

# THE LINCOLN DEMOCRAT.

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## A BIT OF WAR EXPERIENCE.

### To Newbern Under Flag of Truce.

On July 4th, 1862, as first lieutenant Company K. Second North Carolina Cavalry, I was in command of the picket on the Dover Swamp road from Kinston to Newbern with headquarters at the Merritt House and our outpost at the Ten-Mile House. About 11 o'clock a. m., Col. W. F. Martin, Seventeenth North Carolina Troops, and Capt. Theodore J. Hughes, formerly commissary of the regiment and afterward pursuer of the Advance during most of her life as a blockade runner, arrived, carrying communications under "flag of truce" to Gen. Burnside, commanding the United States forces at Newbern. I requested Col. Martin to procure for me permission to accompany them, and with this expectation took command of the escort. After dinner (about 12:30 p. m.) we started; a corporal and two men with a white handkerchief on a pole as the "flag of truce" going about three hundred yards in front, the escort—about fifteen men—and the messengers following. The advance was halted at Deep Gully, nine and a half miles from Newbern, by the Federal outpost. The corporal advanced and explained the object of the mission. The Federals laid down the planks on the bridge across the gully and we passed over a half mile or so to the reserve picket force. Here we waited until the commander could communicate with Newbern. In due time permission was received to let the "flag of truce" proceed. Col. Martin had mentioned me as accompanying him, and he and Capt. Hughes in his buggy and I on horseback proceeded to the headquarters of the Federal outposts about six and a half miles from Newbern. The sergeant assumed command of my men and returned to our camp. At the headquarters we met Col. Mix, of the Third New York Cavalry, the commanding officer of a Delaware regiment and another whom I have forgotten. This was the week of the "Seven Days' Fight" around Richmond. We received our mail for the week by Col. Martin, containing papers giving accounts of the battles; which, it will be remembered, were all in our favor. Col. Martin had brought several copies with him and we gathered what we could before starting to carry the good news with us. We distributed them among the officers and spoke of any particularly favorable item in the papers. After a half of an hour we mounted an ambulance and Col. Mix, who was to accompany us, informed us that his orders were for us to travel blindfolded and requested us to tie our handkerchiefs over our eyes. Col. Martin remarked that he preferred for Col. Mix to tie his as it might come off at some time when not desired and have the appearance of his acting in bad faith. Capt. Hughes and I also adopted the same view, and Col. Mix tied all our handkerchiefs.

A drive of an hour landed us at Gen. Burnside's headquarters in the Tryon Palace, which some of your readers will recollect as having been built by Gov. Tryon during his administration as Royal Governor. It was now about half past 4 o'clock. Gen. Burnside, after reading papers brought by Col. Martin, asked if we had any newspapers. We told him we had given them out at Col. Mix's headquarters. Col. Mix afterwards came in and Gen. Burnside said to him he understood he had some late papers. Col. Mix said "Yes," and he would send them in. Gen. Burnside made some remark about not caring particularly about it; which was but a poor attempt to conceal his desire to have them speedily.

Gen. Burnside apologized to us for our blindfold ride. He said

"Gen. Foster was temporarily in command and it was by his orders; that he never required it. If any one thought he was ready to attack him after being in his lines he was welcome to come on and try it." Major Rufus Tucker, of Raleigh, had passed under a flag of truce to Newbern a month or so before this and made the entire journey on his own horse.

The true condition of matters was that Gen. Burnside had been ordered with Gen. Parker and Reno to re-inforce McClelland in Virginia. Several regiments, arriving from Morehead City during the afternoon, were marched by in order to make the impression on us that the troops at Newbern were being re-inforced. I was surprised to see a good many white straw hats worn by the men. Gen. Burnside remarked to Gen. Foster as a regiment passed that he would make "those fellows throw away their straw hats," which Foster said he would do. The generals were not as courteous to us as the officers of lesser grade had been. They seemed to be in a bad humor. They had heard from Richmond and other news may have accounted for it.

Salutes on the Fourth of July were being fired frequently. Gen. Burnside remarked to me: "I suppose you people do not burn any powder on the Fourth of July?" I replied, "No, we save it to burn on those who are attempting to deprive us of the privileges of the Fourth of July."

