Richmond Dispatch.

SATURDAY MORN'G.....APRIL 19 1862

Island No. 10.

The circumstances connected with the surrender of this position, with all its guns, ammunition, &c., are humiliating in the extreme. The daily bulletin from Island No. 10 for many days represented that the enemy, after an incessant bombardment of many hours, had inflicted no injury. We were constantly assured that the place was impregnable, and that the enemy never could pass it. Brigadier-General Makall assumed command of the post on the 5th in a flaming order, in which he pronounced himself a "General made by Beauregard—a General selected by Generals Beauregard and Bragg." Two days afterwards the island was surrendered, and along with it, according to the Federal Commodore Foote, *seventy* cannon, varying from 32 to 100-pounders, rifled. He adds: "The magazines are well supplied with powder, and there are large quantities of shot, shell, and other munitions of war, and also great quantities of provisions. Four steamers afloat have fallen into our (their) hands." The Commodore says that the works were "erected with the highest engineering skill," were "of great strength, and with their natural advantages would have been impregnable, if defended by men," he chooses to say, "fighting for a better cause." It may be that Foote desired to magnify his own achievement by representing the place as stronger than it really was; but, then, did not our own accounts, and the vain boasting of the Memphis telegraphs, make the defences just as strong and impregnable as the burnt-foot Commodore does? They certainly did; and were it not that we have been so often surprised by the surrender of forts and fortifications that were boasted of as impregnable, we should indeed, be amazed at the surrender of the famed Island No. 10, which has furnished so many paragraphs for telegraphing.

But even the surrender need not have carried necessarily along with it the ammunition and the boats! Could they not have been destroyed? Why add all this and the provisions to the new present of cannon to the Fed. eralists? Our gifts of cannon have been quite munificent—even to impoverishing ourselves—and we need not add so liberally of other things in our offerings to those who are better supplied than we are.

We do not know that we would inquire into these matters. We are utterly disgusted with these islands, and trust that they are ended with Island No. 10. They and the lost forts were all fruitful enough of disappointment and mortification; but Island No. 10 seems to have capped the climax, and by right excellence ought to wind up this miserable history.

A Yankee Lie Believed in England.

The London *Times*, in an article devoted to the exploits of the Virginia, says, "the two vessels," (the Virginia and Monitor,) "engaged each other at close quarters for five hours, after which period, but then only, was the armor of one of them *perforated by shot*. It was the Monitor *which thus drew the first blood, and the Merrimac then retired.*"

Of course our readers are aware that the Merrimac was not "perforated by shot," that the Monitor did not "draw the first blood," and that the Virginia "did not retire." The whole is a Yankee lie out of the whole cloth. Of course, our papers never reach London; but we should have thought that any man who has sufficient pretentions to entitle him to a seat upon the editorial tripod of the *Times*, would have had sense enough to entertain some doubt in such a case as this, where the person or persons had not been on board the Merrimac, and could not possibly know the extent of the damage sustained by her. The fact is, that although the vessel in question received at least one hundred shot of the heaviest weight—some of them rifled, and one weighing upwards of one hundred and sixty pounds—fired at very short distances, sometimes not more than fifteen feet—they affected nothing more than so many indentations upon her armor. In some places—from the heat and weight of the shot—the plates were welded together. In other places, the plates were broken, but not broken through, and the damage was repaired by simply taking off the injured plates and putting on others. Her prow, which was made of cast iron, was broken when she ran into the Cumberland, but she supplied herself with a better one. So far from flying herself, she made the Monitor tuck tail and run into shoal water, under the protection of the guns of Fortress Monroe, and there she still lies, not daring to poke her nose outside, in spite of the Virginia's insults and challenges.

In the whole course of the war there has never been baser or more palpable lying, on the part of the Yankees, than that in connection with this fight. And yet Yankee mendacity has been unbounded, and continues to be so. We have before us the dispatch of General Beauregard, announcing the capture of 3,000 prisoners and fourteen guns at Shiloh; and yet the Yankees are offering up thanks to heaven for a splendid victory!—What they say or do is a matter of very little importance to us; but it is a little hard that foreign journals, knowing their mendacious propensities, and often commenting upon them in terms of just indignation, should yet give them currency.

M. Mercier.

The *Examiner*, of yesterday, says: "the objects of the French Minister's visit have not definitely transpired; but it is said that outside of his official communications, he has expressed great interest to ascertain what commercial treaties the Confederate Government was disposed to make with France."

Now, we know not what treaties the Government may be disposed to make; but we do know what the *people* would applaud to the very echo—namely: A treaty securing to France for a given number of years an equal right to our enormous carrying trade with our own vessels, provided she will raise this blockade, and give us the same access to her arsenals and foundries that our enemies enjoy. We want arms and we want ammunition. Had we possessed a sufficient supply of these two indispensable requisites to the successful prosecution of modern warfare, in the beginning of the war, we should have put an end to it long ago. Let France raise the blockade, and we will soon do it now, and in order to effect that desirable object, nothing more is necessary than a simple declaration on the part of France that she will no longer respect it. It is, after all, the merest of shams in the world. It is nothing more or less than a paper blockade, such as England imposed against France by her famous Orders in Council. Already five hundred vessels have successfully eluded it, and thereby established the fact that it is no blockade under any interpretation of the Treaty of Paris. France has an opportunity now, which will never be offered her again. She may secure our coasting trade—if our Government should not unwisely prevent it—for we have no ships worth speaking of.

