several times sent out its inviting peals, and finally, at 12½ o'clock, the meeting began by one of the leaders trying to speak. But the crowd cheered, hissed, screamed and applauded in such a manner that every effort to be heard or to organize was utterly in vain. The resolutions could not be read. The crowd used all kinds of abusive and ridiculous epithets, rendering the appearance of the speaker supremely ludicrous. Even rotten eggs were in demand, and the traitors gave up in despair, and sneaked out of the Court House, at 1 o'clock—the meeting having lasted only half an hour.

Late in the day, one of the leaders was accosted on the street by a soldier, who asked, "if he were one of the Union men?"—and upon his replying in the affirmative, gave him a good thrashing, and if left alone, might have *knocked* all his treason out of him—but several persons interfered and he was carried off by a *negro* man covered with blood.

Regret is experienced by many that the others did not get a thrashing too, but they were smart enough to keep out of the way. The whole town seems to feel indignant at their course, and would like to see them suffer for their attempts to get up a "traitor's meeting." A fourth leader had the sagacity to leave town early on Saturday morning, *no doubt* having some *important* business elsewhere which demanded his attention;—and his short experience in military matters during the first year of the war, having taught him, that "discretion is the better part of valor," and that "he who *runsaway*, may live to fight another day."

We join the Lynchburg Republican in the following protest against abuses practiced by the Telegraphic Press Association upon the publishers of Newspapers. Beside the nuisances complained of by the Republican, we may mention the ridiculous verboseness of some of the despatches—words, words, words being strung together, seemingly for no other reason than to make the despatches longer.—See the Richmond telegram in this paper, relative to the verdict of the Jury in the trial of Forde for murder.

The Press Association.—We hope our brethren of the press will unite with us in a solemn protest to Mr. Thrasher, against the present management of the "Press Association." As now conducted, it is a monstrous outrage upon the press, and unless corrected is obliged to result in the financial ruin of nearly all the papers in the Confederacy. Its original design was a good one. It was to furnish the daily press with the latest and most important news from different points of the compass, and at such rates as the press could afford to pay. But does it fulfil this purpose? It has become the vehicle of all the trash which idle newsmongers can pick up from one end of the Confederacy to the other. It sends to the press at an enormous expense a vast quantity of matter which a newspaper would not clip from an exchange. For instance, it is telegraped from Orange Court House that Mosby captured two men and three horses on a certain occasion. Well, who cares if he did? Another sends us the important news that the weather is "cool and clear" or "cloudy and windy." Well, what of it? Another sends forth the message that ten Yankee prisoners, captured at such a place, have just arrived. Well, who cares? A Congressional reporter sends his speculations all over the country every day, about the proceedings of Congress. They are very good, but editors have to pay for them, and they don't want to do it. All of these things and a thousand others are the gross abuses of the Press Association.—Its agents send us numerous things that are no news—that are of no sort of interest or importance—that we would not clip from an exchange, much less pay for at telegraphic rates.

We could say much more upon this subject, but it is needless for us to do so as the monstrus evils of which we speak are known and felt by the whole press. We do not think we go too far when we say the Press Association has improperly grown into a monstrous abuse—an outrage upon the press and the people—and that it ought to be broken up, or made to conform to what is right and proper, and just to the press.

The Daily Mississippian of the 28th, says "We have a letter from our intelligent correspondent, "Logan," who is now at Jackson, which informs us that the Yankees have prepared the framework of the bridge intended for Big Black, and that they avow their intention to come out to Jackson and occupy the place permanently. Our dispatches from Meridian bring the same Intelligence. Though this may be the intention of the Yankees, it does not necessarily follow that they will do exactly what they intend. We are glad to learn that they will have to fight for Jackson."

Yankee Gunboat Destroyed.—It will be recollected that the Wilmington papers a few weeks ago stated that a violent explosion had been heard below that city, and that it was supposed to have been caused by the blowing up of a Yankee gunboat. This supposition is confirmed by late news from the North, by which we learn that the vessel destroyed was the Iron Age, which had got aground and was blown up by her crew to prevent her falling into our hands.

The Florida.—We are glad to hear that the Confederate steamer Florida is once more at sea, though we are not informed whether her commander, Maffitt, has sufficietly recovered from his late illness to resume his duties. If he is once more on her decks we may soon expect to hear of more Confederate piracies.—It is an astonishing thing that the hundreds of Yankee cruisers on the alert for Semmes and Maffitt always make out to miss them.—It speaks volumes for the skill and energy of those commanders, that they have so long successfully eluded the pursuit of the whole Yankee navy.

