Richmond Dispatch.

BY J. A. COWARDIN & CO.

THE DISPATCH is published daily, (Sundays excepted,) at FORTY DOLLARS for twelve months; TWENTY DOLLARS for six months; TEN DOLLARS for three months; or FOUR DOLLARS for one month, in advance. All remittances by mail are at the risk of those who make them.

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOL. XXVII. RICHMOND, VA., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1864. NO. 104.

Richmond Dispatch.

JOB PRINTING NEATLY EXECUTED.

Advertisements will be inserted at the rate of two DOLLARS per square for each insertion—eight line (or less) constitute a square.
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OFFICIAL.

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, October 24, 1864.

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 252.

1. The following schedules of prices for articles named therein, adopted by Commissioners appointed pursuant to law for the State of Virginia, are announced for the information of all concerned; and the special attention of officers and agents of the Government is directed thereto:

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, October 21, 1864.

Hon. James A. Seddon:

SIR: As requested by your Department, we conferred with the Commissioners of North Carolina, and had the good fortune to adjust prices upon a basis calculated to harmonize the leading interests of both States. The just and enlightened views entertained by the North Carolina Commissioners were practically illustrated by the liberal spirit and wise terms upon which they agreed to co-operate with us.

In this revolutionary crisis, we should all agree to aid each other and the Government. To rescue the country and save the people from the dangers that environ both, is clearly the duty of all. Our honor, rights and independence are at stake. Let us bind all our energies to defend and secure them. To attain this inestimable end, the people must be fed and clothed. Our producers, manufacturers and tradesmen certainly can afford to work for moderate compensation while our gallant soldiers dare to confront our savage adversaries in their defence. Certainly, if our brave men throw their protecting arms around our family altars, and gallantly defend their country for a sum too insignificant to mention, those who remain at home, enjoying the benefit of their valor can afford to clothe and feed them and their families on the most moderate terms.

The question should be, how *little* will you ask or take for your productions? Fidelity to all the best interests of our country points to the observance of this maxim as the best test of both our charity and patriotism. Let the watchword be, "Everything for our country, and away with money-making." In this final and desperate struggle for liberty, beware lest, in hoarding up money and neglecting the cause of the people, you exchange your birthright for a mess of pottage. Believing that our cause appeals to all parties and interests alike, we trust the people will unite and act in concert in achieving our independence. What we *will* to do, we can accomplish. United, we are invincible. Triumphant, what a glorious destiny opens to our view! Conquered, how abject and forlorn our condition! Who, under existing circumstances, is not willing to sacrifice a few paper dollars to gain the most enviable victory of civilization ever witnessed?

Entertaining the conviction that the popular mind is favorable to every effort calculated to advance the success of our cause, we venture to place before you the annexed Schedules of Prices for the months of October and November, which, though imperfect, because there are so many and such variant views and interests to harmonize, yet we indulge the hope, may be properly received by the people.

The following prices are to be the maximum rates to be paid for the articles impressed in all cities and usual places of sale; and when impressed on the farms or elsewhere, the same prices are to be paid.

Under existing circumstances, we have deemed it not only just, but most likely to favor increased production, that producers, in future, should not be required to transport their surplus productions when impressed, but that the agents of the Government should employ or impress the neighborhood or county wagons and teams to haul all such articles, and so divide the work between the owners of wagons and teams as to be least burdensome and most beneficial to those successfully engaged in agriculture:

SCHEDULE A.

