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MILITARY ORDERS.

[OFFICIAL.]

HEADQUARTERS—1ST DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT No. 1.
TANGIPAHOA, La., July 14th, 1862.

General Orders No. 7.

I. THE CONSCRIPTS in the parishes of East and West Feliciana and East Baton Rouge will assemble without delay at Olive Branch, near Clinton, and report to Col. Preston Pond, commanding camp of instruction.

II. The conscripts in the parishes of St. Helena and Washington will assemble without delay at Tangipaho, and report to Lieut.-Col. Sam Boyd commanding.

III. The conscripts in the parishes of St. Tammany and Livingston will assemble without delay at Ponchatoula, at a camp of instruction, and report to Captain McRae.

IV. The Commanding General is assured that many who serve under the provisions of the conscript law have not had the opportunity of compliance with its requirements, and now that camps of instruction are specially designated under competent commanders, they will repair to them at once and place themselves in the front ranks of their country's defenders.

V. If, however, from unforseen circumstances, the extraordinary spectacle should present itself to the eyes of the world, that citizen soldiers of Louisiana fail to rally voluntarily to the defense of their liberties and families, commanders of troops, provost marshals of parishes, officers of the militia, civil magistrates, and all other civil officers are enjoined to take prompt and effective measures to enable delinquents to reach their respective encampments.

By command of Brig.-Gen. RUGGLES.

L. D. SANDIDGE, C. S. A.,
A. A. A. and Inspector-General.

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NOTICE!

HEADQUARTERS 3D DISTRICT,
VICKSBURG, July 18, 1862.

NOTICE is hereby given to all persons who are subject to the action of the Conscript Act, that those who volunteer without waiting to be enrolled under the law, will be allowed to select their own company and regiment, from their State from among the several corps of this Brigade, composed of the following regiments, viz:

First Regiment Louisiana Artillery—Colonel C. A. Fuller.

Eighth Battalion Louisiana Artillery—Lieut.-Colonel W. Pinkney.

Fourth Regiment Louisiana Volunteers—Colonel H. W. Allen.

Seventeenth Regiment Louisiana Volunteers—Col. R. Richardson.

Twenty-sixth Regiment Louisiana Volunteers—Col. A. Declouet.

Twenty-seventh Regiment Louisiana Volunteers—Col. L. D. Marks.

Twenty-eighth Regiment Louisiana Volunteers—Col. Alex Thomas.

Third Regiment Mississippi Volunteers—Col. T. A. Mellen.

Sixth Battalion Mississippi Volunteers—Lieut.-Col. J. W. Halfour.

Company of Sappers and Miners—Capt. D. Winter.

By command of Brig.-Gen. M. L. SMITH.

J. F. GRIMES,
A. A. General.

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CAMP OF INSTRUCTION!

General Order No 1.

JACKSON, Miss., July 25, 1862.

HAVING been assigned to the command of a CAMP OF INSTRUCTION, located at Brookhaven, Lawrence county, Mississippi, on the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, it is ordered that all persons not legally exempt from enrollment for service in the armies of the Confederate States, between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five, residing in the following counties and State of Mississippi, viz: Marshall, DeSoto, Tunica, Panola, Lafayette, Coahoma, Tallahatchie, Yallabusha, Tallahatchie, Sunflower, Bolivar, Washington, Carroll, Choctaw, Attala, Holmes, Issaquena, Yazoo, Madison, Leake, Scott, Rankin, Hinds, Warren, Claiborne, Copiah, Simpson, Smith, Covington, Lawrence, Franklin, Jefferson, Adams, Wilkinson, Amite, Pike, Marion and Hancock, report in person, on the 1st Monday of August, 1862, to the undersigned, at said camp.

No exemptions will be allowed upon the certificates of Physicians, except those who hold commissions as Surgeons in the C. S. Army.

Persons holding such certificates will report themselves at the camp, said certificates being subject to the approval of the Commandant.

All refugees or persons citizens of those States or portions of States, belonging to the Confederacy, and in possession of the enemy, who are or may come within the limits of the above named counties, are included in the above order.

All persons failing to comply with the above order, will be reported and treated as deserters.

Each person will bring with him one blanket or quilt, tin cup and plate and from three to five days rations, according to the distance from the camp.

Transportation on the different roads will be furnished upon application to the conductors.

By order of the Secretary of War.

M. R. CLARK, Major and A. A. G.,
Commanding Camp of Instruction.

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[OFFICIAL.]

HEADQUARTERS—1ST DISTRICT, DEPARTMENT No. 1,
TANGIPAHOA, LA., July 12, 1862.

General Orders No. 6.

I. THE Provost Marshal of the county or parish where any slave may be arrested, together with three resident slave owners, to be by him selected and summoned, shall constitute a special tribunal for the trial of slaves charged with offences against martial law, and for minor offenses have power to inflict such corporeal punishment as they may think proper.