From Portsmouth.

A person who was in Portsmouth a week ago, gives us a sad account of the oppression and suffering of the loyal citizens of that city. There were in Portsmouth and its vicinity, about 3,000 soldiers, mostly negroes, commanded by Yankee officers, who seek every opportunity to oppress and annoy the 'Secesh,' as they call the loyal citizens. Nearly all the citizens, both male and female, have been forced to take the oath of allegiance to the Lincoln Government. The few who have refused to take it are constantly watched by the negroes, disloyal citizens—of whom there are some—and the Yankee detectives, and feel that they are constantly liable to be arrested and shut up in prison. No sort of protection is afforded to their personal property and they are at the mercy of the fiends around them.—While our informant was in the city, a negro threw his arms around the neck of a respectable white lady, who was passing the street and kissed her. She reported him at headquarters and was asked if she could identify him. She readily answered in the affirmative. He was brought up and identified by the lady; when the enquiry was made if she had taken the oath of allegiance. A negative answer being given, she was told to leave the house, as she was not entitled to any protection. The person from whom we derive this information, walked the streets of Portsmouth, and says that scarcely a familiar face could be seen, although before the war they were well acquainted in the city. The doors and blinds in the houses occupied by loyal persons are all closed, and a Virginia lady was rarely to be seen in the streets.

General Getty, whose headquarters have been at Bowers' Hill, and General Barnes, of Norfolk, have both been removed. General Hickman, a full-blooded abolitionist, takes the place of Getty, and Gen. Wilde, (of Elizabeth City, N. C., notoriety,) succeeds Barnes.

It is reported that the Yankees, with their negro soldiers, intend making a raid towards the Blackwater soon. Whether there is anything real in this report or not, our informant could not learn.—*Pet. Express.*

Food for the Army.—All our private information of late has been to the effect that Gen. Lee's noble army had been faring well for provisions. But the following late Order shows that there is a present temporary scarcity:—

Head'qrs Army of Northern Va.,
Jan. 22d, 1864.

General Orders, No. 7.

The commanding General considers it due to the army to state that the temporary reduction of rations has been caused by circumstances beyond the control of those charged with its support. Its welfare and comfort are the objects of his constant and earnest solicitude; and no effort has been spared to provide for its wants. It is hoped that the exertions now being made will render the necessity but of short duration, but the history of the army has shown that the country can require no sacrifice too great for its patriotic devotion.

Soldiers you tread, with no unequal steps, the road by which your fathers marched through suffering, privation and blood to independence!

Continue to emulate in the future, as you have in the past, their valor in arms, their patient endurance of hardships, their high resolve to be free, which no trial could shake, no bribe seduce, no danger appal, and be assured that the just God who crowned their efforts with success, will in his own good time, send down His blessings upon yours."

This is an admirable paper! How eloquently does it appeal to the people, of all descriptions, to come to the rescue of their defenders from the least suffering for want of food or anything else! There is said to be enough food in the country, if economically used, and the soldiers should have enough of it, even if others have to deny themselves a part of their accustomed share. Surely all will admit this and all patriots will do what they can towards furnishing the government, at fair prices, with what they can spare. As the Richmond Sentinel says,—

"Those who stay at home have not the same need for strong food. They have milk and butter, and vegetables in abundance, which the soldiers can but seldom obtain.—They have poultry, and eggs, and game, and in some localities, fish and oysters. For all these the soldier has little or no chance. *Is it* a hard thing, possessed of these advantages, to give our salted meats to the soldiers who are defending our all? It would bring the blush of shame, as it certainly would bring an abiding disgrace, to make the least objection."

Overtures for Peace.—In our last we directed the attention of the Raleigh Standard to the following emphatic editorial declaration of that paper on the 10th of August 1861:

"The South cannot make overtures for she is fighting for existence, and any offer on her part to treat would be considered a sign of weakness and fear. All she asks is to be let alone. She is not let alone as long as the foot of an enemy is on the soil of the Confederate States, and just so long as a single enemy is on her soil, just so long will she fight. This is as little as she can do. If she were to offer less to her enemies, or attempt to do less, she would be unworthy of the spirit and manhood of her people."