No.	Articles.	Quality.	Description.	Quantity.	Price.
1	Wheat	Prime	White or red	Per bushel of 60 lbs	$ 7 50
2	Flour, good	Fine		Per barrel of 196 lbs	33 00
3	Do.	Superfine		do. do.	37 50
4	Do.	Extra superfine		do. do.	39 75
5	Do.	Family		do. do.	42 00
6	Corn	Prime	White or yellow	Per bushel of 56 lbs	5 00
7	Corn meal	Good		do. 50 lbs	5 20
8	Rye	Prime		do. 56 lbs	5 00
9	Clipped oats	do.		do. 32 lbs	4 00
10	Wheat bran	Good		do. 17 lbs	75
11	Shorts	do.		do. 22 lbs	1 05
12	Brownstuff	do.		do. 28 lbs	1 35
13	Shipstuff	do.		do. 37 lbs	2 10
14	Bacon	do.	Hog-round	Per pound	2 75
15	Pork—salt	do.		do.	2 30
16	Pork—fresh, fat and lean	do.		Per pound, net weight	1 82
17	Lard	do.		do.	2 75
18	Horses and mules*	First-class artillery, &c., average price per head			800 00
19	Wool	Fair or merino	Washed	Per pound	8 00
20	Wool	do. do.	Unwashed	do	6 00
21	Peas	Good		Per bushel	5 00
22	Beans	do.		do.	5 00
23	Potatoes	do.	Irish	do.	4 00
24	Potatoes	do.	Sweet	do.	4 00
25	Onions	do.		do.	8 00
26	Dried peaches	do.	Pealed	do.	8 00
27	Dried peaches	do.	Unpealed	do.	4 50
28	Dried apples	do.	Pealed	do.	5 00
29	Hay, baled	do.	Timothy or clover	Per 100 pounds	3 90
30	Hay, baled	do.	Orchard or herdsgrass	do.	3 90
31	Hay, unbaled	do.	Orchard or herdsgrass	do.	3 00
32	Shed oats, baled	do.		do.	5 25
33	Shed oats, unbaled	do.		do.	4 75
34	Blade fodder, baled	do.		do.	3 90
35	Blade fodder, unbaled	do.		do.	3 00
36	Husks, baled	do.		do.	2 60
37	Husks, unbaled	do.		do.	1 70
38	Wheat straw, baled	do.		do.	2 20
39	Wheat straw, unbaled	do.		do.	1 30
40	Pasturage	do.	Interior	Per head per month	3 00
41	Do.	Superior	do.	do. do.	4 00
42	Do.	First-rate	do.	do. do.	5 00
43	Do.	Good	Near cities	do. do.	5 00
44	Do.	Superior	do.	do. do.	6 00
45	Do.	First-rate	do.	do. do.	7 00
46	Salt	Good		Per bushel of 50 lbs	5 00
47	Soap	do.		Per pound	1 00
48	Candles	do.	Tallow	do.	3 00
49	Vinegar	do.	Cider	Per gallon	2 00
50	Whiskey	do.	Trade	do.	10 00
51	Sugar	do.	Brown	Per pound	3 00
52	Molasses	do.	New Orleans	Per gallon	25 00
53	Rice	do.		Per pound	50
54	Coffee	do.	Rio	do.	3 00
55	Tea	do.	Trade	do.	7 00
56	Vinegar	do.	Manufactured	Per gallon	1 00
57	Pig iron	do.	No. 1 quality	Per ton	350 00
58	Bloom iron	do.	No. 2 quality	do.	314 00
59	Smith's iron	do.	No. 3 quality	do.	278 00
60	Rails and iron	do.		do.	710 00
61	Blacksmithing	do.	Round plate and bar	do.	1,030 00
62	Leather	do.		do.	400 00
63	Leather	Serviceable.			
64	Do.	Good	Harness	Per pound	3 00
65	Do.	do.	Sole	do.	3 60
66	Do.	do.	Upper	do.	4 20
67	Beef cattle	do.	Gross weight	Per 100 pounds	30 00
68	Do.	Superior	do.	do.	35 00
69	Do.	First-rate	do.	do.	40 00
70	Salt beef	Good		Net per pound	1 50
71	Sheep	Fair		Per head	35 00
72	Army woolen cloth, ¾ yard	Good	Ten ounces per yard	Per yard	10 00
73	Army woolen cloth, ¾ yard	do.	Pro rata as to greater or less	Width or weight	
74	Army woolen cloth, 6-4 yard	do.	Twenty ounces per yard	Per yard	10 00
75	Army woolen cloth, 6-4 yard	do.	Pro rata as to greater or less	Width or weight	
76	Flannels, ¾	do.	Six ounces per yard	Per yard	4 00
77	Cotton shirting, ¾	do.	4½ yards to the pound	do.	1 11
78	Cotton shirting, ¾	do.	3¾ do. do. do.	do.	1 35
79	Cotton sheetings, 4-4	do.	3 do. do. do.	do.	1 75
80	Cotton osnaburgs, ¾	do.	6 ounces per yard	do.	1 50
81	Cotton osnaburgs, ¾	do.	8 do. do.	do.	1 93
82	Cotton tent cloths	do.	10 ounces to the yard	do.	2 53
83	On the above-enumerated cotton cloths, pro rata as to greater or less width or weight				
84	Army shoes	Good		Per pair	15 00
85	Shoe thread	do.		Per pound	3 00
86	Wool socks for men	do.		Per pair	2 00
87	Corn-top fodder, baled	do.		Per 100 pounds	2 40
88	Corn-top fodder, unbaled	do.		do.	1 50
89	Wheatchaff, baled	do.		do.	2 40
90	Wheatchaff, unbaled	do.		do.	1 50
91	Sorghum molasses	First quality		Per gallon	8 00
92	Pasturage for sheep		Interior	Per head	40
93	Do. do.	Superior	do.	do.	50
94	Do. do.	First-rate	do.	do.	60
95	Apple brandy	Good		Per gallon	10 00
96	Peach brandy	do.		do.	10 00