II. Every slave who shall enter, or attempt to enter the lines of the enemy, without a special permit from District Headquarters, or who shall come from within the enemy's lines shall be shot, or receive such corporeal punishment as this tribunal may determine.

III. Where any slave has been condemned to death by the tribunal herein established, the execution of the sentence, except in cases where the vicinity of the enemy may require immediate action, will be suspended until the sentence has been approved by the commanding General of the District, and an order issued for the execution.

IV. In parishes or counties, in which no Provost Marshal has been appointed, or where, from other circumstances, slaves arrested cannot be brought to trial, they will be taken before the nearest Provost Marshal, who is authorized and required to take cognizance of the case, and proceed in all respects as though the arrest had been made in his own parish or county.

V. Whenever it is practicable, and the owner consents to it, punishment inflicted upon slaves under the provisions of this order, will be inflicted upon the plantation to which they belong or are attached, and in presence of the other slaves.

VI. Provost Marshals are authorized to use the jails or prisons of their respective counties, towns or parishes, for the confinement of slaves. The keepers of these establishments will be allowed the usual fees for their maintenance.

VII. All persons owning slaves, or having them in charge, are required to read this order to them at least once a month.

By command of Brig.-Gen. RUGGLES.

L. D. SANDIDGE, C. S. A.,
A. A. A. and Inspector-General.

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SPECIAL ORDER No. 23.

HEADQUARTERS WITHERS' LIGHT ARTILLERY,
REGIMENT NEAR VICKSBURG, Aug. 4, 1862.

NOTICE is hereby given to all members of this regiment, absent without proper authority, soldiers overstaying their leaves of absence, soldiers who have been sent off sick and have failed to present certificates of disability, signed by army surgeons, who have been regularly appointed, commissioned, or who have taken the oath of office, or certificates and affidavits from responsible practising physicians; all soldiers acting as surgeons, attendants or nurses in hospitals, that if they do not report at once to these Headquarters, they will be brought back in irons and dealt with as deserters. Commanders should spare from their midst those who lack a sufficiency of soldierly pride, or should have forgotten their oath to serve their country homes by and faithfully. On the return of all such persons, whether voluntarily or otherwise, they will be dealt with in accordance with army regulations. This notice is intended for the information of those now present on duty, who may hereafter procure leaves of absence, as well as advice to present officers. No person belonging to this regiment will be allowed to procure substitutes except in the most particular and urgent cases, as those persons able to do duty as hired substitutes ought to have patriotism enough to so do duty as volunteers, and those without this requisite are not wanted in this regiment. Those now on the rolls will be retained at every sacrifice until properly discharged by proper authority.

By order of JAMES P. PARKER,
Lieut.-Col. Commanding Witers Artillery.

JAS. J. CALLOWAY,
Act'g Adjutant.

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[OFFICIAL.]

HEADQUARTERS MISS. STATE TROOPS,
MAJOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
JACKSON, MISS., July 11, 1862.

Special Order No. 13.

BY the authority of the Governor and Commander-in-chief the Militia Men organized, and to be organized, under Orders No 1 and 2 of the Commander-in-chief, and of the Major General, 2 and 3, in the several counties of the first Brigade Division of Mississippi, are hereby ordered into active service, and are ordered to rendezvous as soon as practicable in camp, two miles southwest of the town of Pontotoc.

Brigadier General M. P. Berry, and in his absence the commanders of State troops in the counties of the said Brigade Division, are charged with the execution of this order.

By command of Maj. Gen. T. C. TUPPER.

J. J. CONWAY, C. S. A.,
A. A. A. G.

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THE FIGHT AT BATON ROUGE.

Further Particulars from a Special Correspondent.

ENCAMPMENT OUTSIDE BATON ROUGE,
August 6, 1862.

It is not easy for the people in general to understand why the particulars of a battle reach them so scantily and so tardily after the first brief announcement of its result in official form. They wonder how it can be that friends in the army who must certainly know of their eager anxiety and painful suspense cannot find time or thought to pen a few hasty lines, by the publication of which so many thousands would be gratified. No one who has not been in a battle, and encumbered with all the incidental cares and duties of the hours of trial, and, as well of the succeeding days, can realize how difficult it is, even for one accustomed by profession to the use of the pen, to arrange the thoughts and obtain the quiet and time to prepare any account of a serious engagement which would be connected and intelligible to the reader's mind. I will not, therefore, undertake to write anything like a description of the fight yesterday, but may succeed in giving you a rambling account of the affair with certain movements and incidents which happened to fall under my own observation.

The battle of Baton Rouge will be remembered in future history as a bold and dashing affair, ably planned, gallantly fought and successfully executed. It has taught the insolent enemy a most salutary lesson. It has shown them that they never can rest in security on Southern soil—no, not even under the very cover of their gunboats. It will cause them to consider their tenure of Memphis and New Orleans more slight, and place the garrisons of those and other captured points in apprehension of their safety. Moreover, it has added one more to the list of Confederate triumphs and given fresh laurels to Kentuckians, Mississippians, Alabamians and Louisianians.