It may be objected that it is not right to hold the Standard responsible for anything said in 1861, it being well known that that paper cannot hold to one principle for any considerable length of time. So we ask the Standard's attention to a later declaration.—On the 27th March 1863, the Standard emphatically declared:

"But we must not despair of the Republic. Peace is exceedingly desirable, but it must come to us honorably. *When* and *how* it will come no one can foresee. *The way to negotiation cannot be opened by the South*, except upon the implied ground that she is willing to surrender to some extent her independence."

In just about two months from the date of this declaration the, Standard inaugurated the so-called peace movement,—that is, a movement to surrender the independence of the South!—*Fayetteville Observer.*

The Currency Bill.—It was expected that the currency bill would be completed and passed by the Senate in the secret session of yesterday. We learn that the bill which was sent up from the House has been modified by the Senate in such important particulars that there is no prospect of the House agreeing to it, and that a committee of conference will be demanded, which will probably bring this important matter to the heel of the session.

Vice President Stephens.—We are informed that this distinguished gentleman is now at his residence in Crawfordsville, Georgia, and has recovered from his late illness, so as to be able to walk about, and resume to some extent, correspondence with his friends

Congressional.

The following is the bill as perfected and adopted by the House, amending the Act repealing the act allowing exemption by substitutes:

Sec. I. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America* do enact, That the above recited act shall not apply to farmers and planters engaged on the 5th day of January, 1864, in the production of grain and provisions by their own labor [illegible] the labor of others: *Provided*, That exemption hereby [illegible] be subject to the following conditions:

I. That the person so exempted shall, if there shall devolve upon [illegible] to the production of provisions and [illegible] support.

II. [illegible]

III. That the person thus exempted shall, if so required, sell all his surplus provisions now on hand, or hereafter raised, for the use of soldiers' families, or for the use of the army, at prices not greater than those fixed for the time being by the commissioners appointed under the impressment act.

IV. That the person seeking to avail himself of the benefit of this act shall have furnished a substitute not liable to military duty, who is now in the service, or who has been legally discharged therefrom, [illegible].

V. That the benefit of this act shall not apply to persons on farms [illegible] where there is any male [illegible] to military duty.

Sec. II. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as limiting the power of the President, under existing laws, to exempt such persons as he may deem proper, on grounds of equity, justice, or necessity.

The bill passed by the following vote:

The following gentlemen voted in the affirmative:—Messrs. [illegible] Barksdale, Bell, [illegible] Chilton, Clapp, Clark, [illegible] Gardenhire, Garland, Garnett, [illegible] Hanly, Hartridge, [illegible] Jones, Lyon, Lyons, [illegible] Miles, Preston, Pugh, [illegible] Smith, of N. C., Strickland, [illegible] Villere, Wright, of Ga., [illegible].

The following voted in the negative: Messrs. Atkins, Boteler, Chambliss, [illegible] Conrad, Conrow, Curry, [illegible] Farrow, Funsten, Gaither, [illegible] Johnston, Keenan, of N. C., [illegible] Miller, Munnerlyn, [illegible] Singleton, Tibbs, Vest, Welsh, Wilcox, [illegible] of Texas. Yeas 41, nays 31.

The following bill passed the House on Saturday without amendment:

A Bill *to be entitled "An Act to provide for disabled officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians, privates and seamen."*

Section 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America*, do enact, [illegible]

[illegible]

Sec. 2. That all persons claiming the benefits of this act shall present themselves for examination to one of the medical examining boards now established by law. Upon the certificate of such board that such permanent disability exists, such persons shall be retired or discharged, as aforesaid.

Sec. 3. That all persons so retired or discharged, as aforesaid, shall [illegible] at least once in six months, present themselves to one of said boards for further examination, the result of which examination shall be reported by such board to the Secretary of War. And if any such person shall fail to present himself to such board, he shall be [illegible] reported, [illegible] or discharged, [illegible] such failure shall be caused by physical disability.

Sec. 4. That the Secretary of War may assign such officers, [illegible] to such duty [illegible] shall be qualified to perform [illegible].

Sec. 5. That the Secretary of War shall make all needful rules and regulations for the action of the medical boards [illegible].

Sec. 6. [illegible] in case of the death [illegible] officers.

Sec. 7. This act shall be in force from its passage.