*In assessing the value of first-class artillery and wagon horses and mules at eight hundred dollars, we declared that the term should be accepted and acted upon according to its obvious common sense import. In other words, that they should be selected and then impressed accordingly as their working qualities and adaptation to army service, together with their intrinsic value, would warrant a judicious purchaser in considering them as coming within the contemplation of the Commissioners when they assessed the average value of such horses as the Government needed at eight hundred dollars. But cases might arise, however, when the public exigencies would be so urgent as to demand that all horses at hand should be impressed.—Yet, under ordinary circumstances, when family or extra blooded horses, or brood mares of *admitted high* value, are impressed, we respectfully suggest to the Secretary of War to have instructions forwarded to the impressing officers to propose and allow the owners to *substitute* in their stead such strong, sound and serviceable horses or mules as shall be considered and valued by competent and disinterested parties as first-class artillery horses or first-class wagon mules.

The team average value per head is in contradistinction to a fixed and uniform price for each horse or mule. We supposed that, in impressing a number of horses or mules, whether owned by several persons or one individual, some might be estimated at $600, and others at different advanced rates, according to their worth, up as high as $1,000—thus making an *average* value or price for a *number* of good, sound and efficient horses or mules, $800 each.

In illustration of our views, we will add that a horse with only one eye sound might, in all other respects, be classed as a first-class artillery horse, yet the loss of one eye would justly and considerably curtail his value. So a horse from ten to eighteen years of age might be deemed in all other particulars as a first-class artillery horse, but, of course, however efficient and able to render good service for a year or two, yet his advanced age would justly and materially impair his value. Any horse, however he may approximate the standard of a first-class artillery horse, must, according to deficiencies, fall below the maximum price; and as few, comparatively, come up to the standard, and are therefore entitled to the maximum price, so, of course, in all other instances the price should be proportionately reduced as imperfections place them below the standard of first-class, &c.

The first quality of Sorghum Molasses is the consistency of honey and free from all acidity to the taste. But second and inferior qualities of molasses should be *reduced* in price from ten to twenty per cent., according as they fall *below* the standard of first quality.

SCHEDULE B.

HIRE OF LABOR, TEAMS, WAGONS AND DRIVERS.

