

## Semi-Weekly Standard.

WILLIAM W. HOLDEN,  
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Vol. XIV. No. 11.

RALEIGH: FRIDAY, FEB. 5, 1864.

## From Eastern North-Carolina.

The public mind has been excited for several days by the knowledge that important military movements were on foot in the direction of Newbern, up to the time of writing this we were without definite information as to the result. It is known that a large force of veteran troops, commanded by able and experienced officers, were moving to Newbern, and that on Monday morning last skirmish took place at Batchelor's creek, seven miles from Newbern, in which Col. H. M. W. of the 8th N. C. troops, was killed. It is reported that a portion of our forces are on the south of the Trent below Newbern; that the Railroad has been torn up, thus cutting off communication between Morehead and Newbern; that our forces within two miles of Newbern on Tuesday morning, and had surprised and captured a Yankee regiment. It is also reported that heavy firing was heard on Wednesday morning in the direction of Newbern, by inhabitants below Goldsborough.

We have no doubt from what we have learned the expedition was well planned, and we feel that if the enemy's works at Newbern should be attacked they will be carried. The possession of Newbern, and the permanent occupation of that point, would be a great advantage to the Confederate States. We trust the expedition has been in every respect successful. If we should hear more before we press we will lay it before our readers.

On Thursday morning, from Goldsborough, stating that Newbern would not be attacked on account of the strength of the fortifications of that place.

An official dispatch from Gen. Pickett, who commanded the expedition, to Gen. Cooper, at Richmond, states that he had made a reconnaissance within a mile and a half of Newbern, with Hoke's brigade of Corcoran's and Clingman's, and some artillery. He met the enemy in force at Batchelor's Creek, killed and wounded about one hundred, and captured thirteen officers, two hundred and eighty prisoners, four hundred small arms, four ambulances, two wagons, fifty-five animals, a quantity of clothing and camp and garrison equipment, and two flags. Commander Wood captured and destroyed the Union gunboat *Underwriter*.

Our loss is thirty-five killed and wounded. The resolutions adopted by the Conservative Union held in Greensborough, which we publish, have the ring of the true metal. They are the loftiest and most determined devotion to the great principles of Constitutional liberty, and every way worthy of the noble assemblage of patriots who adopted them.

THE CONFEDERATE.—Col. Duncan K. McRae has been the chief Editorial management of the official department of the *Confederate*, a new Democratic journal in this City which succeeds the *Journal*, now defunct. Col. McRae is a brilliant and ready writer, and has had much experience as a public man. He says in his Salutation, "the public mind is weary of individual strife, better taste appeals for a higher order of literary nourishment. Frankly acknowledging all deficiencies, and truthfully assuring the fraternity of his motives and intentions, he asks their hand of fellowship, and claims a generous forbearance of his short comings, and a sympathy in efforts, so far as they may be proper and well-timed."

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We feel sure that the purpose of the part of the meetings referred to is to injure Gov. Vance.

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These are our views, held and expressed for months past. It is absurd—utterly absurd to assume that we have possessed the people with these views, or any particular views, or that they are doing wrong, as is alleged, under our leadership. We are amazed that such an assumption should be made by any intelligent person. The very reverse is the fact. We repeat, we are behind the people. They are directing and controlling us. We are simply one of their organs. We would not lead them, if we could. But they want no leaders. They are able to lead and govern themselves. We believe they will do so prudently, justly, and wisely, and that the result will be the greatest good to the greatest number.

THE CURRENCY BILL.—The *Examiner* says "it was expected that the currency bill would be completed and passed by the Senate in the secret session of yesterday. We learn that the bill which was sent up from the House, has been modified by the Senate in some important particulars that there is no prospect of the House agreeing to it, and that a committee of conference will be demanded, which will probably bring this important matter to the end of the session."

## Some Plain Talk.

The Editor of this paper is still, and has been for two years, an object of the bitterest and most unjust political persecution; and not only this, but he is socially assailed, and is constantly threatened with personal violence. Why is this? What have we done?