Music Addings.

We have omitted to mention, heretofore, the publication in book form of these highly entertaining letters, the production of Dr. Bagby, well known to the literary public of Virginia and the South, and at present editor of the *Southern Literary Messenger*. In that periodical they originally appeared; at once attracting and sustaining throughout the series a degree of attention quite unusual.—They abound in dry humor and caustic shrewdness of remark upon the manners of the day. There is a vein of irony running through them which betrays a habit of keen and close observation and a high relish for the ludicrous. No writer has succeeded so well in imitating the peculiar dialect of the uneducated classes of Virginia, which is entirely distinct from that of any other people of whom English is the vernacular. Mozis in his rough garb and uncouth speech is a philosopher upon whose homely common sense no *claptrap* or humbug can impose.

This book is a Virginia book in every sense of the word, and is eminently worthy of Virginia patronage. It is published by West & Johnston, and can be had, we presume, at any of the bookstores.

New Publications.

Messrs. West & Johnston have just published the "*Life of James W. Jackson, of Alexandria*," who slayed the Yankee Colonel Ellsworth upon his removal of the Confederate flag from the roof of the Marshall House, kept by Jackson. He was immediately afterwards killed by the Yankee soldiers who attended their Colonel when he ascended to the top of the House. He is properly styled the first martyr in the cause of independence. This history of his life has received the approval of Henry W. Thomas, Esq., First Auditor of Virginia, who was a brother-in-law of the lamented hero. He says that the author has "portrayed graphically and truthfully the many stirring incidents in his truly wonderful career." The book is published for the benefit of the Jackson family.

We have received from Messrs. West & Johnston a small volume entitled, "*Manual of Arms for Heavy Infantry, with Loadings and Firings*," issued from the press of Evans & Cogswell, Charleston. A work appropriate to the times, and, no doubt, useful.

Export of Cotton.

A correspondent of the *Examiner*, writing from Charleston under date of April 2d, says that three thousand bales of cotton were shipped from that port during the preceding week. This cotton goes to the West Indies, where the Yankees buy it, and thus supply their own mills in spite of all we can do.

Will Congress adjourn without passing some law to put an end to this crying evil?

Yankee Outrages on the Potomac.

A correspondent of the Fredericksburg *News* chronicles another outrage by the barbarians and pirates that infest the Potomac border. The catalogue of crimes should be recorded and preserved, that our own people and the world may know the character of the war our savage and vandal enemies are waging against us:

On Thursday, the 3d of April, a party of brutes landed from a gunboat at the residence of Mr. John B. Lewis, on Rogers's Creek, in Westmoreland. The family was at breakfast as soon as the boats were seen coming into the creek the family left the house in haste. Having before been visited by the pirates and suffered depredations, and having heard of their threats and intention to capture Mr. Lewis, if possible, they thought it imprudent to remain. As soon as they touched the shore they fired upon Mrs Lewis and her children as they were escaping. One ball passed the person of Mrs Lewis, and struck the earth just in advance of her. The Yankees then commenced their ravages.—They stole a horse, nine sheep, some hogs, about one hundred fowls, took off a parcel of corn and wheat, robbed the house of all the china and crockery, selected the most valuable of Mr. Lewis's papers, and scattered the balance over the floor, broke and otherwise mutilated the furniture, stole the table linen and bedclothes, and carried away all the wearing apparel of the family, thus stripping the ladies and children of every article of clothing, excepting what they had on. Mr. Lewis had taken his shot gun, powder flask, and some shot, in anticipation of the raid, and hid them in the edge of a wood. They got intimation of it from some source, discovered the place of concealment, and carried them off also.

This is a brief summary of this day's felonies by the Yankee plunderers and rogues. I have no comment to make, and no complaint of a special hardship in this case. Though driven from home in a condition of partial destitution and almost beggary by these worse than savages, this family is only sharing in the calamities which these Northern barbarians have visited upon thousands of our citizens who have had the misfortune to fall into their power.

The Fight on the Peninsula.

The Petersburg *Express*, of yesterday, has the following account of the recent fight on the Peninsula:

We saw gentlemen last evening who had conversed with some two or three officers attached to the 15th North Carolina regiment, and who were in the fight on Wednesday. From them we get a few additional particulars.

