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STAR



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Court House. When the citizens still at large are distributed, there is scarcely a sufficient number to allow one to each house, and in consequence of the roving and deprecatory propensities of the jayhawkers the greatest alarm and insecurity are experienced by the helpless women and children. A town occupied by an invading foe scarcely ever underwent a more trying ordeal than does the village of Yanceyville at present, for here there is a horde of ruffians who seem to be impressed with the idea that their express mission is one of persecution and outrage. At night the village is

**PICKETED**  
by the jayhawkers, and every traveller hot having the counter-ign is marched before one of Kirk's officers, who subjects him to a cross examination as to his residence, where he is going, and his political proclivities; and if the responses are all satisfactory he is allowed to pass; if not he is hospitably huddled into the Court House, where he finds time for calm reflection, if not repose. In the morning the persons so arrested are brought into the August presence of Colonel Kirk, who again examines them, and either disposes of them by a continuation of the hospitality of the Court House, or permits them to depart. The officers comprising the court martial appointed by his Excellency Governor Holden to try the prisoners not having arrived yet, I called on Colonel Kirk this morning, and, being lucky enough to meet him at the gate in front of the Court House, had quite an interesting though

**BRIEF INTERVIEW.**  
Correspondent—Colonel, I understand the officers of the court have not arrived. Have you any news of them?  
Colonel—Yes. The court martial is postponed on account of the sickness of some of the officers.

Correspondent—Are you in receipt of any instructions as to the disposition of the prisoners?  
Colonel—No. I am waiting for despatches now. My Lieutenant-Colonel is at one of the stations on the railroad waiting for the despatches.  
Correspondent—Do you anticipate orders to bring the prisoners to Raleigh? I saw a civil officer here yesterday with nineteen writs from the Chief Justice for the bodies of the prisoners, which he failed to serve on you.

Colonel—No. I don't expect any orders to carry them to Raleigh. I think they will be tried here after the elections, and I see no use in the Chief Justice sending his writs here, for he knows as well as I do that the prisoners will not be given up. I don't want to be bothered any more with writs, and I don't intend to allow any more of them to be served on me. I have got a bundle of them now in my pocket, and the man who brought them is in the Court House. Ten thousand men could not get the prisoners without a fight. I am acting under Governor Holden's orders, and I'll be damned if I don't obey them.

Correspondent—How long do you expect to remain here?  
Colonel—I will be here six months at least. There is plenty to do in this very county for that length of time.

Correspondent—What is there to be done that will take you six months?  
Colonel—Why, suppressing these outrages. I am not a political partisan, but I want every man to have a free and untrampled vote. (This was the Colonel's exact language.)

Correspondent—You do not mean to say there has been any outrage committed in the county since you arrived here?  
Colonel—Yes, I do. I have three pages of testimony now of outrages committed within the last week.

Correspondent—What is the nature of these outrages?  
Colonel—Whipping and scourging white Union men and colored men because they voted the republican ticket. And these outrages are not committed by poor men, because they have horses, and the horses are disguised as well as the men to

prevent them from being known, but some of the Ku Klux themselves have betrayed them. It is the wealthy men who are the real Ku Klux. If they do not murder and whip themselves, they furnish the means to the scoundrels who do. Them very prisoners up stairs in that Court House have murder in their hearts, and if this thing was stopped right here at this stage every Union man and negro in the county would have to get up and leave.

Correspondent—Who do you get your information of outrages from, for I have been asking both negroes and white men and have failed yet to discover any who know of a recent case of whipping or even intimidation?  
Colonel—I get my information from the men who are whipped and scourged, who have identified many of the hypocritical scoundrels that whipped them through their disguise. If you want to see victims of these outrages go down and talk to Mrs. Stephens, and see her little children crying for their murdered father. Every one of these prisoners knew well that day that Stephens was to be murdered, and the only way to stop such doings is to retaliate, and hang and whip the men who are found guilty of committing such outrages.

The Colonel showed himself in his true colors in this little conversation. He is tutored to perfection in the role he has to play, and Holden could not have possibly procured a more willing and infamous tool to carry out his infamous designs. That his allegations of fresh outrages are untrue is beyond doubt; and that the respected and elegant gentlemen confined by him were cognizant of the Stephens murder is a foul and malicious slander. The officers commanding the United States troops here, besides two Northern gentlemen who visited Yanceyville recently, gave these alleged outrages a most thorough and impartial investigation, and all agree in stating that there is no more justification for the unparalleled oppression of the people here than there is for any county in New York or any other Northern State. The murderers of Stephens will one of these days be ferreted out; and it is really believed by many that it can be traced directly to Governor Holden himself, who told the negroes that Stephens "must be got rid of."

**POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES TROOPS.**

Battery D, Fourth United States Heavy Artillery, now doing duty here as infantry, under the command of Major Rodney and Captain Field, occupies a singular position in relation to the existing troubles. They arrived here about a week prior to Kirk and his band of jayhawkers, with instructions from the headquarters of Gen. McDowell, Department Commander, to aid the civil authorities in the enforcement of the laws, the officer in charge, however, having certain discretionary powers. Making the case a supposable one, the sheriff of the county was the civil official the officer in command of these troops was instructed to aid, and whose orders he was in duty bound to obey. But the sheriff was one of the first persons arrested and imprisoned by Kirk after the invasion with loaded muskets and cocked pistols. All the offices of the remaining civil officials, with their books and documents, were taken possession of by Kirk, who quartered his jayhawkers in the offices, and denied the incumbents admission. The civil officials appealed to Major Rodney for aid—for the protection, at least, of the records of the court and the archives of the county, besides the mass of documentary matter in their charge; but, however that officer's convictions of right were, he exercised his discretionary powers and refused to interfere. Since then there have been no civil officials to aid as the instructions indicated, and the position of the United States troops here is a negative one, unless possibly they might interfere to quell a conflict between Kirk's troops and the citizens, if such took place, though perhaps the discretionary powers would be more judiciously exercised if they aided Kirk. A similar complication to this arose yesterday, when the deputy

of the marshal of the State Supreme Court attempted to serve the writs of *habeas corpus* on Kirk, but was prevented by a quiet intimation from that individual that he would be fired on if he did not make himself scarce at Yanceyville. Was not Major Rodney and his troops bound to aid this officer in executing the writs—the sacred privilege of the citizen—at all hazards, particularly when the *habeas corpus* had not been suspended by the President of the United States? The deputy marshal did not appeal to him for aid, and even if he did, under the circumstances, the officer would, in all probability, have again exercised his discretion, and, in the absence of more definite instructions, refused to interfere where it might have resulted in a serious collision between the jayhawkers and the United States troops.

The marked contrast between the soldiers of this command, in point of physical development, healthy appearance, soldierly bearing and strict discipline, tells terribly against Kirk's slim, sickly, saffron-colored, slovenly samples of East Tennessee jayhawkers, and intellectually the privates in the United States battery are the superiors of Kirk's officers.

On the 25th a detective of Holden's, whose name is L. H. Mowers, but who has half a dozen aliases—viz., Hamilton Burnham and others—decoyed a young man named Gun, of this county, from Danville, Va., and

**ARRESTED HIM,**  
lodged him in the Court House with the remainder of Kirk's prisoners, where he still remains in custody. This is an outrage on the State of Virginia that should at once be looked into by Governor Walker. Gunn was no fugitive from justice; there were no charges preferred against him; and even had there been Holden's minions had no shadow of authority for decoying a man from Virginia for the purpose of arrest. The arrest was, in fact, made in Virginia, and is therefore a violation of the territory of that State.

Kirk, who is to be one of the members of the court to try the prisoners, has repeatedly expressed his opinion of the guilt of some of them, and is therefore disqualified to act.—*Correspondence New York Herald.*

**How Kirk Refused to Allow Writs of Habeas Corpus to be Served upon Him.**

[From the Danville Times.]  
On Tuesday last Colonel George Williamson, a citizen of Caswell, in company with Mr. E. M. Pace, of Danville, left Danville, having nineteen writs of *habeas corpus* from the Supreme Court, of North Carolina to serve on Colonel Kirk. Having remained that night at Colonel Williamson's, they made their appearance at Yanceyville the next morning about 8 o'clock. They asked permission to see Colonel Kirk. The adjutant came out, inquiring their business and names. Colonel Williamson replied, he desired to see Colonel Kirk to deliver some documents. The adjutant having seen Colonel Kirk, informed them that he could not be seen in less than half an hour. They then went over to Norfleet's store, remained a short time, and went back. The adjutant told them if they had documents for the Colonel, to seal them, and he would deliver them himself. Colonel Williamson replied, the documents were of such a nature as to require him to see Colonel Kirk personally. The adjutant then went to Kirk's room, and remaining an hour Colonel Williamson and Mr. Pace left. In the meantime they visited the camp of the United States soldiers. When they returned on the street Colonel Williamson went to the court-house gate, when the Major came out. Colonel Williamson asked him how long it would be before he could get a hearing before Colonel Kirk. The Major went in, and on his return demanded to know their business. Colonel Williamson replied that he had writs of *habeas corpus* to serve on him. The Major, after seeing Kirk, returned with the reply from him that he wished to have no communication or conversation with midnight assassins.