We were a Union man up to Lincoln's proclamation. We have since been a war man, and we are now in favor of fighting and negotiating at the same time for peace. At the beginning of the war, when volunteer companies were being equipped by private subscriptions, we contributed to this object as freely and as much in proportion to our means as any citizen of the State. Our only regret is that we were not able to give more. We have uniformly submitted to the laws, advised others to submit to them, paid our taxes, and labored to ensure the independence of the Confederate States. We have never refused to aid a soldier when he appeared to need it, or to aid the soldiers' families when called upon to do so. We have cheerfully parted with our property for government use, at a low price, when others in this community who pretend to be war men gave up their property reluctantly, or retained it by making special appeals to the department at Richmond. We have uniformly received Confederate money in payment of old as well as new debts, while many destructive have refused to do so, and even for grain and meat for soldiers' families. We have never entertained a thought, nor breathed a word, nor printed a line with the view or intention of injuring the Southern cause. Wherefore, then, this persecution—these threats? We will tell you, reader. We have urged the people to maintain their liberties while they were contending against the common foe. We have insisted on a strict construction of the Constitution, and on the perpetual, unremittent force of the civil law. We have exposed corruption in high places, and demanded reform, not for factious purposes, but for the good of the cause. We have contended for the rights of the States, and resisted the tendency to establish a military despotism. We have taken the part of the private soldier when he has been unjustly treated and imposed upon; and we have called time and again on those who promised the volunteers that they would provide for their families in their absence, to redeem their pledge. We have insisted on the right of the private soldiers to have the companies and regiments re-organized when they shall be again conscripted in the spring, with the privilege of electing their own officers. We have published complaints from citizens whose rights have been disregarded by the military, and have insisted that property shall not be taken, or destroyed by order of commanding officers, without just compensation. We have protested against the arrest of our citizens without civil warrant, and have insisted that every one thus arrested and thrown into a military prison, is entitled to a speedy trial—to be released if no sufficient grounds exist for holding him, or to be turned over, if sufficient grounds exist, to be tried by a jury of his country. We have advocated every measure which was calculated to render our armies efficient; we have rejoiced when victory has crowned our arms, and we have mourned when disaster has fallen on our banners. But we are a Conservative—we believe in the right of the people to govern themselves—we have favored such steps as promised to lead to an honorable peace—we have insisted that the Confederate States should not fight on blindly to the verge of ruin for States that are against us, as for example, Maryland, Missouri, and Kentucky, but that the olive branch should be carried in one hand and the sword in the other; and we have favored a Convention of our people; not for factious or selfish purposes—not to destroy or even embarrass the common government, but to aid it in its efforts to obtain a just and honorable peace. "Our offence hath this extent—no more." Still we are called a traitor, and every effort is made by our enemies to prejudice the people against us, and to destroy us socially, politically, and personally. Our fault is that the people are with us, and that we are true to both soldiers and people. If we tell our faults, then we are proud of it; and we tell our faults, whether they be destructive or professedly conservative—if they are against the people of this State—if they are disposed to thwart the will of the people, or stifle it, or if they consent to any measures that may be resorted to to stifle that will, or to interfere with its free and full expression, then we are against them. If we are false to the Confederate government, then it has but few friends in this State, for a vast majority of our people agree with us. But we are not false. The real traitors are those who aided in bringing on the war, but who refuse to fight in it, and who are at home growing rich out of it, while their neighbors and neighbors' children, who were opposed to the action which produced the war, are baring their breasts to the storm of battle. These are the traitors, fellow-citizens—traitors to their own pledged word, traitors to their neighbors, their country, and their God; and these are the men who are themselves engaged, or engaged as the instruments of others, in assailing, vilifying, and threatening us.