THE YANKEES AT BATON ROUGE.

For a long time past the Yankee forces in Baton Rouge, under General Williams, have been vieing with their brother rascals, under Butler, in deeds of insolence and barbarity. In marauding bands they have ravaged the adjoining country, carrying desolation everywhere. Murder, incendiarism, pillage and crimes still worse, were common to them, and those of our people who could not fly from their plantations and abandon their homes, lived in constant dread and continuous contributions. Oh, how many a fervent prayer has ascended to heaven from the lips of unsullied women or expatriated families! As if in answer to the cries of the down-trodden a thunderbolt fell upon the invaders that crushed them in ignominious terror. That vengeance was a gallant band of Southrons, led on by the lion-hearted, eagle eyed son of Kentucky—General Breckinridge. Slow, perhaps, came that retribution, but when it came it was sudden, resistless and terrible. The foe quailed before the furious onset of our men, but with only the river behind them they found the courage of desperation, and fought for awhile frantically. But again and again our determined troops charged them. Their commander, General Williams, was killed, a great many of their officers followed his fate, their ranks were thinning fast, all of their columns were engaged, and when we made our final onset, they gave way precipitately and fled to the river's edge, under cover of the levee, where they cowered in terror, many of them throwing away their guns, and some even taking to the water for escape. Then their gunboats opened a hot fire of shell and rifled shot on every point where they supposed our troops to be, which did us no harm however. We coolly destroyed their camps, with immense quantities of their quartermaster and commissary stores, and rested in our position until evening, their demoralized troops having been taken aboard the gunboats.

OUR EXPEDITION.

From the Comite river, ten miles distant from Baton Rouge, our main force moved at nine o'clock on the night of the 4th, moving slowly in along the Greensburg road. The bright, full moon made the roadway as easy to travel as in day time until it set, shortly after midnight, but even then the sky was clear and starry, the air pleasant and all nature seemingly propitious to our expedition. Four different halts were made to enable the columns to rest themselves and to prevent coming up with the enemy before the hour agreed upon—4 o'clock in the morning.

A small force was sent forward at 4 o'clock in the afternoon to make a detour through the woods, gain the Clinton road and make a diversion on the enemy's left, above the old arsenal. As this small column opened the fight, I will speak of it first in detail. It consisted of some Louisianeans under Capt. R. T. Boyle and Lieutenants commanding Amaker and H. C. Wright, Capt. Terrell's Mississippi cavalry, and a section of Semmes' Louisiana battery, under Lieut. Fauntleroy, the whole under command of Lieut. Col. Thos. Shields, of the 30th Louisiana volunteers, and a veteran of the Mexican war. Having made a ten mile detour through the woods, in the dead of night, they came cautiously in on the Clinton road, and creeping along on both sides, at daylight they had reached within two hundred yards of the Yankee pickets before they were discovered. As soon as this occurred the order was given and onward they charged, the men at a double-quick and the artillery horses at a fast trot. The enemy's pickets fled panic-stricken, and the alarm was communicated. Within a quarter of a mile was the arsenal, its parapet mounted with howitzers, and in the woods next to it the camps of the 14th Maine, another Yankee regiment and an artillery company.

Still onward kept our gallant little band. The enemy brought to bear a piece of artillery but before they could fire Lieutenant Fauntleroy opened and drove it rapidly back. Our boys, under Captain Boyle, then boldly charged the enemy's position, notwithstanding their immense superiority, but on the 14th Maine advancing through a corn field Captain Boyle had to fall back under a tremendous fire to the support of Fauntleroy's pieces, which immediately drove back the "lumber-men" with grape and cannister. By this time Generals Breckinridge and Clark, with the Kentuckians and Mississippians, came across the fields from the Greensburg road in splendid array, moving in one long line before which fences and such other temporary obstructions fell and were trampled over as it by some satanic power. Colonel Shield's force now joined these and participated in the hard fighting against the left of the enemy's position.

THE MAIN ATTACK.

