

# WILMINGTON:

TUESDAY, DEC. 27, 1864.

**COMPOSITORS WANTED.**—Three Good Compositors wanted at this office immediately, to do newspaper work. Two Dollars and Fifty Cents per thousand ems paid.

## OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Will please notify us in case the Carriers fail to deliver their papers.

Our readers will please bear in mind that our paper is issued Sunday morning. We issue no paper on Monday.

We have been informed that the news boys charge one dollar per copy, for the 'North Carolinian.' Should this be practised, we trust our citizens will apprise us of it immediately. We do not allow it. Single copies of the paper are sold at 50cts.

## The Danville Railroad.

For the last ten days it has been pretty generally understood both in the United and Confederate States, that our city was about to be attacked by a formidable naval and military force. The grand object of the Washington cabinet was, first, the effectual closing up of the only open port in the Confederacy—to seal hermetically the only inlet through which we could obtain supplies from foreign countries for our armies in the field, and secondly, to remove, by closing our port, every cause of disagreement with the cabinet of St. James which was about to get very restive on the hands of Seward, that astute diplomatist and wily politician in relation to the paper blockade which he had established, but which the enterprising Britons have been constantly violating. To close the

tack on Wilmington was determined on. The cabinet at Richmond was well aware of the facts, and had made every preparation to meet the emergency. Gen. Whiting, with his characteristic promptitude, on the first appearance of the fleet, telegraphed to Richmond for re-inforcements, and was at once responded to, by forwarding the necessary number of men to the District of Cape Fear. And yet up to last night, but a meagre moiety of the force sent by the government had made its appearance at Wilmington. We have carefully enquired as to the cause of this strange and unaccountable proceeding in regard to the troops so much needed here, and regret to say that we are forced to the painful conclusion that the whole fault lies at the door of the authorities of the Danville railroad. We shrink from charging them with treason, and yet had they been the hired minions of Seward, they could not have acted more to the injury of the common cause than they have done. They may not be disloyal, we do not say that they are, but they are certainly criminally remiss in discharging their official duties. There is just now a miserable spirit of selfishness, a greed for gain, a love for filthy lucre manifesting itself among our people, day by day as this struggle moves along its bloody pathway, that is truly heart-sickening to those who have one spark of love of country in their bosoms. We know of a certain railroad in "these Confederate States," not many miles from Danville, and not many days since, stooped to receive a bribe from an officer who offered money in order to obtain quicker dispatch than was provided by the authorities for the regular government business. This

is shameful and a stop ought to be put at once to the nefarious tricks of these miserable railway shylocks.—

It is all very well for them to exact their pound of flesh from the quivering backs of a patient public, but when their unholly avarice imperils the life of a great and gallant nation struggling amid an ocean of blood, it is time, we think, for the government to interfere and bid these gentlemen retire. Let them be employed at something where they will not destroy a whole nation by their criminal neglect of their duties as railroad officers and citizens. Let them be detailed, for instance, to raise tobacco for the soldiers, or any other money making avocation, but never let them have anything to do with the vital interests of the State.

Let the cabinet at Richmond at once seize upon the Danville road until the present crisis is past. No matter what officers the government may place over the road, or how incompetent soever they may be, it is impossible for them to be more unsuccessful or give less satisfaction to the public than the present incumbents. It is all very well when disaster occurs, to make a scapegoat of some gallant officer or other, and crush him to the earth with vituperation and slander, and no doubt if Wilmington should fall, we would hear that Gens. Bragg or Whiting was the cause of its fall. But we warn the public now that if such a disaster should happen, which God forbid, it is neither Gens. Bragg nor Whiting, who have both ably and faithfully discharged their duty, but the Danville railroad that is to

soon afterwards great cheering on the part of the garrison. Everything has been hurried to the front, and it is expected that there will be hot work there to-day. Governor Vance and General Bragg are at the front. The gallant Whiting commands at Fort Fisher. We expect further news during the afternoon, as communication with Fisher has been re-established.