He remarked to Col. Martin, that he had just returned from a trip North, and that you could hardly miss the men absent in the army. This is not the case with you," Col. Martin replied no, and that it seemed to prove what he had often heard said; that Northern people were staying at home and sending the foreigners to do the fighting. Gen. Burnside replied: "Not at all, but it shows the difference in the populations of the two sections and the impossibility of the South's success. Success would be the worst thing that could happen for the South. When I was in a bad humor, I wish the South would succeed." Col. Martin replied that he wished he was in a bad humor all the time. About this time Generals Foster, Parke and Reno came in. They were all in bad temper, and we spent an hour or so "spatting." Some one of us, whenever opportunity offered, would relate something about the late battles in Virginia. Gen. Burnside expressed himself as in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war, even to the arming of the negroes if necessary to success. We were surprised to hear this as Gen. Burnside was represented as opposed to negro soldiers. During our confab, Gen. Burnside turned to me and said rather sharply: "To what command do you belong?" I replied: "The Second North Carolina Cavalry." "Yes," says he, "you are the fellows who are shooting my pickets. I detest such warfare; if a man wishes to fight let him come out like a man and show himself and not creep up like he was hunting a turkey." I replied: "Your men began this mode and now you are complaining of it." "He replied: "It is not so, and to prove it I lose five or six men where you lose one." I answered: "That only proves that our men are the best shots and when they pull the trigger generally bring down the game, while yours miss." He replied: "You do, hey!" with a touch of the "dry grins." I said: "If you do not like this style of warfare order your men to stop and ours will."

We discussed secession, States' rights, Federalism, war, ability of the South to maintain the contest, campaigns already fought, leaders, etc., etc., but in not a very gentlemanly manner. Governor Edward Stanley came in for a short while and was very courteous. About dusk

we were driven in an ambulance to the house of the Spotswood family but now used by the United States Army, and placed in a room on the second floor to spend the night.

Gov. Stanley had recently arrived from California, having been appointed "Military Governor" of the State by President Lincoln. He was the greatest of North Carolina's sons; was a leader in the Whig party—being frequently elected to the Legislature and serving near ten years in the United States Congress. It was the general expectation that he would succeed Gov. Graham as Governor of the State in 1849, but on account of dissension between himself and Hon. Kenneth Rayner (also a prominent Whig of this time) his nomination was defeated. He was returned to Congress in '49 and '51 and at the close of the term in 1853 removed to California to practice law. He was the Republican candidate for Governor of California in 1858.

To resume my narrative: Supper was furnished us in our room. An hour or so afterwards Gov. Stanley called and spent several hours. I had known him before, seeing him frequently at my father's house. He inquired about many of his old friends, Judges Ruffin and Badger, Mr. Gilmer and others, and desired that I should say to them he had inquired about them. I remarked to him that his friends were surprised to see him in his present position endeavoring to subjugate the State. He said he had come for what he believed to be the best interest of the people; that I knew he had not taken the place for the salary attached thereto; that he had always been able to make more than a support and was in no wise dependent on the public; that there was a large Union element in the State who had never become loyal to the Confederacy; if he found he could do no benefit he would leave. I replied that I did not see where he found his union men; that the sons of Badger, Graham, Gilmer, Satterwaite and other old Whigs were in the army and they were in the secession convention; that Josiah Turner, Jr., who had been the principal "thorn in the flesh" to the secession Democrats in the Legislature of '58 and '60, was my captain and then at home on account of wounds received near Newbern. He replied that he did not think there was much Union sentiment in my (the central) portion of the State, but he had been assured by those whom he thought knew that there was both in the east and the west.

Col. Martin remarked that he was surprised to hear Gen. Burnside express himself in favor of arming the negroes. Gov. Stanley replied that he "must be mistaken; that he had frequently talked with Gen. Burnside on the subject, and he was as much opposed to it as you or I, and, as for myself, whenever it is done I will resign and go whence I came."

About the time the "colored troops" were "mustered in" Gov. Stanley resigned and left the State. I do not know, however, that there was any connection between the two events.

After Gov. Stanley left we discovered some one was in the little room connecting the one we were in with another, and the door was pushed a little ajar, as if to hear anything we might say. We considered this as a "breach of hospitality" and expressed ourselves in vigorous language on the subject and on Yankees in general, and the experiences of the day. If what was gathered from our conversation was reported it is not published in the Records of the Rebellion.