Here, on our center and right, opposed to the arsenal (a strong fortification in itself) and the enemy's camps, the Kentuckians, Mississippians and Alabamians won for themselves imperishable glory. In their first charge they drove the Yankees through their outer camps, they rallying in the second. Here the enemy made a desperate stand and fought with great obstinacy and much skill. They were supported by sixteen or eighteen field pieces, including Mim's celebrated battery of eight rifled steel guns, together with their howitzers on the parapet of the arsenal, which rained grape and cannister into our ranks over the heads of their own men. Their officers could frequently be seen, when the dense sulphurious smoke of battle momentarily lifted its curtain from between the combatants, riding up and down the lines waving and gesticulating with their arms in apparently a frantic manner. One of them, said to be Lieutenant-Colonel Keith, rode up to our lines in leading an important charge of his regiment. Suddenly discovering that his men had not followed him and that he was about being captured by our men, he wheeled his horse and dashed his spurs into the steed's flank. At that instant he threw up his arms and fell over backward, pierced by many a Mississippian's bullet. The enemy's troops showed better drill and discipline than natural ardor and daring. Some of their regiments fell after firing in volley and loaded on their backs, then at the word of command they rose to their feet, fired almost simultaneously and dropped again. Our men, on the contrary, kept moving steadily onward or standing firm in line, loading and firing at will, with a continuous, never-ceasing rattle of shots, their field officers only giving such general commands as "forward, guide center" "center dress!" "forward on the left" or "forward on the right!"

Gen. Hein was dangerously wounded by a fall from his horse; Col. Hughes, of the 22nd Mississippi was instantly killed by a whole volley of grape shot, and Adjutant Fitzpatrick, of the same regiment, was severely wounded. Col Thompson, of the Kentuckians, was wounded, and soon afterward Brigadier-General Clark was dangerously wounded in the groin. Four separate charges had now been made by our lines, and four times had the Yankees been forced back until we had entire possession of all their camps, with the quartermaster and commissary stores. They found themselves in front of the levee, with fire in their front and water in their rear, and they made their last desperate effort here to save themselves from what must have seemed to them impending annihilation. Several times they started to charge our lines, but the unflinching steadiness and destructive fire of our men, supported by Cobb's battery, Fauntleroy's pieces and other guns, dampened their ardor and rendered their officer's appeal abortive.

THE LOUISIANIANS ON THE LEFT.

But I must now speak of what was occurring on our left, where the Louisianians were opposed to a strong force of the enemy, supported by two batteries of artillery, who had chosen many natural and artificial objects of defence. About three miles out of Baton Rouge they left the Greensburg road to the right of them, and clearing a large field formed in line of battle in the woods and advanced. They speedily met the enemy, posted in a strong thicket. Here there was a sharp engagement for ten or fifteen minutes, when Col. Henry W. Allen, acting brigadier, ordered a charge. This was gallantly done, with the bayonet, and the Yankees were driven back to a fence on the right, where they again made a stand. Here Col. G. A. Breaux made a half-right-wheel with the 30th Louisiana, charged and drove back this body in disorder. Regaining their line, it again moved on, when they encountered the Yankees in strong position beyond the stout and tall fence of the old race course, firing out of temporary loop-holes. Col. Breaux, with his boys, were ordered to dislodge them, which they succeeded in doing, but with no little difficulty, on account of the strength of the fence. The other Louisianians, with Col. Allen, Lieutenant-Colonel Hunter and Lieutenant-Colonel Sam. Boyd were still driving onward and now again united with those of Col. Breaux and Major Charles J. Bell, they forced the enemy to a permanent stand. Here was a fierce and bloody fight; two of the enemy's batteries, one of them masked, supported by several regiments of infantry. Our entire line was opposed to a converging fire of minie balls, grape and canister, and a flank movement by the enemy was only discovered by the sharp eye of our commanders in time to guard against it.

TAKING A BATTERY.

Colonel Allen now galloped forward to the front of our line, and, seizing the colors of the 4th Louisiana, called upon the Louisiana sons to follow him. With cheers that rang loudly above the roar of artillery and the rattling of small arms, and with furious cries of "Butler and New Orleans!" our gallant boys came down to a "charge bayonets" and dashed on after their heroic leader. As if the enemy had reserved their fiercest fire for this moment, there was a momentary lull, and then came a fearful roar, and double loads of canister and sheets of rifle balls swept through their ranks. Not once did they falter. Onward, still on they kept, in vain the Yankee officers appealed, shouted, shrieked to their men. The bristling line of steel come swiftly on, each gap filled up almost as soon as made. The Yankee line wavered—it fell back on the left, it fell back on the center, it broke—hurrah!—it fled! Yes, our victorious soldiers rushed up to the muzzle of the enemy's guns, their battery was in our hands. At that glorious moment, while Colonel Allen was waving, in exultation, the bullet-torn standard he held, he was struck in both legs with grape shot, and he fell to the ground. In the temporary confusion consequent upon this melancholy incident the enemy rallied. Our boys found it impossible to drag the pieces off the ground on account of its broken surface and the thickness of the woods. They did succeed in getting one gun a short distance, but could not move it further. The Louisianians fell back a short distance, when Col. Breaux rallied them and again advanced, but their battery had been drawn off.

