

THE OBSERVER.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1896.

E. J. HALE, Editor and Proprietor.

E. J. HALE, Jr., Business Manager.

"FAYETTEVILLE ARSENAL."

Yesterday's Wilmington Messenger contains a very interesting history of Fayetteville Arsenal by General M. P. Taylor, of Wilmington, who was during the war Major of the Sixth Battalion, (Armory Guard.) It is addressed to Hon. Walter Clark, and is one of the series of historical sketches which are being prepared under Judge Clark's direction. We shall shortly reprint it.

General Taylor's sketch chiefly covers, of course, the history of the famous arsenal during the war period. There is, however, cursory mention of its history before that time. We observe that he gives the order of service of the ante-bellum commandants of the post as follows: "Major Laidley, U. S. A.; Capt. Dyer, U. S. A., and Capt. J. A. J. Bradford, U. S. A." That is a mistake. Capt. Bradford was the first commandant. In fact the building of the arsenal was begun (about 1835, say) under his command. He was many years in command, and was succeeded by Capt. A. B. Dyer about 1853, who remained until about 1857. Capt. Bradford was then returned, and, after a brief stay, was succeeded by Capt. Charles P. Kingsbury, (a near relative, we believe, of Dr. Kingsbury.) Capt. Kingsbury remained perhaps half a year, and was succeeded by Major T. T. S. Laidley, who remained until a short time before the outbreak of the war, when Capt. Bradford was again restored; and, the place being turned into a military post, a company of artillery was added under the command of Brevet Major Samuel Anderson, De Lagnel being 1st Lieutenant.

There are very likely some inaccuracies, also, in our account, as just given—for example as to the precise dates, and again as to the number of times Captain Bradford and Captain Kingsbury were in command; and we should be glad to have information on the subject. Possibly General Taylor would be glad to amplify his sketch in these particulars.

Bradford, Dyer, Kingsbury and Laidley were men of a high order of ability and of high standing as professional soldiers. They were officers of the Ordnance Department, which ranked next to the Engineer Department, and were therefore necessarily men who had stood near the head, if not at the head, of their classes at West Point. Assignment to the Ordnance was often sought by those who had choice of the Engineers, because of the more settled life in the civilized posts of the older States which fell to its officers. But Lieutenant De Lagnel, who came just before the war, had a more romantic and, as a fighting man, a more brilliant career than any of those who were here.

Dyer, Kingsbury and Laidley remained on the Northern side, though Dyer and Laidley were Virginians. Kingsbury, we believe, was a Northern man by birth, though appointed as from North Carolina. His wife was Miss McMillan of this city, and she a daughter of Mr. McMillan of the Scottish firm of Donaldson & McMillan, the senior member of which removed to New York, where he lived in great style, there and at his country place on the Hudson. A sister married James(?) Lennox, the founder of the Lennox Library of New York. The Donaldson Academy takes its name from Robert Donaldson, by whose bequest it was established.

Dyer became Major General and Chief of Ordnance of the United States army during the war. Kingsbury, a Brigadier General and, if we mistake not, chief of McClellan's staff when McClellan had supreme command. Laidley became Colonel of Ordnance, and missed becoming the head of the Department by a turn of favoritism. His wife was Miss Averill, a niece of General James Watson Webb, of New York; and she and the other ladies mentioned, brilliant women of the society of the great world, added much to the delights of Fayetteville social life in the old town's golden days.

Anderson became chief of artillery on Huger's staff, and afterwards chief of R. H. Anderson's. De Lagnel, who was a veritable hero, after the exciting and somewhat romantic career alluded to by General Taylor, became assistant Chief of Ordnance of the Confederacy, under General Gorgas. De Lagnel was the son of a San Domingan refugee, a gentleman (perhaps a soldier) of high position, who came to this country in company with Colonel De Russy, who settled in Louisiana. Mrs. De Lagnel was of Petersburg, Virginia.

There is a great deal of interest connected with the old arsenal, in the days before General Taylor's acquaintance with it began. Its location here (as well as that of a branch of the Bank of the United States) was evidence of the important relative rank which Fayetteville then held among the towns and cities of the Union. Let us hope that the old town may grow up to the rank of its arsenal days, again.

