Brownlow's Whig.

W. G. BROWNLOW, Editor and Proprietor.

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Saturday Morning, October 5, 1861.

In our last issue, in our letter to the Richmond P. O. Department, we represent the Post Master at the State line, (Powell's Station) and his name is *Kirkpatrick*. We meant the other fellow, because we wish the the right man! There is a Post Master at the other place, whose name is W. G. Weatherby. He is a decided Union man, and one suspected of a mean trick. The fellow passed in quilts of patchwork, and coffer is in command of some eight or ten thousand Confederate troops. He is from fifteen or twenty miles from Cumberland Gap. He has his pickets out in advance of his lines. Our force at Cumberland Gap is about fifteen thousand strong. We may look for stirring news from that quarter in a few days.

Gen. Buckner's Column.

Gen. Buckner has his advance stationed at Union, Grainger, Clairborne, and Campbell counties, now within sight of Cumberland Ferry. Gen. Morgan is at Jacksboro, and he is making a decided impression in his favor. He presents to citizens of Tennessee, gives to the leading men in our town a speech last week, and he is making quite a favorable impression. It is certainly that the only way in which we can be taken, is by the General. The Ticket system on the part of the Legislature, and we have no doubt this will be attempted. The last Legislature did things quickly and strong, and we think that the one to convene next Monday, is prepared to go to the extra measures.

North-Western Virginia.

The Richmond *Examiner* states that the Government at Richmond has taken vigorous measures to terminate the campaign in the North-Western portion of that State. Lee has joined Gen. Floyd at Meadow Bluff. Reinforcements, amounting to entire regiments, have been sent to their relief from Virginia regiments, a Georgia regiment, Mississippi regiment, and a battalion of Louisiana volunteers. Gen. Evans command has been ordered to Lewisburg, and he himself has been ordered to report at Richmond, but for what cause the papers do not state.

These movements are understood at Richmond to be indicative of a vigorous concentration of forces for that quarter. All parties are awaiting the news from that quarter with impatience. It is understood that they are fighting there at this time, but to what end, or with what results, we are not able to say. We get very little mail matter now, from any direction.

News from the Potomac.

The news from the Potomac is, that the Confederate forces have fallen back along the line, as far as to Fairfax Court House, their scouts reporting a large Federal force marching towards them. A general engagement is anticipated, but if it occurs, it must be brought on, as before, by an attack from the Federal forces. The opinion prevails that no attack will be made upon Washington, because it cannot be done successfully. The movements on the part of the Confederate forces, indicate a determination only to maintain their original stand at Manassas.

The Battle of Barboursville.

This battle, reported particulars of which we gave in our last, has narrowed down to a very small affair. We have it from good authority, that there were three companies of Home Guards, on the part of Kentucky, in the fight, and not one Federal soldier. They say they did not lose a man, but that after the Confederate troops entered Barboursville, one man was found in his loft, drew to fight, and was shot, though he had not been in the engagement.

Death of John M. Preston.

JOHN M. PRESTON, Esq., of Abingdon, Va., died recently, at an advanced age. He is the father of Hon. WALKER PRESTON, a member of the Confederate Congress. We have known the deceased for 30 years, and lived in the same town in 1832. He was a public spirited man, of a high order of talents, unequaled energy, of fixed will, of unbending integrity, and was prominent and influential in a number of public enterprises. He was a useful man, and distinguished for his many excellent qualities. He was an honor to his and above all, and greater than all, he was and died a Christian. He was a man like those of the Revolutionary era, in the simplicity of his character—the Mason, Henry, Lee, Pendleton and Randolphs—a race of men rapidly passing away.

Arrested for Praying.

We gave the particulars last week, of the arrest of Rev. Mr. Durbin, for offering up prayers in behalf of the President and Government of the United States. It was then the prayer complained of, was offered up previous to the February and [illegible] was commenced before [illegible] We think it is wrong to bring up these old prayers against men—that we ought to wipe out all former differences, and begin anew. But upon this ground, nearly every clergyman in the State is subject to arrest.

If we were arrested upon the charge of praying for the Administration of the United States, we would take the ground, in our defense, that we followed the precedent of a Christian man, who [illegible] for the enemies of his country, and for our section. Upon this ground, we would be entitled to an acquittal. The prosecution would be [illegible] to the Constitution, which makes it a crime to cease praying for anybody or anything [illegible] of the Confederacy! But our advice, during the war, and when troubles come, is to cease praying for anybody or anything [illegible] the congregation, for the welfare of the soul. Let Rector Gorrell make out his bond [illegible] for the Confederate States, and that is the good portion of the country, [illegible] Both sides of the question, had he better not to avoid trouble, supply to [illegible] according to his convictions of duty. Or, shut up the Government, [illegible] appoint a committee of Preachers [illegible] to pray for the South, so that [illegible] day present an undivided point, when we attack the Lord on our behalf. The Lord would then at least have a unanimous [illegible] people to deal with and mind, who He would answer our supplications accordingly. [illegible] But in view of the pecuniary [illegible] of the services of chaplains in [illegible] Revolution, we should ask of [illegible] Judges and Attorneys. [illegible]

The Blockading Squadron.

The Petersburg *Express*, as a matter of general interest, gives the navy of the Confederate States Government, which is obtained from the last official statement of the Secretary. This statement comprises the following squadrons, or so many of them as may be more formidable than we had supposed. The Atlantic and Gulf Squadron alone number sixty vessels, carrying 341 guns, manned by [illegible] men. The six vessels are not included on rivers on the Potomac, carrying 300 guns, manned by 3,000 men. Nor are the 35 now being out, for the Southern coast included. Besides all these, a list is given of 32 others, with names, now building and about ready for sea. These are fast side-wheel steamers, screw propellers, and iron-clad vessels. Another list of 19 is given, purchased by the Government from other parties, at a cost of $3,324,[illegible]. To these are added 10 others, chartered by the Government, and to be added to the fleet of the Potomac. A list of 20 is given, as having been captured by the Squadron, and it is added that a number of others have been captured, but the names are not given.

Since writing the foregoing, we see it stated in the Richmond papers, that the Federal fleet which has sailed round South from Fortress Monroe, is destined for the coast of Georgia. A dispatch from Washington, [illegible] reports seven of these War Steamers on the [illegible] and Savannah Rivers.

Candid Confessions.

The Richmond correspondent of the Charleston Courier makes some confessions more frank and full than we expected to meet with from that quarter:

[illegible] Gen. Generals have not profited by the blunders of [illegible] Bull Run, after some eight or ten weeks of preparation, [illegible] Floyd and Wise on fallen [illegible] precious to the fall campaign. The work must be done over again, and for the third time. The causes of this failure are manifold. First, the inadequacy of our military strength in that section; secondly, the superior generalship of Rosecrans. Lee, Floyd and Wise have [illegible] the present time, less than 20,000 men. The enemy knows it, and the fact is the cause of their [illegible] Rosecrans [illegible] Gen. McClellan [illegible] Western Virginia was due rather to the failure of his [illegible] than to the skill of his adversary. [illegible] Gen. Lee [illegible] Western Virginia [illegible] Gen. Floyd [illegible] Gen. Wise [illegible] Gen. Lee