It is stated by one, that the 15th North Carolina had been in line of battle for three or four hours during the day, momently expecting an attack, but the enemy not appearing, they were ordered to stack arms, and prepare for dinner. While enjoying their repast, a couple of Yankee companies waded Warwick river, a very narrow stream, which was believed to be unfordable, and thus eluding our pickets, came suddenly upon the camp. The long roll was sounded immediately, and the men rushed to their arms, driving the enemy back into the creek, killing all of both companies except eight, who surrendered and were taken prisoners. It is stated that it was during this charge Col. McKinney was killed, the bullet striking him at the top of the forehead and passing through his head. He died instantly.

Another statement represents that the regiment was drawn up in line of battle, and the Colonel, discovering that one wing of his regiment appeared to falter, rushed in that direction, with his cap off, and waved to his men to follow him. This singled him out as a prominent mark for the enemy's sharpshooters, and he fell mortally wounded.

The enemy, hearing the firing, appeared in large numbers on the opposite bank of the river, and the fighting then became general, the Fifteenth North Carolina, the Sixteenth Georgia and the Second Louisiana being actively engaged.

The fight lasted from three P. M., until seven, and not from eight A. M. until seven P. M., as stated in our telegraphic dispatch.

Gen. Howell Cobb commanded, and it is stated that the troops under his command were handled with consummate skill.

One report says that the enemy must have had an entire brigade engaged, and that the river and the hill beyond were literally covered with the dead and wounded. We took several prisoners, who made various statements as to their numbers, etc., but we could not hear what they were.

FURTHER PARTICULARS

We understand that the Fifteenth North Carolina bore the brunt of the fight some half-hour or more before the Louisiana and Georgia regiments came to their aid. They had been in the rifle pits for two days, hourly expecting a fight, with but little food, and no opportunities for sleep, and had retired for dinner but a half hour before the enemy made his appearance. When attacked, they fought with great gallantry, and suffered considerably, as the following list of casualties will show: Eleven killed; 34 wounded, and 31 missing. Of the wounded, two had died yesterday, before our informant left, and some twenty others, it is thought, will die. We were unable to learn the names of any of the killed, wounded or missing.

THE LATE COLONEL ROBERT M McKINNEY.—The Lynchburg *Virginian* pays the following tribute to the memory of Col. McKinney, who fell in battle on the Peninsula last Wednesday:

In common with many of our readers, we regret to hear of the death of this gentleman, a native, and, until within two years past, a citizen of Lynchburg. Col. McKinney was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, and when the war broke out was Professor of Tactics in the North Carolina Military Institute. He volunteered his services to his adopted State, was elected a Captain, and subsequently Colonel of the 15th N. C. regiment, at the head of which he fell, day before yesterday, whilst gallantly defending the soil of his native State. Col. McKinney was quite a young man, and had bright prospects before him; but, alas! they have been suddenly blighted, and an aged, infirm father, sisters, and brothers, by all of whom he was deservedly esteemed, are left to mourn the sudden death of a beloved son and brother.

The remains of Col. McKinney reached Petersburg on Thursday, on the way to Lynchburg, for interment.

A report is in circulation that the Federal General Shields has died of his wound received at Kernstown. It needs confirmation.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Distressing Case of Drowning.—A son of Mr. John M. Francisco, Commissioner of the Revenue for Jefferson Ward, named Edward, while playing yesterday, about 11 o'clock, between a pile of lumber and the edge of the dock, in rear of the C. S. military prison, on 20th street, accidentally lost his footing and fell into the water. His companions were too small to render assistance, and those present who were capable were too selfish to expose their lives in an endeavor to get him out, and he finally sunk to the bottom, not, however, before one of the Yankee prisoners had earnestly solicited permission to rescue the drowning lad, and been refused the privilege by the party in charge of his person at the moment. If we knew the name of this Yankee we would give it, that he might at least receive the thanks due to all who mean well. After some half hour had elapsed, a negro sailor from a sloop approached the spot in a boat and succeeded in getting hold of the body with grappling irons and drawing it to the surface. It was taken to Dr. Higginbotham, surgeon of the prison, in hope that he might, by his skill and the use of medical appliances, restore it to life; but, as was to be expected, he was unsuccessful. The father of the little boy learned of the disaster after it had occurred some time, and was nearly overwhelmed with grief at the loss of his son. The funeral will take place on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, from the residence of his parents, on 23d, between Main and Franklin streets.

Inquest.—Acting Coroner Richard D. Sanxay, assisted by High Constable Freeman held an inquest yesterday over the body of Augustus B. Arnold, a citizen of Georgia, whose dead body was found lying at the Monticello House, Broad street. The evidence showed that deceased came on to Virginia to see a brother who was in the army, and that just before the regiment of the latter departed he grew dispirited, got drunk, and then sick, and that while stopping at the Monticello House he, on Thursday night, ended his career by blowing his brains out with a pistol.