We now say to our friends, once for all, that we are calm and firm, and intend to do our duty at all hazards. We shall not swerve, under any circumstances, from Conservative principles, nor turn our back on the people. But we advise moderation in all things. We must not forget our duty to our States, to the common government, or to the brave army of the Confederate States now in the field, wielding the mailed hand of war while those at home in the civil councils are presenting the ungloved hand of peace. We must fight and talk for peace at the same time; and the effectiveness of the latter, whether by public meetings, or public journals, or members of Congress or of State Legislatures, or Conventions of the States, depends on the vigor of the former. We must treat with arms in our hands.

These are our views, held and expressed for months past. It is absurd—utterly absurd to assume that we have possessed the people with these views, or any particular views, or that they are doing wrong, as is alleged, under our leadership. We are amazed that such an assumption should be made by any intelligent person. The very reverse is the fact. We repeat, we are behind the people. They are directing and controlling us. We are simply one of their organs. We would not lead them, if we could. But they want no leaders. They are able to lead and govern themselves. We believe they will do so prudently, justly, and wisely, and that the result will be the greatest good to the greatest number.

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## Principals of Substitutes.

We publish below the bill which has passed the House of Representatives on this subject. It is now pending in the Senate:

A bill to be entitled an Act amendatory of an Act entitled "An Act to put out of the exemption from military service of those who have heretofore furnished substitutes," approved January 5, 1864.

SECTION 1. The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That the above recited act shall not apply to farmers and planters engaged on the 5th day of January, 1864, in the production of grain and provisions, either by their own manual labor or in superintending the labor of others: Provided, That the exemption herein contemplated is granted subject to the following conditions:

I. That the person availing himself thereof shall devote himself, and the labor of which he has the control or superintendence, exclusively to the production of provisions and family supplies.

II. That there shall be paid and contributed, from the farm, or if more than one farm, from each of the farms which the person thus exempted owns or superintends, in addition to the title required by any tax law, an additional tenth of the pork or bacon produced on said farm or farms, (beginning with the product of last year) for the use of the army.

III. That the person thus exempted will, if so required, sell all his surplus provisions, new on hand or hereafter raised, for the use of soldiers' families, or for the use of the army, at prices not greater than those fixed, for the time being, by the commissioners appointed under the impressment act.

IV. That the person seeking to avail himself of the benefit of this act shall have furnished a substitute not liable to military duty, who is now in the service, or who has been legally discharged therefrom, or who has died therein.

V. That the benefit of this act shall not apply to persons on farms or plantations on which there is any other male adult not liable to military duty.

SEC. 2. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as limiting the power of the President, under existing laws, to exempt such persons as he may deem proper, on grounds of equity, justice, or necessity.

This bill passed the House by 44 to 31. Messrs. Arrington, Ashe, Bridges, Davidson, Gaither, McLean, and Smith of this State voted for, and Messrs. Kenan and Lander against it.

In the Senate, on the 3d, Mr. Sparrow, from the military committee, reported back to the Senate the above bill, with a recommendation that it do not pass. No action was taken.

We shall not follow the example of the Fayetteville *Observer* in its self-praise and coarse personalities. We remind it of its large profits from sources outside the *Observer* establishment, from which it was obvious the paper was sustained, as it could not be sustained at the prices charged for subscriptions; but we did this solely in self-defence, as the *Observer* had charged us with asking "extortionate prices" for the *Standard*.

We obtained no information in regard to the Kerosene factory in which the Editors are interested, from an "ill-informed or unworthy source." It is generally known that they are interested both in the Kerosene and cotton business. Their statement, that they are not realizing large profits from these sources, but invested their money from patriotic motives, may pass for what it is worth. For our part we do not believe it. We repeat the fact, as a printer, that the *Observer* is losing money at its present rates of subscription, that is, if it pays the market price for the paper it uses, and pays its employees the wages they have a right to expect; and we believe the Editors fear to advance their terms, lest they should lose subscribers, and hence they rely upon other sources of income to sustain their paper.