About this time one of the most destructive discharges of canister that was, perhaps, ever fired in any battle, was given from Semmes' battery, the gun being pointed by Lieut. West. Just as he was about giving the enemy a round of canister, a regiment of Yankees, in column of companies, came in sight, advancing up the road. West called for another canister shot and trained his piece to take the column diagonally from front to rear. The second round of canister was ramed in on the first and the piece fired. The terrible sweep of balls opened a broad avenue right through the whole column, in the path of which could be seen the mangled victims leaping, turning and writhing about, while the two halves left standing, stood motionless with terror for an instant, and then turned and fled in a panic, only rallied when again behind their own lines.

THE FINAL ROUT.

General Breckinridge, about ten o'clock, ordered a final charge, and Capt. Buckner, his adjutant-general, a gallant and well tried officer, rushed to the front and led on the lines in person. And now roared the din of battle loudest, and fiercer, shriller were the cheers of the men and the encouraging appeals of our officers. Everywhere with us it was onward. Everywhere with the enemy it was backward—slowly and obstinately, but still backward. At last even the courage of desperation gave way before the invincible ardor of our troops and the enemy fled in confusion behind the levee, where their gunboats came up to take the panic-stricken men on board and to prevent, by their broadsides, any further charges of our boys.

General Breckinridge then ordered the destruction of the enemy's camps and all their stores, and directed General Ruggles, who was now the second in command, and had displayed conspicuous gallantry throughout the fight, to take our troops back to the Greensburg road. The firing of the enemy's camps and stores was successfully executed by Capt. Boyle and a detail of the American Rifles. The discomfitted and frightened Yankees were all taken on board their boats, and our men then brought their wounded off the field, together with many of the Yankee wounded. Our loss was very small in comparison to the length and spirited character of the attack. We all regretted that General Clark, Colonel Allen, Captain Norbert Trepagnier and Lieutenant Alexander Dapremant, of the 30th Louisiana, and other gallant officers and men, could not be removed but a short distance from where they were wounded, on account of the danger to them of doing so.

CONCLUSION OF THE AFFAIR.

The object of our attack, all that we had aimed at or that infantry could accomplish, was gained. We had driven the invaders off our land and made them embark in disgrace on board their boats. All this fighting, it will be seen by those familiar with the geography of the place, occurred in the outskirts of Baton Rouge, above on the river and between the city and the penitentiary. Our troops refrained from entering the city, not only because the enemy were not there but that we wished to give them no excuse for destroying the place by shells from their gunboats. We well knew they would be only too glad to find any excuse for murdering defenceless women and children.

Furiously, but fruitlessly, they poured rifled shot and shell into the woods and fields where we rested during the day. At one time they sent a flag of truce to Gen. Breckinridge, asking permission to bury their dead and bring off their wounded from the field of battle, which was granted, and they were allowed to send details upon the field, unmolested by our forces. When our troops were somewhat rested from their fatigues of marching and fighting, about five o'clock in the evening, we moved back, out of range of the gunboats, to a good camp, where we now are and will remain. All last night and to-day the enemy are keeping up the waste of powder, balls and shell, for fear of our returning. Under this shelling, the remnant of their forces, reorganized on their boats, has landed again on the levee, but keep ready to re-embark as soon as we appear. Oh! had we but a river force sufficient to have driven off their gunboats but for one hour at the right time, we had captured their every man and every gun!* Our soldiers have every kind of trophy in profusion and as I write now, on a log, I see across the road, hanging up in front of Col. Breaux's quarters the "stars and stripes" taken by Lieut. D. C. Byerly, of the 30th Louisiana, and presented to Lieut.-Col. Shields. What our future movements may be, of course I cannot say, but that we may soon have a chance of peppering the Yankee scoundrels again is the sincere hope of your CORRESPONDENT.

*I suppose you have the particulars of the attack on the Arkansas by the enemy's fleet—of the derangement of her machinery, and of her commander having blown her up. This accident is all that saved the Yankees. Captain Brown was not on her at the time.

Political Organization in Indiana.

From the Indianapolis Journal, August 6th.]

We need not ask the attention of the reader to the astounding revelation made by the United States grand jury for this district, which appears in another column, for it will compel attention. Nothing so seriously affecting the safety of the government has been developed since the outbreak of the rebellion. Nothing so alarming has occurred since the first defeat of our army before Washington. A secret association in Indiana of 15,000 men, sworn to resist Federal taxation and enlistments, prepared by signs to recognize and assist each other, and to recognize and protect members of similar organizations even in the rebel army, meeting with arms in their hands and under the protection of armed sentinels, so connected with the rebel prisoners in this State that the latter refuse to testify before the jury against them, and armed with precautions against legal proceedings or convictions, is a fact to startle the nation. So gigantic a conspiracy is second only to the rebellion of which it is an off-shoot. But startling as it is, the fact of its discovery is a protection against the peril. The people will take care of such an association, when once known to exist. Secret political societies cannot live in this country in time of peace, much less in time of war, when secrecy necessarily becomes treason.