To be Released.—The newspapers noticed the fact, a short time since, that a number of Tunkers (sometimes called Dunkards) had been arrested by the military authorities while endeavoring to escape from Rockingham county, in this State, to Pennsylvania. The persons alluded to, to the number of forty and odd, were duly brought to this city and placed in durance till their intentions could be ascertained. They are a singular people; profess to be German Baptists, and are really the descendants of Pennsylvania Dutchmen, who have settled in Virginia. They wear long beards, get up as patriarchal an appearance as circumstances will admit of, and profess to be non-combatants. This was the reason assigned by them for fleeing towards the enemy and from their old homes. We learn that twenty-five of these so called Tunkers, since their stay here, have signified a desire to join Col. Baldwin's regiment, which is composed mostly of citizens of Augusta and Rockingham. They have been released from confinement for that purpose. Eleven other Tunkers, non-combatants by nature and education, and with names smelling considerably of sauer kraut, were released on complying with the State and Confederate laws respecting taxation and the duty of citizens to the community in whose bosom they are protected and sheltered.

Mayor's Court.—The following cases were disposed of yesterday: John Latigan, the individual who created so much excitement in the streets on Thursday evening, by his propensity to give the officers leg bail, was committed for further examination, on the charge of stealing garments from W. H. Benson.

John H. Welsh, arrested by officer Pleasants for making use of the sidewalk as a bed while drunk, proving to be a soldier, was committed to the tender mercies of General Winder for a term in the guard-house.

Jane Jones, is a white person, and proprietor of an ill-governed and disorderly house. Jane lives on Second street, between Duval and Jackson streets, in the big yellow house called "Noah's Ark." The Commonwealth succeeded in establishing the fact that Jane was given to drunkenness, the use of vulgar language in the street "in a loud voice," and that her tenement was used as a place of resort by lewd characters. Security in $150 for her good behavior was required of her.

Louis Kupers, brought up for assaulting his wife, was let off, the complainant not making her appearance.

Henry, son of Mrs. Sarah Corr; Thomas, son of Mrs. Turpin, and Thomas, son of Mrs. Hollins, for throwing stones in the street and at the house of Mrs. Epestein. The mothers of the two Tommies were fined each three dollars for the exploits of the lads.

Wm. H. Thompson, arrested for assaulting Georgiana Blythe, was discharged after an examination.

Philip, slave of Wm. Pritchard, was examined for feloniously possessing himself of $205 in bank notes, the property of Major-General Whiting. The proof was direct, and the Mayor committed the offender for trial before the Hustings Court on the second Monday in May next.

Joseph, slave of Wm. Whitmark, convicted of stealing one pair of shoes from Stokes's Hotel, was ordered 25, and to stand committed until called for by his master.

Moses Epps, a slave, was ordered 25 lashes for beating a white child seven years old with a whip.

Lewis, slave of Harvey, Armistead & Williams, to whom had been confided a valise containing one dozen knives and forks, a pair of shoes, and a lot of sugar, having been arrested as the supposed abductor of the property, was discharged.

The Weather at the present time surely deserves a paragraph; for, since April is proverbially a fickle month, we may shortly expect a pluvial dispensation, whether the almanacs prophesy it or not, and we must take advantage of the brief period of sunshine to pay a compliment to Dame Nature before she gets in a contrary mood. "Of all the months that fill the year, give April's month to me, for earth and sky are then so filled with sweet variety." So wrote a sentimental lady, and we think she was about right. There is much to admire in the bursting buds and springing grass, in the rose-tinted apple blossoms and the pearly hue of the pear tree. The days are not oppressively hot, nor the nights musical with mosquitoes. We can drink hydrant water without ice, which is satisfactory when nothing stronger can be obtained. The little birds pour out their sweetest notes, and young chickens begin to make their appearance in the farm-yards, if not on the city tables. If the etherial blue of the sky is somewhat obscured by dust, as it was yesterday, it makes but little difference, for any little drawback to personal comfort from that cause is fully made up by the amusement we derive from the antics of pedestrians, male and female. Finally, were the blessings vouchsafed to us in this beautiful month not marred by the enactment of scenes to which we, as a people, are not accustomed, there would be upon the face of humanity as bright a smile as we have seen for two days past upon the face of nature.

Ladies' Defence Association.—The members of this association are requested to meet at the Bazaar Hall, corner of 9th and Broad streets, on Monday, at 10 o'clock A. M. They are also requested to send flowers to the Bazaar at the same time for making bouquets, which will be sold in the evening for the benefit of the association.

Attention is directed to the advertisement in another column of the gala entertainment to be given on Monday evening next. Lovers of "the beautiful" and of the patriotic efforts made by the ladies have now an opportunity to appreciate the zeal and untiring energy of our fair sisters. Their appeal cannot be received in vain, and we predict a brilliant success.

Dig Wells.—Very little, if any, ice was made the past winter in this part of the Lord's rural vineyard, and the only show we have for cool water during the ensuing summer seems to be from wells, any number of which might be sunk in this city to the decided advantage of the health of the people. If they don't attend to the matter in their individual capacities, the city should take it in hand. The Council has been asked to order wells to be sunk, but have as yet paid no attention to the subject, though it is one that each day makes more pressing.