We did not wish to make this statement, but the *Observer* forced it from us by its discourteous and unfounded statement, made without the slightest provocation from us, that we were charging "extortionate prices" for the *Standard*.

The *Observer* boasts that its circulation is increasing with great rapidity. We do not believe it. The Conservatives, we know, are dropping it by hundreds, for we are so informed by letters from all parts of the State; and nearly all its new subscribers are Confederate office-holders, or obtained in clubs in destructive neighborhoods by earnest appeals made by destructive leaders. And unless the *Observer* changes its course, renounces its errors, returns to the path of Conservatism, and co-operates in good faith with the *Standard*, it will soon find itself in the condition of the *Register* and *State Journal* when they were on their last legs; and if it should live on thus in "the lean and slipshod pantalon," it will have to depend entirely for its nourishment on its Kerosene and cotton factory profits.

But these are small matters, and we dismiss them. We have referred to them only in self-defence, but we shall not again be diverted from the discussion of grave matters by the presentation by the *Observer* of those small issues and unprofitable personalities in which that paper appears to take so much pleasure.

The *Observer* says we have "confessed that we used to abuse Gov. Graham, Mr. Badger, Gov. Vance, Mr. Gilmer, and others, as untrue to the South." This is not true. The *Observer* has no authority to use the names of these gentlemen in this way. Its allusion to Mr. Badger, when we consider the condition of that venerable and illustrious man, and the relation which the Editors bear towards him, is in the last degree improper and indecent. Mr. Badger is now so stricken with disease as to be unable to answer for himself. That glorious intellect which once charmed and convinced, and shed light on every subject which it touched, is now obscured; but his principles are the same, and his heart is as generous and unselfish as it ever was. It was our fortune to be associated with him on the ticket in 1856, and during the February campaign, one of our opponents indulged in a most unkind and unbecoming remark in reply to a speech of Mr. Badger, which the *Observer* has adopted. Reference was made to the former course of the *Standard* towards Mr. Badger, with the view of exciting him against us, and of making capital for the disunionists; but he met this reference before the people with a calm and cold contempt, while he observed to us privately that we had done him great respect for his other industry—that we were now friends, and that he would not gratify our enemies, as he hoped we would, by taking any notice of such attacks, which contained no argument, but were intended to give unworthy prejudices that ought to be forgotten. It is unnecessary to say that we agreed with him heartily in this view, and regarded his course on that occasion as additional evidence of his largeness of heart and magnanimity of disposition. And when, after a most bitter campaign, he was elected to the Confederate Congress, he directed mainly against us, he declared to the people, in his speech re-turning thanks for the support he had received, that such was the interest he felt in our success as a candidate, that if either of us was to be defeated he would have preferred our election to his own. So much for the *Observer's* allusion to Mr. Badger.

We shall always cherish the deepest respect for the kindest feelings and Nothing can ever induce us to think or speak unkindly of him, or his real friends. The *Observer* says, "cease, viper, you bite a file."

We publish to-day for information, at the request of the Treasurer, an act on the subject of revenue, passed at the last session of the Legislature, to which we respectfully direct the attention of our readers and others concerned.

AN ACT TO AMEND AN ACT ENTITLED "REVENUE," PASSED THE 11TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1863.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the 15th paragraph, under schedule A, section 70, of said act, be amended so that said paragraph shall read as follows: On every dollar of net profit or dividend declared, received or due, during the year preceding the 1st day of April in each year, upon money or capital invested in manufacturing cotton or woolen goods, leather, or other articles made of leather, iron and tobacco; also on every dollar of profit made by the purchase and sale of corn, flour, bacon and other provisions, salt, cotton, tobacco, leather, and naval stores; also on every dollar of net dividend or profit on money invested in steamboat companies, (whether incorporated or not) and in railroad, a tax of two cents.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That there shall be levied on every dollar of net profit or dividend on the purchase and sale of articles imported into the State from neutral ports through the blockade of our coast, or which shall be brought from the States with which we are at war, and sold in this State, a tax of five cents, and it shall be the duty of the Sheriff of the counties in which said sales are made, to proceed forthwith to collect the tax authorized by this section as soon as sales are made, under the same penalties for neglect as are prescribed for neglect in similar cases, in an act entitled "Revenue," to which this is an amendment.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That 19th paragraph, under section 86 of said act, schedule B, be and the same is hereby repealed.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That this act shall be in force from its ratification.