No.	Labor.	Quantity and time.	Prices.
1.	Baling long forage	Per 100 pounds	$ [illegible]
2.	Shelling and bagging corn, sacks furnished by Government	Per 56 pounds	05
3.	Hauling	Per cwt. per mile	08
4.	Hauling grain	Per bushel per mile	01
5.	Hire of two-horse team, wagon and driver, rations furnished by owner	Per day	10 00
6.	Hire of same, rations furnished by the Government	Do.	5 00
7.	Hire of four-horse team, wagon and driver, rations furnished by owner	Do.	13 00
8.	Hire of same, rations furnished by the Government	Do.	6 50
9.	Hire of six-horse team, wagon and driver, rations furnished by owner	Do.	16 00
10.	Hire of same, rations furnished by the Government	Do.	8 00
11.	Hire of laborer, rations furnished by owner	Do.	2 50
12.	Hire of same, rations furnished by the Government	Do.	1 50
13.	Hire of same, rations and clothing furnished by owner	Per month	50 00
14.	Hire of same, rations furnished by the Government	Do.	30 00
15.	Hire of teamsters, rations furnished by the Government	Do.	40 00
16.	Hire of laborer, clothing and rations furnished by the Government	Per year	300 00
17.	Do. do. do. do. by owner	Do.	550 00
18.	Do. do. rations only furnished by the Government	Do.	400 00
19.	Hire of ox-carts, team and driver, rations furnished by owner	Per day	10 00
20.	Hire of same, rations furnished by the Government	Do.	5 00

REVISION OF THE SCHEDULES OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH LAST.

Since the adoption of our last Schedule, for the months of February and March, the financial bills passed by Congress taxing the currency have seriously impaired the value of the old issues of Confederate Treasury notes. At this juncture, large numbers of horses and mules were impressed and paid for in a currency which was, in a few days thereafter, to be taxed thirty-three and one-third per cent.

The Board of State Commissioners having adjourned, and one of its members being out of the State, it could not be convened in time to review our schedule of prices. Under this state of facts, we have re-examined and re-arranged our tariff of prices so far as we have been advised of recent impressments, proposing, in this mode, to remedy any diminution of valuation which may have resulted from the action of Congress upon the currency. Therefore we assess the *average* value of artillery or wagon horses or mules impressed since the passage of the currency bill, of the 17th of February last, at six hundred dollars.—This award will entitle each person to receive higher compensation accordingly as each horse or mule recently impressed may be considered as being a first, second, or third-class artillery or wagon horse or mule, whether the parties appeal to our Board or not; and the impressing officers and agents should forthwith call on all those persons of whom they impressed horses or mules and propose a settlement upon the foregoing basis; but allowing to each person only such prices as first, second and third-class artillery or wagon horses or mules may have been estimated at by the local or county appraisers, assuming our *average* appraisement of six hundred dollars as a fair medium valuation. This, then, would allow a maximum price of eight hundred dollars, and a minimum price of four hundred dollars, making six hundred dollars the average price—thus allowing more for first-class horses or mules and proportionately less for the inferior as they may fall below the grade of first-class. The county appraisement will be the guide in making these settlements, but within the limits of our maximum price of eight hundred dollars and our minimum price of four hundred dollars. This plan would perhaps be most satisfactory to the people. For whatever price the county appraisers agreed upon should be deemed fair within the range of our minimum price of four hundred dollars and our maximum price of eight hundred dollars; payment of whatever amount awarded to be made in the new issue of Treasury notes.

The impressing officers in those instances where there were no arbitrators or local appraisements for horses or mules impressed, should, in all such cases, themselves re-estimate the value of horses or mules thus impressed, and allow in each case such addititional compensation as would, within the limits of our schedule rates, appear just and proper. But if, after this revaluation and settlement, any person should not be satisfied, the party could then appeal to our Board and have the case reconsidered.