"Varieties."—The Theatre continues nightly to be crowded in every corner. The management, we understand, has succeeded in making an arrangement with Mr. Walter Keevel, the accomplished tragedian, whose rendition of "Hamlet" recently was received with such well-merited applause.

Continued.—The Hustings Court yesterday continued all the "gaming cases" until the next term. The fruitless endeavor of the agents of the Commonwealth thus far to make a shining example of some one or more of these knights of *rouge et noir*, have resulted in several extensive water hauls.

Merchants' Licenses.—Parties engaged in trade requiring licenses from the State are reminded that if the same be not procured before the 1st of May the law requires the Sheriff to charge double price. The matter would seem to be of sufficient importance to require attention.

Grand Matinee.—The juvenile population have an opportunity of seeing Lee Mallory's beautiful "War Illustrations," at Metropolitan Hall, this morning at eleven o'clock. They are on exhibition at night also.

A small feather bed in a tenement on 2d street ignited by some means about 9 o'clock last night, causing an alarm sufficiently portentous to have answered for all the beds in Richmond.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Yankees in Western Virginia.

MONROE COUNTY, VA., April 11, 1862.

Rumor is again rife that the Yankees are, or have been, in Monroe county, near Pack's Ferry. Rumor had the number from 75 to 300 upon this side of New river. The most reliable report is that 75 crossed over the river and came to a church in that neighborhood, while 300 were encamped on the river side a few miles distant. They robbed a good many of our people; took some prisoners—amongst the number named was a Mr. *Gandcraft*, who had been arrested by the Confederates some time since and discharged. It is said the Yankees discharged him. Also, three Messrs. Pack and a Mr. Coles. It is said that the Hutchinsons, who lived in the farms settlement, and whose loyalty to the State has been suspected, went over to the Yankees, with a Mr. Lewis Crawford and a Mr. Smith. Smith is a son of a local Methodist preacher, who is under indictment, I believe, for treason.

It is also said that a man by the name of Wheeler, who had a brother killed a few years ago by one Buckler or Buckland, has joined the Yankees, is a captain, and on last Sunday went to Buckland's with a posse of men, took him out and hung him, left him hanging until Monday, when they took him down and buried him. Buckland was tried for the killing of Wheeler, found guilty of murder in the second degree, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment in the Penitentiary. He served two years of the time, and was then pardoned. A great many thought at the time of the trial that Buckland ought to have been acquitted.

The militia are gathering at their different places of rendezvous in goodly numbers. One of the recusant ones, who utterly refused to go, and swore he would die before he would go, drew a knife upon the guard who went for him, when the guard fired upon him, breaking his leg about the knee joint. His leg will have to be amputated—a sad warning to all others of his disposition.

We do hope that the Government will see to it that Monroe and Greenbrier are not overrun by the Yankees. It is rumored that the Yankees stole 300 head of cattle belonging to our army in Greenbrier county.

Our Court met yesterday to transact business in connection with the proclamation of the President to establish martial law in this county. We hope that when this law is carried out the Union men will be hunted up and treated as they deserve.

Some of our people are removing their slaves and other valuable moveable property to what they think greater places of security. I believe that most of our men, old and young, will stand their ground and fight the Yankees, which is the better plan, as I conceive. It is well enough, however, to secure what property we can that might benefit a Yankee, and what we cannot secure destroy.

MONROE.

MONROE COUNTY, VA., April 14, 1862.

Rumor has it that the Yankees are reinforcing. Three thousand are said to be at Col. Tompkins's, this side of Gauley Bridge, and two thousand at Fayetteville. The Pierpont Government having included Monroe, Greenbrier, Pocahontas, and Mercer, in their new State, it is said the Yankees are to send a force sufficient to subjugate us. After they get possession of these counties then they will take a vote of the people whether they will belong to the new State or to the old.—Of course the vote will be taken, if taken at all, by the voters being compelled by the force of arms to go to the polls. We do hope something will be done for us by the Government before it be too late.

It seems strange that our cavalry, who are stationed at Princeton, permitted the Yankees to come into Monroe. They have been stationed in that region all the winter.

I was mistaken in my former communication in stating that a Man named Oales had been taken prisoner. He went to the Yankees of his own accord, and, in company with some more Union men, led the enemy into Monroe. There are a good many traitors in this county, and why they are suffered to go at large I am unable to say. It is high time they were made to leave for a more congenial atmosphere.

MONROE.

Movements of John Charles Fremont.

HEADQUARTERS 45TH VA. REG., Giles county, Va., 15th April, 1862.

Gen. John Charles Fremont arrived at Fayette C. H. on Tuesday, the 8th inst. Marching orders had been issued to the troops there stationed previous to his arrival; and on Thursday morning the forces moved on Raleigh C. H. in a little time you may look out for John Charles, for bad roads, mire and rain will not stop him long. He thinks he can move an army in these mountains as easily as he and Kit Carson would march a mule train in California; but if he don't look sharp he'll strike a snag.