We have long known, and tried to warn the public, of the existence of this band of traitors, and their deluded associates, but the fact seemed too monstrous for belief, and though some local excitement was created by the revelation and by our appeals to the public to put down the evil thing, the evidence of its reality seemed too slight to excite the alarm necessary to an effective action. Convincing proof was needed, evidence that could not be put aside by an incredulous sneer, something that would *make* men think. That we now have. The Grand Jury of the United States court, at the present term, have taken the matter up, and made a thorough investigation of it. They have sent to the places where "Castles" of the order were believed to be, and brought to this city the men suspected of belonging to it, put them on oath, and forced out of them, word by word, the relue ant confessions which are embodied in the revelation now made. *The members themselves are the witnesses.* The traitors themselves, under the terrors of the jail and the judge, reveal the existence and purposes of the order. Their testimony cannot be sneered away or disregarded. Nearly *two hundred* of them, brought from various portions of the State, were examined.

A great majority admitted their connection with the order, and more or less fully revealed, under compulsion, its secrets. Many, not fully initiated, expressed deep regret on the discovery of its treasonable character, and earnestly promised to retrace their steps and assist in its suppression. No doubt a majority of the members are loyal, well meaning men, misled as to its purposes, who will at once abandon it when they see this exposure. Others, however, justified the order, and refused to reveal anything of importance. Rebel prisoners from Camp Morton were examined, but they refused to testify "because their evidence would implicate their friends in this State, and injure the cause of the Confederacy." The testimony is full, direct and overwhelming, not only as to the existence of the conspiracy, but as to its treasonable character. Of the correctness of the revelations of signs, grips and pass-words made by the witnesses, some of the grand jury satisfied themselves by experiment. They mixed with the crowd at the convention, on last Wednesday, and the signs they had learned were recognized and returned by about one hundred persons.

The leading features of this exposition are:

1st. That the order numbers, according to the estimates of the witnesses, about 15,000 members in this State. This, we think, is probably above the mark; but whether it is or not, it is certain that very many of the members are but partially initiated, have no idea of its treasonable purposes, and will have nothing to do with any action that may interfere with the laws or their duty to their government.

2d. The existence of the order here is known to the rebels, and its members are instructed to avoid injuring rebels in case they should be compelled to enter the army. By a sign the members South can make themselves known to those of the North, and both are sworn to fire over the heads of each other in case they meet on opposite sides in battle.

3d. The conspirators have devised a plan to avoid or defeat legal proceedings against them. By changes of venue to counties where the judges are members, or by getting members on juries, they propose to keep clear of the clutches of the law. This is by no means an unsafe reliance when it is remembered that a single juryman can prevent a conviction, and there is no possible way of preventing members of the order from getting on juries where they are not known.

4th. The members are sworn to secrecy, and to the resistance to the collection of Federal taxes, and to enlistments.

5th. The meetings are frequently guarded by armed sentinels, and the members generally come to them armed. In this connection we may state a fact which is not without significance. On the day the anti-war Democratic Convention was held in this city, five hundred revolvers were sold, no doubt to members of this order.

In these features, brought out by the perseverying examination of two hundred witnesses, we see enough to warn the people to be prompt and earnest in putting down this infamous association. Their duty is plain, and the crisis imminent. These bands of traitors must be dispersed. The grand jury has done its duty by indicting sixty of the members, but the main work must rest with the loyal people. Let them put a stop to the meetings in their neighborhoods; but, above all, put the ban of outlawry, of exclusion from society, of dark and stern determination on every man who has any part in the conspiracy.

Skirmish at Orange Court House.

Two or three companies of Yankee cavalry made a dash into Orange Court House, between eight and nine o'clock on Saturday morning, for the avowed purpose of capturing the train, which was then at that place. Two companies of Confederate cavalry, stationed there quickly perceived the design of the enemy, and engaged him in a spirited skirmish, lasting for some time, which resulted in the complete rout of the enemy, with a loss to him, in killed, wounded and prisoners, of twenty-five. Our loss, all told, is set down at from fifteen to twenty. During the engagement, the conductor watched his opportunity, and escaped safely with his train.

Gen. Ewell's command moved up and occupied the place on Saturday night.

We regret to learn that one of our pickets, a young man named Thomas, a member of the Bath cavalry, was killed while on duty above Orange Court House, at an early hour on Saturday morning. It appears that young Thomas had dismounted from his horse, and proceeded a short distance in the woods, for the purpose of cutting a switch, when he was shot through the head by one of the Yankee cavalry, and killed almost instantly. His remains were carried to Staunton Saturday.

Nine Yankee prisoners, taken in the above skirmish, arrived in this city, last evening, and were comfortably cared for at the Yankee prison. *Richmond Enquirer.*

The Duty of To-Day.

From the New York Independent.]

In the beginning of this great struggle, the question among loyal men was: How shall we save this nation? One year of fighting and the question is: Whether we can save it? That is the question of to-day.