On the morning of the 5th, about sunrise, we went across the street to breakfast. Gen. Burnside came in and asked for me. I went into an adjoining room and he gave me several hundred dollars in North

Carolina bank notes for some one in Newbern, to be sent to a "refugee" kinsman at High Point, and took my receipt for the same.

Breakfast over, we got into the ambulance; were again blindfolded, and when we saw the light we were at our pickets at the Ten Mile House.—W. A. Graham, McPelah, N. C., in Charlotte Observer.

**Yoder News.**  
No doubt your many readers would like to hear something from this corner of the world. Rain and muddy roads are the order of the day. The farmers are rather on a stand still with farm work, owing to the rainy weather though they have done a great deal of plowing in preparing their lands for another nine cents cotton crop. Some wheat and oats fields make a fair show.

Since the holidays are over there seems to be quiet all along the lines of the frontier. Leatherman, who had been accidentally shot at Pleasant about Christmas by George Clay, is improving. It is thought that he will get well again.

Daniel C. Shuford, who had a light stroke of paralysis about Christmas, has so improved that he can again walk about in the house.

The chicken pox, that had been in full bloom among the children in the public school, has about played out.

It seems since Congressman Shuford has been up at the Capital that silver is on a boom for some of his relatives have formed a Syndicate and have put up a saw store at Blackburn. Blackburn is noted for its jug factories, which are run by the Ritchys. They have three shops there and run saw machines every day and turn out about eight hundred gallons per day if they are in operation. There is no necessity to have any electric lights in this little village where these factories are in full blast.

Henry Blackburn, the postmaster has resigned, and Seth Kitchey is now occupying the chair. At Russell Postoffice, Russell & Co. have erected a new saw mill in addition to their cotton gin and are sawing out a great deal of lumber. The matrimonial sea has become very calm.

John Copening who was on a visit from Arkansas to see his brothers in Catawba county has returned home again, after selling his real estate here to L. R. Whitener, of Hickory, for \$470. Peter R. Yoder has bought the small farm of Adolphus Weaver. John W. Propst has sold a part of his valuable lands to his son-in-law, W. H. Lore for ten dollars per acre. G. M. Yoder surveyed it.

The people around Grace church have taken some steps to enclose the grave yard. The wire is already bought and delivered, but the posts are not made yet.

James E. Wilfong is now erecting a large new barn.

A few days ago we went to see old uncle David Yoder, as we call him, who has passed over his 97th Christmas. We found him enjoying pretty good health for his advanced age. We asked him how he was getting along. He answered: "Pretty well for a chap of my age." He has lived through every administration from John Adams down to Cleveland. There are but few now living who can say this much.

CATAWBA.

John L. Sullivan, the Pugilist, recently fell off the rear end of a car on a Rock Island and Peoria train near Springfield, Ill., and was perhaps fatally injured. The train was going at the rate of 80 miles an hour.

The people believe what they read about Hood's Sarsaparilla. They know that it is an honest medicine, and that is cures disease! That is why you could get only Hood's.

**Democratic Populist Fusion.**  
Mr. W. R. Lindsay, Populist, Senator from Rockingham county and member of the national executive committee of the Populist party, writes the Raleigh News and Observer the following letter:

The People's party stands ready to co-operate this year with either the Republican or Democratic party on a distinctive line of principles. To the majority of professed politicians the officers are all—principles only when they bring office. Before any plan is perfected, as a member of the national People's party committee, I wish to make overtures thus publicly and above board to the Democratic party of this State, as I have once before through Webster's Weekly.

The basis of principles is such as the party has at one time inculcated and for that reason it is a transition quite easy. The principles are these:

1. The independent coinage of silver on equal terms with gold.
2. The government shall not issue paper for the banks and shall issue its own money and every dollar shall be equal in the payment of all debts henceforward.

These are the easy terms we propose, and in order to carry out these hitherto Democratic principles, we propose to set up an electoral ticket pledged to vote for a man for President who is publicly and generally known to favor these principles.

Next, the Democrats take choice of the next office, either Senator or Governor.

Then alternate down the line, the Democrats first choice through all the State offices and departments.

The congressional districts then shall come in such relations as most expedient, and shall be as nearly equally divided as practicable.

The legislative and county ticket shall be discreetly divided so as to give each party a fair showing.

These are the proposals we make. The proposal amounts to the casting of the electoral ticket for the Populist candidate for President, for it is understood that the Democratic candidate at least will be non-committal. If the Democratic party takes the Senator we have the Governor, and then the Democratic party takes the first State office under him, and so on honestly and fairly. This is all planned subject to the will of the people.