This regiment has just gotten through a severe winter campaign, and I tell you we caught it—it only rained and snowed *twenty-seven consecutive days.*

SERGEANT.

The 28th North Carolina Regiment.

CAMP 28TH N. C. REG'T., Kinston, N. C., April 14, 1862.

To the Editors of the Dispatch:

Allow me, through the columns of your paper to give publicity to the fact that the 28th North Carolina regiment, commanded by Col. Jas. H. Lane, has reorganized for the war. Six of the companies composing the regiment re-enlisted and reorganized about the 1st of March. The remaining four companies reorganized last week, whereupon the company officers were ordered to hold an election for Field Officers, when Col. Lane and Lieut. Col. Lowe were elected to their former positions by acclamation, and Capt. Samuel D. Lowe was elected Major. The original term of service of the 28th would not have expired till the 31st September, and proud are we to be the first North Carolina regiment to "go it for the war."

The regiment is very large, now numbering about 1,250 as good and as brave men as the Confederate army contains. We have gallant, kind-hearted field officers. Much of the alacrity which the men have exhibited in re-enlisting is attributed to the popularity of Col. Lane. Whilst he has been rigid in enforcing discipline and exact in carrying out the regulations, he has always treated the officers and men of his command with the utmost kindness and courtesy. The 28th has been stationed at Wilmington, N. C., until the attack on Newbern, to which place it was ordered, but arrived too late. We are now not far from Newbern, ready for Burnside or any one else who may come.

O.

[For the Richmond Dispatch.]

Count Mercier

Has opened negotiations with the Secretary of State, and Congress have determined to remain at their post during the important mission of the Minister of the Emperor. Any kind of arrangement will be made with the President of the Confederacy, and this is a perfect acknowledgment by France of our independence from the old United States. I am happy that my article in the *Enquirer* of yesterday has produced the desired effect to prolong the Congress while negotiations with Count Mercier are going on.

DR. LEMOINE.

THE COMING STRUGGLE ON THE PENINSULA.—The Wilmington *Journal*, alluding to the preparations of the enemy for making his greatest effort on the Peninsula, uses the following language:

When the battle does come off, it will be a fearful one, for the stake is enormous, being nothing less than the fate of Virginia. Having taken months to prepare, having assembled such a force as the world has not seen since Napoleon advanced into Russia, McClellan feels that to him defeat would be ruin, while the Confederate soldiers and leaders feel that not only their fate, but the fate of their country, is staked upon the issue, and they cannot *afford* to be defeated. The contest cannot long be deferred. The news of a terrible battle may startle us at any moment. We trust that our people are prepared, not only to call upon God to defend the right, but, under God, to defend it themselves, with brave hearts, strong arms, and, sufficient numbers.

Wave, Richmond! all thy banners wave,
And charge with all thy chivalry!

For not only the fate of the temporary seat of Government, but of Eastern Virginia, and even more than that, trembles in the balance. We presume that President Davis himself will be on the field, as he has intimated. He will share the fate of his soldiers in life or in death, in victory or defeat. The New York *Herald* thinks that the drama is soon to close with a bloody tragedy of surpassing grandeur, when McClellan is to be rewarded by the capture of the Confederate Cabinet and Congress. The boastful confidence of the Northern press and authorities is something that affords a very strange contrast to the dismal, universal howl that arose after the battle of Manassas, last July, and the impartial observer may well be puzzled to decide on which of the two *phases* of character is entitled by the larger measure of contempt.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

SENATE.

FRIDAY, April 18, 1862.

Mr. CLAY, of Alabama, from the Committee of Commerce, reported back a House bill prohibiting all persons from selling cotton, syrup, &c., and its transportation to or from any port or place in possession of the enemy. Concurred in.

Mr. BROWN, of Mississippi, reported back from the Naval Committee a bill providing for the appointment of Chaplains in the naval hospital.

Mr. SEMMES reported that the Committee on Flags had again been disappointed by the person entrusted with making the design, and, further, that certain modifications had been suggested to the Committee, which were now under consideration.

The Senate bill increasing the price of postage to ten cents on a letter was taken up.

Mr. SEMMES, of La., said the bill did not propose to change the present law regulating drop letters. He was opposed to charging as much for drop letters, or letters to be carried a few miles, as for others to be carried a great distance. There ought to be a discrimination as between distances. The result of this bill is to make the large cities contiguous to each other pay for the transportation of the mails to the almost total relief of the rural population. He preferred rather to abolish the postal system and employ private means of communication.

Mr. OLDHAM, of Texas, spoke in favor of the bill of the committee, and advocated a uniform system of postage—because it simplified the postal arrangements, and would nearly, if not quite, make the department self-sustaining.

Mr. YANCEY, of Ala., offered an amendment to strike out ten cents on all distances to all parts of the Confederacy, and insert the words, charging five cents for all letters to be carried any distance under 100 miles; ten cents on all letters to be carried over 100 miles, and under 500 miles, and fifteen cents for all letters to be carried over 500 miles.