We do not write to blame, but to judge. Unless we see wiser than we have been. We have outlived our nation. Look at facts.

The South has had more than wisdom, civil and military; she has had sagacity.

After Mr. Lincoln's election, not one single State, except South Carolina, cast a popular majority for secession. Yet every State seceded except Delaware, Maryland and Kentucky. There was a divided public mind, a large undergone Union feeling in the South even after the war began.

It is absurd to talk of any such thing now. There never was such a revolution of popular feeling on record. Dislike has become hatred. With insignificant exceptions, the South is a unit in intense and unchangeable hatred of the North. By volunteers, by drafting, and by conscription, she has placed in the field an extraordinary force.

With all her seaports sealed, with no important founderies, straitened for every single element in the manufacture of munitions and equipments, the South has armed her men so formidably that our generals would rather lie behind breastworks than meet them in the field. Accustomed to import from the North almost every article of living, the South has become in a day a manufacturer of iron, of cloth, of wood, of leather, of chemicals, enough, at least, for all military purposes. Cumbered with a dangerous population of four million slaves, whose instincts, interests, and secret wishes are wholly, or largely, adverse, the South has extracted from this element a double power, moral and physical. Playing upon the political superstitions of the North, she has hindered its movements at every step, by interposing the slavery question—knowing that for two generations men had been educated to yield everything—principle, interest, patriotism—rather than meddle with "Southern rights" of slavery.

* * *

What has been the fruit of this year's conduct? We are not so near a settlement as we were at the beginning. The South, with all her losses, and under difficulties that would have appalled and disheartened any common people, is more united, has a larger army in the field (more comfortably provided for) than she had a year ago.

The South is more formidable to-day than she was when she beleaguered Washington held Tennessee, Missouri, and half of Kentucky. She is united; while every day the leaven of old malignant political parties is working disaffection at the bottom, in the North.

The South has simplicity and unity of purpose. The North is uncertain which she wishes most—to subdue the rebellion, to leave slavery unharmed, or to have the right President at the next election!

The South adjourns every question and postpones every interest in favor of arms. The North is busy with conflicting schemes and interests; and is also mildly carrying on war.

Does anybody doubt the result of such a course? It is so certain that it is not worth our while to waste another man or another dollar! Either the administration policy should instantly change, or the war should cease! It is not more vigor, so much as different internal ideas. If the administration cannot be disenchanted of the traditional policy that has grown up during the heartless, timid, compromising era of the last half century, and adopt the simple straightforward policy that becomes a people striving for liberty and free institutions upon this American continent—then we are doomed! It is war that we are making—war first, war second, war wholly! It is not politics. It is not constitution making. It is not the decision of legal niceties. These are not the business of government as toward the South. It is war, absolute, terrible and immeasurable war.

The South has organized on the fact of slavery, and fights on that issue, pure and simple. The North must organize on the doctrine of liberty, and fight right through on that issue, pure and simple.

The South sacrifices everything that conflicts with her central idea. The North must do the same. The South is ashamed of slavery. The North must not be ashamed of liberty!

Under these circumstances, we told:

That it was unwise to call for 300,000 volunteers. The day has gone by for that. The Administration should have drafted half a million of men for instant service, and half a million more as reserve. It will waste months of time and spend millions of money, and encourage growing discontent, and expend precious popular enthusiasm—and then be obliged to draft. It was not prudent? The people might be discontented! To this is replied: It was, and is necessary. The people must consent to that or dismemberment! This call for volunteers is one more step in that just behind-the-time policy which has marked the war. Volunteering would have sufficed early in the war, had the Administration been wise according to the exigency. They did not want the men that wanted to go. Now the men do not want to go. Drafting now will succeed. Wait four months and that will have become four-fold more difficult than now. Always behind!

Waiting.

More than a month has elapsed since the last gun of the battles before Richmond was fired. What are we waiting for? Are we about, after all, to repeat the folly of Manassas? Then, as now, we were led from week to week to believe that something was about to be done. The public impatience was allayed by false promises and the public expectation fed by delusive hopes. Are the new promises of an advance "beyond the frontier" false too—and are the fresh hopes of the people destined to another and a sadder disappointment? Why do we delay? Every day is precious to the enemy, enabling him to renew the broken spirit of the people, to recruit his shattered forces, and rally for a struggle more desperate than any we have yet encountered. What prevents an advance into the enemy's country? The comparatively insignificant force of the upstart, Pope! It would be an insult to our victorious army to suppose so. Do we wait for arms? Forty thousand were taken from the enemy in the late battles, and cargoes of arms and ammunition have reached us from abroad. Do we expect European intervention, and are we waiting for "the steamer of the 6th of August," as has been hinted? We leaned on that reed after Manassas, and it broke and pierced our side. Is the season unsuitable for an advance, or are the roads unfit for transportation? Summer is the choice season of the Southern man; the weather was never better, the roads never firmer. Above all other boons the enemy most craves time. Shall he have it, more of it, and how much? By common consent, dispatch, celerity, energy, daring, are the policy for us. *Why do we wait?* Is it for the new conscripts, or returning convalescents, or stragglers? All the strength we may gain in this way will be more than quadrupled by accessions to the enemy. During the month that has been lost, we have been, and are yet, relatively stronger than we have ever been before, or will, in all probability, ever be again. If we cannot advance against the enemy now, will the time ever come when, in the opinion of the authorities, we may do so? Richmond is abundantly safe for the present. The most certain way of relieving it of all menace even, would be to give Jackson the force and the word that would send him crashing through Pope's army and careering over the border. McClellan would be instantly called from James river, Lee would meet him beyond the Potomac, and then the war would be where it should have been twelve months ago. This is too plain to be denied—too certain to be doubted. Again, we ask, why do we wait?—*Richmond Whig.*