We have written the above altogether from memory, and will be glad of corrections by those who know where we have failed to know.

A Pitched Battle in Cuba.

A Washington telegram of Saturday, says:

Mr. Gonzales de Quesada, secretary of the Cuban delegation to-day received the following letter from Maj. Gen. Sanches, of the insurgent army, in relation to the great battle fought on the 8th of February in Villa Clara, in Via Jacas:

LAS VARAS, Feb. 26.

"DEAR FRIEND:—I had a great battle on the 8th of this month in Villa Clara in Via Jacas Gordas. It lasted five hours in the open field. The enemy's forces were more than 4,000 men. I fought with 1,000 and the Spanish troops were unable to advance one yard from their square. The results of the battle were on our side seven killed and forty eight wounded, thirty-five slightly. A few horses were killed and wounded, as I gave the battle dismounted. The enemy, I know positively, had 235 losses, sixty and odd wounded. We captured horses, saddles, blankets and other articles. I lament the death of some officers and of Maj. Aurelio Noy, who died the following day from a wound received in the charge. The battle of the 8th has been the greatest and most considerable in Las Villas. The war is powerful in the western provinces. In the rest of the island the enemy is filled with fear and has done nothing in this campaign, notwithstanding their lying declarations.

SERAFIN SANCHEZ,
Major General."

To Rule or Ruin.

Atlanta Constitution.

The attitude of these gold men in the Kentucky legislature is perfectly consistent with the record of men of their kidney in all parts of the country. Though they constitute but a small minority of the Democratic party in the States where the Democratic party is all powerful or active, they are, nevertheless, quick to sow the seeds of dissension, revolt and demoralization wherever they appear. They are quick to perceive that, if they cannot prevail upon the Democratic party to accept Republican doctrines, there is no place in the party for them; and so they always hold themselves ready to bolt party conventions, caucuses and conferences. They do not hesitate to employ efforts to destroy the harmony and unity of the organ-

ization if they cannot bend it to their vicious designs.

In short, the purpose of those who, for personal reasons, have indorsed the financial policy of the administration, or who, for any reason whatever, have been seized with the conviction that the destructive financial policy of the Republicans is right, is to rule or ruin. If they cannot control the party they are ready to cripple or destroy it. If they cannot have their own way, they give eager aid and comfort to the Republicans who are the enemies of the people.

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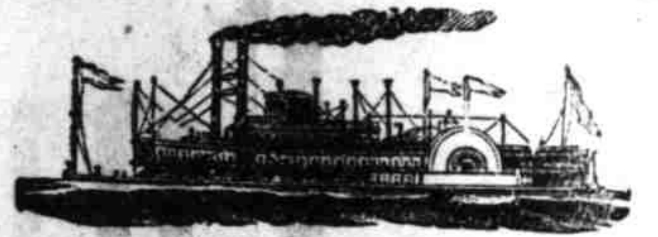
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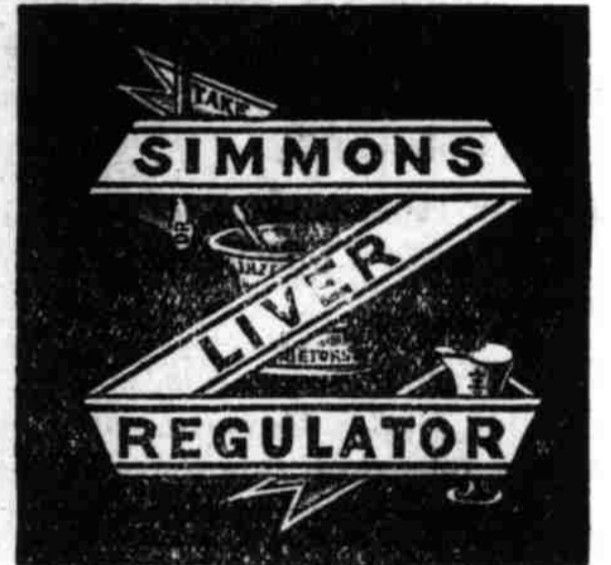
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