Read three times in General Assembly, this 12th day of December, A. D. 1863.

(Signed) R. S. DONNELLY, S. H. C. GILES MEBANE, S. H. C.

ANOTHER BLAST FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA TROOPS.—THE THIRTIETH REGIMENT SPEAKS.—We publish with great pleasure the following patriotic proceedings:

CAMP 30th N. C. TROOPS, Jan. 27th, 1864.

Editor Sentinel—Dear Sir:—Please publish the following resolutions, and oblige your obedient servant.

J. I. HARRIS, Capt. Co. I 30th N. C. T.

## Mr. Reade's Remarks.

We take great pleasure in laying before our readers to-day the remarks of the Hon. Edwin G. Reade, delivered in the Confederate Senate on the 30th of January, on the occasion of presenting resolutions of thanks to a portion of the North-Carolina troops for their patriotism, as evinced by volunteering for the remainder of the war.

The occasion was very appropriate for these remarks. We are glad Mr. Reade submitted them, and we are more than pleased with their temper and truthfulness. He tells the Senate and the country that the charge that North-Carolina is untrue to the Confederate government, is unfounded; and he goes further and says that the proposition to hold a Convention in this State is best understood by its advocates, who declare that it does not mean mischief; and that whether North-Carolina "shall call a Convention or not, or whatever else she may do," will be so marked with propriety that others in time to come, as in time past, will evince their high appreciation of it by claiming that she was not the first to do it, but that they were.

In other words, Mr. Reade claims for his State the right to take such action as her own people may consider best for themselves and the country; and he has so much confidence in the intelligence and integrity of the people whom he in part represents, that he feels sure that any action that may be resolved upon by them will be both proper and patriotic, and marked by a due regard for the rights and feelings of others.

Mr. Reade does not see the danger in a Convention which other public men, who might be named, think they see; Mr. Reade is not afraid to trust the people in Convention; Mr. Reade has no sympathy with those who denounce the friends of a Convention as plotters of treason and enemies to the common government; Mr. Reade can perceive no "new Hartford Convention" in a movement which proposes that the people shall consult together in their sovereign capacity as to the best means of shielding their vital interests and obtaining an honorable peace.

We call attention to the following significant statement by Mr. Reade: "Senators have doubtless heard, as I have, that it has been gravely considered whether force ought not to be employed to overawe and silence her people." It is true, then, that it has been "gravely considered" whether North-Carolina ought not to be coerced! Mr. Reade very properly omitted to characterize the fact, or to make any threat. But he reminded the Senate that North-Carolina had held two Conventions—one at Charlotte Town, in 1775, and one at Raleigh, in 1861, and both those Conventions were unanimous in their views and purposes; and the inference to be drawn was, that though no State was more devoted to the Confederate government than North-Carolina, and none would go farther or submit to greater sacrifices to keep faith, yet there was no power that could overawe or silence her people, when they chose to express their opinions, whether in Convention or otherwise. We trust, however, that the idea, even if "gravely" entertained, of resorting to force against our people in any event, will be at once and forever discarded; and that the States and the common government will continue to move forward harmoniously in their respective spheres. And the speech of Mr. Reade, as we trust and believe, will contribute in no small degree to this most desirable result.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer* of the 1st instant states that Lincoln has ordered a draft for 500,000 men to serve during the war, the draft to be made on the 10th of March.