## LATER.

A Yankee Lieutenant, captured by our forces, says that he belongs to the 142d New York Infantry, Curtis' Brigade—Ames' Division. This is the Division that landed near Sugar Loaf on yesterday. It is said to be composed of three brigades of four regiments each. It is a portion of Butler's corps, said to be the twenty-fourth (we presume one of their consolidated corps.) Butler has not yet landed. Weitsel, he says, commands a negro corps, not yet on shore. The whole force is commanded by Butler. No additional news has been received up to this writing, 6 o'clock, P. M., but we understand that fighting had been going on at intervals all day. Communication has been re-established with Fort Fisher, on the left bank of the river. Everything is going on well: Wilmington is yet safe. Gen. Bragg telegraphs that there is no cause for alarm. The enemy have as yet gained no advantage, and by this hour tomorrow evening, we think matters will look still more favorable.

We learn that the enemy's fleet suffered severely in the bombardment of Sunday. Four gunboats were disabled. Prisoners report the loss of two gunboats on the Roanoke.

## THE VERY LATEST.

10 o'clock, P. M.—General Bragg telegraphs that the enemy are busily engaged fortifying their position on the beach near where they landed. Everything looks brighter and more cheerful than on yesterday. Heavy firing commenced at 7 o'clock last night and continued at intervals during the night.

## [For the Carolinian.]

### CASUALTIES.

EDITOR CAROLINIAN:—You will please

men received into General Hospital No. 4, Sunday, December 25th. These men were wounded on yesterday:

Private Benj R Merritt, Co F, 36th N. C.	
" Henry Maultsby, B, " "	
" Morris Chappel, H, " "	
" Geo W Britt, F, " "	
" Mathew Hale, H, " "	
" John McLaughlin, H, " "	
" Charles Grimsley, B, " "	
" Wash'ton Regan, B, " "	
" J W Ward, F, " "	
" J H Johnson, F, 10th "	
" B H White, C, 7th Battal.	

Private Merritt has left arm amputated between the shoulder and elbow—the rest are comparatively slight.

G. C. Mc.

Dec. 25th, 1864.

**COTTON SUPPLY FAILING AT THE NORTH.**—The Fall River Mass. News in speaking of the present cotton supply at the North says:

The Pocasoit, Masseot, Wahtapee and Robinson mills have been stopped for several weeks; the Troy has suspended operations; the Metacommet, we understand, will do so, and the Union and Quequeham mills are working up what little stock they have on hand, and will close soon, so by Saturday night all the cotton mills in the city, with one exception, will have suspended operations. The "Linen Mills" has the largest stock of cotton on hand, and will probably continue operations a few weeks longer. It is now running on half time. The prospect before our cotton operatives the coming winter, we are sorry to say, is not very cheerful.

## INAUGURATION OF GOV. VANCE.

At 2 o'clock yesterday the Governor was inaugurated in the presence of the members of the Assembly, the Judge of the Superior Court, and a large number of spectators. The Governor delivered a brief address.—*Progress, 23d inst.*

**CASUALTIES.**—Serg't L A Clouse, 42nd N C Regt; hand slight; Private John P Graham, Co E, 1st N C Bat., hand slight; Seaman J F Hoggan, CS steamer Chickamauga, thigh amputated.

Subscribe for the CAROLINIAN.

## THE NEWSPAPER PRESS.

The effect of the bill now before the House of Representatives, to regulate details and exemptions, will be if it becomes a law, simply to destroy the press of the country. The plan proposed by the President did not involve the absolute annihilation of the press; it only proposed to place all the new papers under the control of the Secretary of War. But they were suffered to breathe, and to live after a certain fashion; which continued vitality, the Military Committee of the Confederate House of Representatives seem anxious to get rid of in a summary manner. There was some sort of reason and logic at the bottom of the President's plan, or rather on the face of it. Class legislation and special legislation are, in the main, objectional things, and to get rid of them is, consequently, a very desirable thing. The Executive mind seems to have been incapable of resisting this captivating syllogism; and hence the Executive recommendation for placing editors and other newspaper folks on the general conscription list, so that they might seem to be perfect equality before the law. If the President's design was really to increase the effective strength of the army by such additions as he could get from the various newspaper establishments, his object would fall very short of attainment. We assert, without fear of contradiction, that a decent battalion of arms-bearing men could not be wrung out of all the newspaper offices in the country. Yet, should the services of all the editors and their subordinates become necessary, we presume they would very willingly take the field. Only let it be fairly stated that this is the motive; then there would be no one to demur or refuse. But the consequence of this course would be to destroy the Press—a conclusion necessary to argue.