Warsaw, Duplin Co., N. C., January 24th, 1864.—*Editor Wilmington Journal*: On Sunday evening, the 24th inst., about half past two o'clock, Mr. Aaron's [illegible], wind blowing fresh westerly, [illegible] kept by Jonathan Ketchum, [illegible].—The fire next caught J. B. Sumberlin's [illegible] across the street, his kitchen, [illegible] meat-house and corn-house. About the same time Colonel Hobson's store, across on the north side of the plank road took fire [illegible] small lot of corn belonging to J. K. [illegible] and perhaps some clothing belonging to the [illegible] county, together with the warehouse [illegible]. The next was Odd Fellows Hall, [illegible] the same lot occupied by Lieut. R. H. [illegible]. About the same time the smoke-house and kitchen belonging to Mr. Wm. Ketchum, [illegible] occupied by his family, and Mr. [illegible], took fire and burnt up. The loss was heavy. Mr Aaron's loss is said to be fifty thousand dollars, he had seventy five barrels of corn burnt. J. Ketchum's loss in same building was considerable in the way of furniture, tobacco and items he had in his shop for sale. The government had [illegible] in the same building, I do not know how much. J. B. Sumberlin [illegible] furniture in his house. His loss is perhaps four or five thousand dollars; [illegible] about the same. Wm. Ketchum's loss is six or seven hundred dollars, besides all the occupants' loss in furniture and clothes, which I could not estimate, several losing nearly all the clothes they had. Warsaw looks desolate. It is not known how the fire originated but supposed to be accidental. H.

Barn Burnt.—The Barn of Mr. Clement Smith, eight mile west of Greensboro, N. C., was burnt on Wednesday last, at noon. The barn was a new and handsomely finished building, and contained a large quantity of graine, forage, etc. The loss is estimated at $10,000.

TELEGRAPHIC.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1863, by J. S. Thrasher, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

Confederate States Congress.

Richmond, Feb. 1.

The House was in open session all day. The Senate was in open session but a few minutes, during which the House bill to establish a veteran [illegible] was passed. It now awaits the President's approval.

[illegible] passed two bills—one to allow commissioned officers to draw rations of the same quantity and quality as privates, and purchase [illegible] of the government at cost. Another [illegible] in the army. It [illegible]

The President was authorized to [illegible], if necessary, furnish rations [illegible] eleven dollars per month [illegible] employed and [illegible] other [illegible] not more than one [illegible] between eighteen and forty-[illegible] from any one owner. Free [illegible] to be impressed, then slaves [illegible] to make up any deficiency. Those [illegible] Paris of 1856, and with Spain [illegible] under this act.

Richmond, Feb. 2.

The [illegible] secret session in a few [illegible] and remained so all day. [illegible] was transacted in open [illegible].

Richmond, Feb. 3.

[illegible] to the ex[illegible] passed [illegible]

[illegible] the order of the day in the [illegible] with an oath [illegible] at the commence[illegible]

The Senate passed a bill to create the office of [illegible], and a bill providing for [illegible] for the army; and then [illegible] on the bill to regulate [illegible].

The [illegible] secret session on the army bill [illegible] of the day.

From Richmond,

Richmond, Feb. 3.

It seems to be generally understood that the [illegible] as the bill as passed by the House, [illegible] Confederate notes [illegible] back of the currency, with a view to [illegible] of the currency value [illegible]; it is also [illegible] rejected this plan [illegible] committee, who have [illegible].

From Gen. Johnston's Army.

Dalton, Feb. 2.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Rockingham [illegible] Co. K.

[illegible] about thirty [illegible]

J. M. [illegible]

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
[illegible] County.

COURT OF EQUITY.

John Hawkins [illegible], an infant under the age of twenty-one years, by [illegible] Egerton, his [illegible], Charles M. Cook and [illegible] will and testament of [illegible] W. Hawkins, deceased, and Jane D. [illegible]

Against

[illegible] Cook, executor of John H. Hawkins, [illegible], Sally H [illegible] State of [illegible] State of Mis[illegible]

It appearing [illegible] Fanny H. [illegible] defendants [illegible] that publication be made in [illegible] Court House in [illegible] Monday after the Fourth Monday of March [illegible] answer or demur [illegible] will be taken as confessed [illegible]. Witness, [illegible] of said Court, [illegible] Third Monday after the Fourth Monday of September, 1863.

Issued [illegible] day of February, 1864.

[illegible] C. M. COOK, C. M. E.