The amendment was lost, by yeas 10, nays 14.

The bill was then passed, fixing the postage uniformly at 10 cents per letter.

Mr. PRESTON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, asked to be discharged from further consideration of the resolution directing the President to receive into service irregular troops for detached service. Concurred in.

The Senate passed the bill regulating the compensation of deputy postmasters, and then went into secret session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, April 18, 1862.

The House met at 12 o'clock, and was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. JETER. Journal of yesterday read.

Mr. KENNER, of La., from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill entitled "an act making further appropriations for the expenses of the Government." Upon this bill he moved that the House go into secret session, but withdrew his motion for the reception of a report from the Military Committee.

Mr. DAVIS, of Miss., offered a resolution to rescind the resolution adjourning the House on Monday next; but, as objection was made, no action was had upon the subject.

Mr. MILES, of S. C., from the Military Committee, reported an original bill in lieu of one referred to the committee, entitled "an act to authorize the organization of bands of partisan rangers." The bill was taken up, engrossed, read a third time, and passed.

Mr. DAVIS then moved that the House resolve itself into secret session; and the motion being seconded, the Speaker ordered the floor to be cleared.

After spending several hours in secret session, the House again opened its doors, when

Mr. MILES, from the Military Committee, reported back the bill entitled an act for the enlistment of cooks in the army; which, after much discussion, was passed to its engrossment, read a third time, and agreed to.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a message from the President, transmitting the report of Maj. Gen. Van Dorn, of the engagement on Sugar Creek, Ark., on the 7th and 8th of March, which was read, laid upon the table and ordered to be printed. The main portions of the report we here with append:

HEADQ'RS TRANS-MISS. DISTRICT, Jacksonport, Ark., March 27, 1862.

General: I have the honor to report that, while at Pocahontas, I received dispatches on the 22d of February, informing me that Gen. Price had rapidly fallen back from Springfield before a superior force of the enemy, and was endeavoring to form a junction with the division of Gen. McCulloch on Boston Mountain.

For reasons which seemed to me imperative, I resolved to go in person and take command of the combined forces of Price and McCulloch. I reached their headquarters on the 3d of March, and being satisfied that the enemy, who had halted on Sugar Creek, 55 miles distant, was only awaiting large reinforcements before he would advance, I resolved to attack him at once. Accordingly, I sent for Gen. Pike to join me near Elm Springs with the forces under his command, and, on the morning of the 4th of March, moved with the divisions of Price and McCulloch, by way of Fayetteville and Bentonville, to attack the enemy's main camp on Sugar Creek. The whole force under my command was about 16,000 men.

On the 6th we left Elm Springs for Bentonville, and from prisoners captured by our scouting parties on the 8th I became convinced that up to that time no suspicion was entertained of our advance, and that there were strong hopes of our effecting a complete surprise, and attacking the enemy before the large detachments encamped at various points in the surrounding country could rejoin the main body. I therefore endeavored to reach Bentonville, 11 miles distant, by a rapid march; but the troops moved so very slowly that it was 11 A. M. before the head of the leading division (Price's) reached the village, and we had the mortification to see Siegel's division, 7,000 strong, leaving it as we entered. Had we been an hour sooner, we should have cut him off with his whole force, and certainly have beaten the enemy the next day.

We followed him, our advance skirmishing with his rear guard, which was admirably handled, until we had gained a point on Sugar Creek, about seven miles beyond Bentonville, and within one or two miles of the strongly entrenched camp of the enemy.

In conference with Generals McCulloch and McIntosh, who had an accurate knowledge of this locality, I had ascertained that, by making a detour of eight miles, I could reach the telegraph road leading from Springfield to Fayetteville, and be immediately in the rear of the enemy and his entrenchments. I had resolved to adopt this route, and therefore halted the head of my column near the point where the road by which I proposed to move diverged, threw out my pickets, and bivouacked as if for the night. But, soon after dark, I marched again, moving with Price's division in advance, and taking the road by which I had hoped before daylight to reach the rear of the enemy.

Some obstructions which he had hastily thrown in the way so impeded our march that we did not gain the telegraph road until near 10 o'clock A. M. of the 7th. From prisoners with forage wagons, whom our cavalry picked up, I was assured that we were not expected in that quarter, and that the promise was fair for a complete surprise. I at once made dispositions for attack, and directing General Price to move forward cautiously, soon drew the fire of a few skirmishers, who were rapidly reinforced, so that before 11 o'clock we were fairly engaged, the enemy holding very strong positions, and maintaining a heavy fire of artillery and small arms upon the constantly advancing columns which were being pressed upon him.

I had directed Gen. McCulloch to attack with his forces the enemy's left, and he, at two o'clock it was evident that if his division could advance, or even maintain its ground, I could at once throw forward Price's left, advance his whole line, and end the battle. I sent him a dispatch to this effect, but it was never received by him;—before it was penned, his brave spirit had winged its flight, and one of the most gallant leaders of the Confederacy had fought his last battle.