In conclusion, it is proper to add that Mr. William B. Harrison was invited to aid us, and that the foregoing schedule received the unanimous approval of the Board of Commissioners.

E. W. HUBARD,
ROBERT GIBBONEY,
WILLIAM B. HARRISON,
Commissioners of Appraisement for the State of Virginia.

Per order. [Signed] S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector-General.

Official: JOHN A. WITHERS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

All appeals and communications should be addressed (post paid) to Mr. D. K. WHITAKER, Secretary of the Board, box 995, Richmond post-office, Virginia, and who may be consulted at his office in the department of the Quartermaster-General. The next meeting of the Board will be held on the first week of NEXT DECEMBER in the city of Richmond. oc 27—6t

Richmond Dispatch.

SATURDAY MORNING.....OCTOBER 29, 1864.

The DAILY DISPATCH is sold to News Dealers at TWENTY CENTS per copy. CITY CARRIERS are authorized to charge ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS per week to regular subscribers.

THE WAR NEWS.

Our account, published yesterday, of the movements and attacks of the enemy on the north side, on Thursday, was in the main correct. A visit to the front yesterday has put us in possession of some additional particulars.

During Wednesday night the enemy massed on our left, on the Darbytown and Charles City roads; and the Eighteenth corps, which, up to that time, had held the line at, and in the vicinity of, Fort Harrison, was withdrawn and marched across the Darby and Charles City roads and in the direction of the Williamsburg road, the object being, by overlapping our left, to get possession of our works on the latter road. Fort Harrison and the position vacated by the Eighteenth corps were entrusted to a small force of newly-arrived troops, mostly artillerists, who, to judge by their general appearance, their new knapsacks, &c., are recent conscripts.

About nine o'clock Thursday morning the enemy made a heavy attack upon our lines on the Darby road, and, being repulsed, renewed the assault repeatedly, but each time with the same result. The fight here was kept up for two hours or more, and the enemy's loss in killed and wounded was very severe. Our losses, we have before stated, amounted to almost nothing. We had a few men wounded. Though this attack was well sustained and determined; and though, doubtless, the enemy would have liked to have broken our lines there, yet we think it was but a demonstration to cover a much-more important movement, and one upon which, no doubt, Grant counted largely. It was designed to engage our attention while the Eighteenth corps passed to the Williamsburg road and seized our works there. But again Grant was thwarted by the skill of our generals and the valor of our troops.

Owing to the small quantity of rain that has fallen during the summer and fall, the Eighteenth corps were able to cross the head of White Oak swamp and reach the Williamsburg road, about four miles and a half below this city. On reaching the road, they formed into line of battle and advanced towards our works, thinking, evidently, that they were held only by a few cavalrymen. Nerved by this delusion, they came forward in fine style under the fire of our artillery; but on getting within musket range, and being met by a well-directed volley from a numerous body of veterans, their ardor abated visibly. Still they came on, though unsteadily, our troops still raking them with both cannon and musketry. When within one hundred yards of our front, they broke, and the greater part fell back in disorder. A considerable body took refuge under the crest of a hill, in front of our works, and there stuck. It was for a time believed by us that they were preparing to charge upon our position. After firing shrapnel at them for a considerable length of time without dislodging them, Captain Lyle, with forty of our men, sallied out on a reconnoissance. He went down upon the Yankees at a *pas de charge* and drove them out of their position, capturing four hundred prisoners, among whom were several commissioned officers, and seven stands of colors. Night coming on, we made no pursuit of the main body.

About five o'clock the same evening, our men in front of Fort Harrison, desiring to know what the Yankees had there, opened upon the fort with mortars. Our bombs fell splendidly, every one of them entering and bursting in the fort. The first one fired blew up one of the casemates of the fort, making a breach almost big enough to drive a wagon through. The fort replied with three rifle guns, but without much show of spirit. Their fire was perfectly harmless. Not one of our men were struck, all of the Yankee shells, except one, flying clear over their heads. The one shell alluded to struck upon our parapet, dislodging three or four shovelsful of earth. This duel lasted over an hour.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THURSDAY'S OPERATIONS.