The Brigands.

We have news from Hudson to the 6th. Porter's guerrillas, it is said, had bursted into pieces, and were roaming over the country north and east of that place. We rather think, notwithstanding this information, that he can concentrate his men wherever he may direct. Poindexter was about twenty miles west of Hudson, with a pretty large force, set down at twelve hundred men, moving and armed, seemingly watching the Hannibal and St. Joseph road. Another band of guerillas is said to be on Mud Creek, south of Hudson, on the Chariton, and a band are said to be drilling near Allen, and serving as a guard to Poindexter. An opinion prevails that it was the intention to attack Hudson, but this is not certain.—*St. Louis Republican, 7th.*

Johnson and Brownlow.

From the Columbus Sun.]

In the summer of 1853, politics ran high in Tennessee. Andy Johnson, Lincoln's present "military governor," was the nominee of the Democracy for gubernatorial honors. He was opposed by a man of ordinary ability, and at that time a great lover of spirits more ardent than his own—the regular nominee of the "American" party—and also the champion of the "Maine liquor law" party! The odds against Johnson was fearful, and perhaps no candidate ever labored under so many apparent difficulties. The "Know-Nothing" party had, in many districts, made a clear sweep of everything. The Democracy had become awkwardly mixed up with it, all over the State, and especially in the eastern and middle portions of the State. Many leading Democrats had taken the stump for the invincible "Sam," and there seemed to be a falling from grace among the apostles of Jefferson, generally.

The contest opened in Murfreesboro'. Johnson rarely ever indulged in a "social glass;" he was then, as now, a cool, clear-headed, unscrupulous demagogue. His first speech was a signal triumph over his antagonist. He there inaugurated a revolution in public sentiment, which subsequently swept over the entire border States. The prominent Democrats who had been stumping it for "Sam," were speedily whipped back into ranks, and many prominent leaders of the opposition became converted to Johnson's faith: some for the sake of position, others because they doubted the loyalty of the "American" party to the South. Johnson made Southern rights and religious persecution his hobby, and invariably denounced "Know-Nothingism" as a new name for abolitionism. In turn, Brownlow, in behalf of the Know-Nothing party, denounced Johnson regularly, once a week, as an abolitionist, and quoted some of his old speeches to prove it. Each vied with the other as the exponent of Southern rights, and in denunciations of the North and the Free-soil party. Each accused the other of being in league with the free-negro, party at the North: the charge of wilful falsehood was freely passed between them; both seemed to possess the patience of Job and the forbearance of Socrates; no hostile meeting was hinted at; no "personal satisfaction" was demanded by either. It was strictly a war of words, in which each took especial pains to show up the other as the greatest liar, as well as the greatest hypocrite and demagogue the world ever saw.

The heated contest passed over. Johnson was elected by an overwhelming majority, and a "jubilee" meeting was held by the Democracy in Knoxville, a few weeks following, at which Johnson made a speech. In that speech he denounced, among other parties, Wm. B. Campbell and Neil S. Brown, as being abolitionists at heart and traitors to the South. We have now before us a short extract of that speech in which occur these words:

"No only has my political character been assailed, but my private character has likewise been the subject of shameful discussion. Among the fiercest of my assailants is one Brownlow, whom you all know. His reputation for lying is equalled only by his fame as a common blackguard. He can slander no one."

In January following, at the regular meeting of the Legislature, Brownlow made a speech on the public square in Nashville, in which occurs the following sentence:

"I here denounce, upon his own dunghill, and I hope within sound of my voice, Andrew Johnson, the Governor elect of Tennessee, as a vile demagogue, an abolition satrap, an infamous liar, a libel upon depraved humanity," etc.

Many persons who heard both speeches, expressed their convictions at the time, that both had spoken the sober reference to each other that they are making—war first, war second, war wholly! It is not politics. It is not constitution making. It is not the decision of legal niceties. These are not the business of government as toward the South. It is war, absolute, terrible and immeasurable war.

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