About three P. M., I received by aid-de-camp, the information that Generals McCullock, McIntosh, and Col. Hebert, were killed, and that the division was without any head. I nevertheless pressed forward with the attack, and at sunset the enemy was flying before our victorious troops at every point in our front, and when night fell we had driven him entirely from the field of battle. Our troops slept upon their arms nearly a mile beyond the point at which he made his last stand, and my headquarters for the night were at the Elkhorn Tavern. We had taken during the day seven cannon and about 200 prisoners.

In the course of the night I ascertained that the ammunition was almost exhausted, and the officer in charge of the ordnance supplies could not find his wagons, which, with the subsistence train, had been sent to Bentonville. Most of the troops had been without food since the morning of the 6th, and the artillery horses were beaten out. It was, therefore, with no little anxiety that I awaited the dawn of day. When it came, it revealed to me the enemy in a new and strong position, offering battle. I made my dispositions at once to accept the gage, and by 7 o'clock the commanding was as heavy as that of the previous day. On the side of the enemy the fire was much better sustained, for being forced from the attack of my right wing, he could now concentrate his whole artillery force. Finding that my right wing was much disorganized and that the batteries were one after another retiring from the field with every shot expended, I resolved to withdraw the army, and at once placed the ambulances with all of the wounded they would bear upon the Bentonville road, and a portion of McCulloch's division, which had joined me during the night, in position to follow, while I so disposed of my remaining forces as best to deceive the enemy as to my intentions, and to hold him in check while executing it. About 10 o'clock, I gave the order for the army to march, and soon afterwards for the troops engaged to fall back and cover the rear of the army. This was done very steadily.—No attempt was made by the enemy to follow us, and we encamped about two P. M., about six miles from the field of battle. Some demonstrations were made by his cavalry upon my baggage train and the batteries of artillery which returned by different routes from that taken by the army; but they were instantly checked, and, thanks to the courage and skill of Col. Stone and Maj. Wade, all the baggage and artillery joined the army in safety.

So far as I can ascertain, our losses amount to about 600 killed and wounded and two hundred prisoners, and one cannon, which having become disabled, I ordered to be thrown into a ravine.

The best information I can procure places his killed at more than 700, with at least an equal number of wounded. We brought away about 300 prisoners, (so that his total loss is near about 2,000,) four cannon, and ten baggage wagons; and we burnt upon the field three cannon taken by McIntosh in his brilliant charge, the horses having been killed;—these guns could not be brought away. The force with which I went into action was less than 14,000 men; that of the enemy is variously estimated at from 17,000 to 26,000.

During the whole of this engagement, I was with the Missouri division under Price, and I have never seen better fighters than these Missouri troops, or more gallant leaders than Gen. Price and his officers. From the first to the last shot they continually pushed on, and never yielded an inch they had won; and when at last they received the order to fall back, they retired steadily and with cheers.—General Price received a severe wound early in the action, but would neither retire from the field nor cease to expose himself to danger.

No successes can repair the loss of the gallant dead who fell in the well-fought field. McCulloch was the first to fall. I had found him in the frequent conferences I had with him a sagacious, prudent counsellor, and a bolder soldier never died for his country.

McIntosh had been very much distinguished all through the operations which had taken place in this region, and during my advance from Boston Mountain I placed him in command of the cavalry brigade and in charge of the pickets. He was alert, daring, and devoted to his duty. His kindness of disposition, with his reckless bravery, had attached the troops strongly to him, so that after McCulloch fell, had he remained to lead them, all would have been well with my right wing. But after leading a brilliant charge of cavalry, and carrying the enemy's batteries, he rushed into the thickest of the fight again, at the head of his old regiment, and was shot through the heart. The value of these two officers was best given by the effect of their fall upon their troops. So long as brave deeds are admired by our people, the names of McCulloch and McIntosh will be remembered and loved.

Gen. Slack, after gallantly maintaining a long continued and successful attack, was shot through the body; but I hope his distinguished services will be restored to his country.

A noble boy, Churchill Clarke, commanded a battery of artillery, and during the fierce artillery actions of the 7th and 8th, was conspicuous for the daring and skill which he exhibited. He fell at the very close of the action.

[The remainder of the report refers to the distinguished services of the different officers under his command, upon all of whom he bestows the highest meed of praise.]

The Virginia's Late Trip—Yankee Account.

The Fortress Monroe correspondent of the Baltimore *American*, in his report of the second appearance of the steamer Merrimac in Hampton Roads, says:

FORTRESS MONROE, April 11, 1862.

I said two days ago that we were looking for the Merrimac and sunshine together.—Both are here this morning. About 7 o'clock a signal gun from the Minnesota turned all eyes towards Sewell's Point, and coming out from under the land, almost obscured by the dim haze, the Merrimac was seen, followed by the Jamestown and Yorktown, &c.

There was instantaneous activity among the troops and vessels in the upper roads to get out of the way. Several steamers loaded with troops got out of the