The President appears to have foreseen this difficulty, and hence does not insist on sending the newspaper into the field. He only wants to have the privilege of putting them back into their offices, or such of them as he may deem worthy of that favor. That the effect of this measure would be to annihilate the liberty of the press, any one can see in a moment; but the liberty of the press does not seem to have suggested itself as an element in the argument. Indeed, although supposed to be jealousy guarded by sacred constitutional guarantees, it is not so much as hinted at by the President, since a due consideration of this point would have sadly marred the general symmetry of the logical edifice which was constructed with so much ingenuity by the Executive pen. Nevertheless, if the liberty of the press, is worth anything at all, it is certainly worth the exemption from military service which is essential to its preservation, in spite of the violence which might thereby be offered to the President's syllogism as to special legislation.

The Military Committee of the House of Representatives seem not to understand the subject either one way or the other. The President is nothing, if not logical. The Military Committee are nothing—not even logical. The object of the Committee is to increase the numerical strength, and consequently the effectiveness of the army. To accomplish that object, they revoke all exemptions, with certain exceptions, heretofore granted, and by this means may gather from editorial desks and composing cases, a score of awkward squads with which to recruit our veteran armies for the struggles of the next campaign. But in order to save the liberty of the Press—that sacred legacy which even Confederate Congresses are forbidden to touch—the Military Committee propose to exempt precisely one

editor and such skilled operatives as he may certify to be necessary.

Under this system, a weekly paper might be conducted in a country village; but the city journals, with their indispensable corps of associate editors, and reporters, and clerks, would be compelled to suspend. Perhaps the members of the military committee imagine that any one of their number would be quite competent to conduct a daily metropolitan newspaper—write the editorials, do the local reporting, make up the news, report the proceedings of Congress, and the State Legislature, mail the papers and keep the books, without any sort of assistance. We do not pretend to dispute the pretension. But we cannot help thinking that for the inestimable liberty of the press, it is a great pity that these accomplished gentlemen squander their talents in Congress. They would certainly make the most remarkable editors on record. It may be said that the power of detail remains behind, and that such assistant editors, reporters and so on, as may be required, can be obtained by grace of the Secretary of War. But this admits that the exemptions are not sufficient for the purpose contemplated. If it is necessary to go to the War Department for assistance to publish a newspaper, that newspaper is to all intents and purposes, under the absolute control of the Government.

It is simply absurd to talk about exempting one editor as a sufficient security for the independence of the press, if you deprive him of the means of conducting his paper, or make him dependent for necessary assistance on Government favor or caprice. The literal fact is, that if the plan of the Military Committee be adopted by Congress, either the city press of the Confederacy will be destroyed, or it will own its lease of life to the grace of Government officers—exactly as would be the case under the President's scheme of details.—*Rich. Whig.*

**A WARLIKE WORLD.**—The *Opinion Nationale*, of a recent date, gives this dismal picture of the present belligerent condition of the world:

If there be a dead calm in politics, as well as business, among us, is it not the same in all parts of the little planet we inhabit? Three quarters of humanity, in fact, are living in the barbarous state of war.

There is war in Poland.  
War in Algeria.  
War in Tunis.  
War in Mexico.  
War in the United States.  
War in New Zealand.  
War in China and Zachgar.  
War in Japan.  
War in Afghanistan.  
War in twenty counties in Africa.

This is unfortunately, enough to discourage the friends of universal peace, and who can say they will meet with still greater disappointment next year? Italy, Hungary, Poland, Denmark, and the Slavonian population of Turkey, are not it must be confessed, in the most pacific humor, and to those who study the general situation of our continent, it is quite evident that the general situation, instead of getting better, goes on from day to day getting more and more complicated.

**AVOIDING THE DRAFT.**—The Daily News rejoices over the following:

Of three hundred substitute men who have been sent to the front from Columbus, Ohio, under a strong guard, the number who had escaped on the way from the city to Louisville, Ky., is said to have reached one hundred! The remainder, or at all events, those of them who will not have run off before they reach Nashville, will, we presume, take the earliest opportunity of finding the way within the lines of the Confederates. The war has demonstrated no truth so clearly as the conscription of hundreds of thousands of unwilling men, will add but little to the numerical, and nothing to the physical, strength of our armies.

**THE LIST OF CASUALTIES**, which occurred at Fort Fisher, came to hand too late. It will appear in our next.