Colonel Williamson replied that they were not midnight assassins, that he was a peaceable, law-abiding citizen of the county. The Major turned his back, and they went across to Norfleet's store. During that time the drums beat and the soldiers commenced getting under arms. Messrs. Williamson and Pace moved to a large tree fronting the court-house. Col. Kirk made his appearance at the window, standing by one of the prisoners. As soon as he saw him, Col. Williamson started across the street with writs in his hand. Kirk drew back. Colonel Williams then returned to the tree, whereupon a company of soldiers marched out of the gate towards them, came half way, halted, about faced, and returned. Kirk then appeared on the lower porch. Immediately six men and a non-commissioned officer armed, under charge of the Major, advanced on Colonel Williamson and Mr. Pace. Getting within five paces, they halted and remarked, "This caucussing must be broken up. If you have homes, go to them; if you do not, I am ordered by Colonel Kirk to fire into you." Mr. Pace replied, "It caucussing is what you want to break up, we will separate." Colonel Williamson remarked that he was there on a peaceful mission, armed as he was with authority from the Chief Justice of the State, and that he did not intend to leave. The Major replied, "My orders are positive and you must leave." Seeing there was no possible chance to serve the writs without being shot, Colonel Williamson and Mr. Pace left; and they deserve great credit for the faithful manner in which they discharged their whole duty.

**A Bad Man in a Position to do Mischief.**

From the Washington Star (Republican).  
We cannot resist the conviction that Gov. Holden is pursuing a wholly mischievous and indefensible course in North Carolina. Giving all possible consideration to the assertions of Gov. H. in regard to the Ku Klux Klan outrages and resistance to law, we see nothing to justify his violent despotic acts. The evidence all points to the conclusion that the extreme measures he has resorted to are dictated solely by a reckless, unscrupulous determination to carry out his own political ends at all hazards. He defies the civil courts, suspends the writ of *habeas corpus*, breaks up peaceful meetings by military force, arrests the speakers, bayonets the spectators, and threatens the lives of all who protest against his tyrannical, unlawful deeds. He employs a willing tool by the name of Kirk to enforce his system of terrorism. This Kirk quarters his troops in private houses, tears up writs of *habeas corpus* when served upon him, and declares "that sort of thing played out!" Under the instructions of Holden he arrests the officers of the civil courts for presumption, and it appears that he is prepared to go to the extraordinary lengths of organizing a military commission in his camp for the trial of his prisoners, some hundreds in number, many of them influential citizens, and who have been counted as good Republicans, but who are not prepared to sustain the arbitrary acts of Holden. The deeds of greedy, unscrupulous men, like Holden in North Carolina, and Scott in South Carolina, are doing infinite mischief to the republican cause, making it impossible to build up a self-sustaining republican party in the South, and putting weapons into the hands of the enemies of the party in the North. It is the fault of just such men as Holden that North Carolina is not soundly republican to-day, if she is not. In no State of the South was there so large a Union element during the war, and in no State was the work of reconstruction entered upon under more favorable auspices. As for Holden, he is simply a demagogue, trickster and political desperado. A blatant secessionist when secession was uppermost, he is just the style of a man now to persecute with rabid vindictiveness not only his secession neighbors, but all Republicans who oppose his oppressive reign.

**Miscellaneous.**

**THE KIRK DESPOTISM.**

**The Reign of Terror in Caswell County—Whole Families Without a Male Protector—The Town of Yanceyville Picketed by Kirk's Jayhawkers—The Court Martial Postponed—Kirk Reports Fresh Outrages in the County—Another Side of the Case—Peculiar Position of the United States Troops.**  
YANCEYVILLE, July 28, 1870.  
Last evening a lady standing in the doorway of one of the residences here, appealing to a gentleman named Withers, said, "Do pray, Colonel, come and sleep here to-night, for I am terrified and don't know what may happen. There is nobody here but myself and the children, and we are nearly scared to death." "Indeed, Mrs. Johnson," said the gentleman, "I would do so with pleasure, but I have already promised Mrs. — that I would stay there to-night. You know she has a large family of daughters, and they require more than you do, some male protection." "God help us!" said the lady, "what will become of us?" This brief conversation took place between the wife of one of Kirk's prisoners and a citizen, not yet arrested, who now employs himself affording protection to the families of the gentlemen who are confined in the