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At a meeting of the troops of the 30th N. C. Regiment, held at headquarters on the 27th of January, 1864, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, an unjust attempt of a radical party in the United States, to subvert and overthrow all constitutional guarantees, and to rob us of our property, (honestly obtained,) did first force us to withdraw from an alliance no longer binding; and, whereas, they did deny us that right, and have attempted to drive us back into a re-union that we detest, by waging a war against us unparalleled in history for its atrocity and vindictiveness of spirit; and, whereas, we have learned through Northern papers that the despot who reigns at Washington has induced large numbers of his present army, by the inducement of large bounties and broad promises, to re-enlist, and is offering extraordinary inducements to citizens of foreign nations as well as of the United States to enlist, to fill the ranks of his army, thus clearly defining a settled determination to subjugate us at all hazards; now, therefore, we do unanimously

Resolve, That, viewing our cause as a just and holy one, we declare ourselves re-enlisted for the war in the struggle for that liberty and independence so dear to every patriotic and honest heart; that our watchword shall be liberty, and we exhort our Congress and the President of the Confederate States to listen to no kind of terms that fall short of our complete and untrammelled independence.

Resolved, That we have the most unbounded confidence in our gallant chieftain, General Robert E. Lee, and will cheerfully and willingly stand by him, through storm and sunshine, until the prize for which we are contending shall be acknowledged by all nations.

We received last evening, too late for publication, the proceedings of the 4th and 47th N. C. regiments, also. We shall take great pleasure, in our next, in laying before our readers what these glorious men have to say.—*Richmond Sentinel*.

War News. Col. Griffin, commanding Confederate forces, telegraphed to the War department from Jackson on the 31st of January, as follows:

"Yesterday morning engaged the enemy with a force of two hundred men and a mounted rifle piece. After a fight of two hours, in which we engaged twelve hundred of the enemy and three pieces of artillery, the Yankees were driven from Windsor, North Carolina, to their boats. We lost six men. The loss of the enemy is not known."

FROM THE BLACKWATER REGION.—The following dispatch was received Tuesday night from Colonel Jordan, at Ivor station:

"Glorious news!—The whole Yankee force—about one hundred and fifty—our prisoners; and their gunboats, 'Smith Briggs,' destroyed. No one hurt on our side. Four Yankees killed and two or three wounded.

The prisoners are now at Broad Water. Send down a train for them to-morrow."

We learn that this Yankee force was commissioned to destroy a large factory at Smithfield, in Isle of Wight county. We do not know the size or composition of our command which achieved the results noticed above, but understand that it contained two companies of the Thirty-first North-Carolina regiment.—*Examiner of 3d Feb.*

## War News.

Col. Griffin, commanding Confederate forces, telegraphed to the War department from Jackson on the 31st of January, as follows:

"Yesterday morning engaged the enemy with a force of two hundred men and a mounted rifle piece. After a fight of two hours, in which we engaged twelve hundred of the enemy and three pieces of artillery, the Yankees were driven from Windsor, North Carolina, to their boats. We lost six men. The loss of the enemy is not known."

FROM THE BLACKWATER REGION.—The following dispatch was received Tuesday night from Colonel Jordan, at Ivor station:

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## THE SUBSTITUTE LAW.

MR. EDITOR:—Much has been written and said, recently, in regard to the late act of Congress, placing the principals of substitutes in the army, in defiance of its pledged faith and solemn contract. One of the most extraordinary articles which have yet seen the light, appeared in the late Fayetteville *Observer*, over the signature of "Richmond County," and to which, with your permission, I will submit some remarks in reply, through the columns of your widely circulated paper.

The *Observer's* correspondent frankly admits, that the Constitution confers no power upon Congress to impair the obligation of contracts, but argues to prove that the government has never entered into any contract with these men, but that their claim to exemption rests not upon a contract proper within the constitutional meaning of the term, but upon a privilege, or an indulgence; and that such should be recalled in a case of governmental life or death—and says the Courts must so decide, or run counter to their own decisions involving the same principles.

On both of these points I take issue with him, and shall endeavor