Of course, I know that all such work as two parties co-operating has been secretly done, and no man knows what is being done except the inner circle. We are violating all political practice in making these overtures in a public manner, but I do not think it wise to conceal these things from the voters when they make no sacrifice of principle. There could be several more items placed in the State platform on which all are agreed, but we insist on these on which the national parties are not agreed. Again, we come holding the olive branch of peace, and at a time, prospectively, when the party cannot be a loser thereby. Now is the time to consider—consider, act. If any leader of the Democratic party, or any of the State executive committee, wish to bring about a co-operation on the line proposed, let them communicate with me with their ultimatum, and they shall be heard in the councils of the Populist party, all in strict confidence.

W. R. LINDSAY,  
Member of Nat. Com. P. P.

It is to be said in the first place that Mr. Lindsay is to be commended for his frankness and directness—he does not propose a dark lantern conference to anybody, but makes his proposition openly, through the columns of a newspaper. It is to be said again that he has reasonable ground for making it. He has read and

heard so often that the Democratic party is in favor of the very two articles of faith that he lays down as the basis of "co-operation," that naturally, if he believes what he has read and heard he can see no reason why the Democratic and the Populist parties should be opposing each other or fighting for the same things through separate organizations. Mr. Lindsay "speaks us fair." His two propositions are brief and easily understood and it has been declared, over and over, that the Democracy favors both; we believe that the North Carolina branch of it does. All declarations after the above are, we are told, mere matters of detail. Then as to the officers, the Democrats are to vote for the Populist candidates for electors and all the other officers from Senator and Governor down to constable are to be divided equitably between the Populists and Democrats. We are satisfied that Mr. Lindsay would be just about this matter; indeed, he writes like a man who has become convinced that there is no substantial difference between these parties and who, seeing this, can see no reason why they should not get together. He well says that "now is the time to consider—consider act." Of course this consideration and action are urged upon the "dominant element." The Observer has no part nor lot in the matter but gentlemen who hold the view that the late Senator Jarvis enunciated in his speech at Morganton last August—and which he went back from at the silver convention at Raleigh in September—what Democrats should go to whatever party they think will give them free silver—these should seriously incline their ears to Senator Lindsay's proposition.—Charlotte Observer.

**Where They Should Go.**  
Senators to Alto, Ga.  
Bishops to Cakes, Pa.  
Judges to Gem, Ind.  
Senators to Wood, Cal.  
Lawyers to Agate, Col.  
Teachers to Gay, Pa.  
Physicians to Rust, Minn.  
Clergymen to Peculiar, Mo.  
Politicians to Parnassus, Pa.  
Deacons to Gratus, O.  
Apostles to Star City, Ark.  
Preachers to Aroma, Ill.  
Apostles to Beeville, Ind.  
Triamps to Grubtown, Pa.  
Bankers to Deposit, N. Y.  
Small men to Bigger, Ind.  
Widowers to Widow, Ala.  
Brokers to Stockville, Nev.  
Old Maids to Antiquity, O.  
Lovers to Spoonville, Mich.  
Hunters to Deer Trail, Col.  
Young ladies to Bangs, Va.  
Hucksters to Yellville, Ark.  
Cobblers to Shoe Heel, N. C.  
Politicians to Buncombe, N. C.  
The "boys" to Midway, S. C.  
Theosophists to Mystic, Conn.  
Toppers to Brandy Station, Va.  
Physicians to Doctortown, Ga.  
Puzzle fends to Riddleville, Ga.  
Drummers to Modest Town, Va.  
Druggists to Balsam Lake, Wis.  
Political orators to Stumtown, Pa.

Newly married couples to Bliss, Mich.  
Three-card monte men to Trickum, Ky.

**Loosed Four Guilty Men.**  
RALEIGH, Jan. 30.—The trial of three white men and one negro for incendiarism at Kinston have ended in the acquittal of all of the defendants. The verdict is a great surprise.

The trial occupied eight days. The defendants were charged with having caused many fires and great loss of property. The defendants prepared at best for a mistrial. When the verdict was announced the judge said to the jury: "You have the consolation of knowing that you have turned loose four very guilty men."

State Senator James M. Newbern, ex-president of the State Farmer's Alliance, was president of the jury.—Charlotte Observer.