The following report was received from General Lee yesterday morning:

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
October 27, 1864.

"*Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War:*

"The movement of the enemy against our left today was repulsed. Two attacks upon our lines were made—one between the Henrico Poor-house and Charles City road, the other on the Williamsburg road. Several hundred prisoners and four stands of colors were captured. Our loss is very slight.

"On the 25th, Colonel Mosby, near Bunker Hill, captured Brigadier-General Duffie and several other prisoners, a number of horses, and killed a number of the enemy. He sustained no loss.

"R. E. LEE."

The number of prisoners taken on the north side that had been received at the Libby up to last night was five hundred and sixty-five.

All was again quiet on the north side yesterday. Grant had, on Thursday, withdrawn most of his force from our right and centre and massed them on our left, say from the Darby to the Williamsburg stage road inclusive. Yesterday he was believed to be moving them back, his attack on our left having failed ingloriously. By some it is believed the attack and attempted flank movements will be renewed with greater rigor at an early day. We cannot see any reason for this opinion. If Grant could not attain his object on Thursday, delay will not improve his chances in an undertaking where everything depended upon a surprise of our troops. He has been beaten, and must now cudgel his wits to account to Lincoln for it. He will most probably charge his failure upon the rain storm of Thursday evening and night.

SECOND OFFICIAL REPORT FROM GENERAL LEE—GRANT'S SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS ON OUR RIGHT AND LEFT ON THURSDAY DISGRACEFUL FAILURES.

The following dispatch from General Lee was received last night. It will be seen that Grant was badly beaten on Thursday—even worse south of Petersburg than on this side of the river. He was pushed into these fights by a desire to aid his master, Lincoln, in the coming election, but he has not helped matters much. He had better have trusted the electioneering to Sheridan's gasconading. We give General Lee's report:

"HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VIRGINIA,
"October 28, 1864.

"*Hon. James A. Seddon, Secretary of War:*

"General A. P. Hill reports that the attack of General Heth upon the enemy upon the Boydton plankroad, mentioned in my dispatch last evening, was made by three brigades, under General Mahone in front and General Hampton in the rear. Mahone captured four hundred prisoners, three stands of colors and six pieces of artillery. The latter could not be brought off, the enemy having possession of the bridge.

"In the attack subsequently made by the enemy, General Mahone broke three lines of battle, and during the night the enemy retired from the Boydton plankroad, leaving his wounded and more than two hundred and fifty dead on the field.

"About 9 o'clock P. M. a small force assaulted and took possession of our works on the Baxter road, in front of Petersburg, but was soon driven out.

"On the Williamsburg road yesterday, General Field captured upwards of four hundred prisoners and seven stands of colors. The enemy left a number of dead in front of our works and returned to his former position to-day. R. E. LEE."

In the engagement below Richmond, on Wednesday, the following were the casualties in the Third Company Richmond Howitzers (Lieutenant H. C. Carter commanding):

Corporals M. H. Gardner and Roberts, severely (not dangerously) wounded; privates Gwin and Tate, mortally wounded.

THE FIGHTING AT PETERSBURG.

The enemy, in his attack below Petersburg, seems to have gained no advantage and suffered heavy loss. It appears that the Second, Ninth and a part of the Fifth corps of Grant's army moved around to our right on Wednesday night, and early on Thursday morning drove in our pickets at Armstrong's mill, pressing rapidly forward in strong force in the direction of the Boydton plankroad, distant some two miles, striking, in the meantime, that portion of our breastworks occupied by our cavalry, before which he was temporarily checked.

By massing and flanking, however, our lines were broken, and the enemy, pouring in, swept around to the plankroad, striking it at Burgess's mill, seven miles from the city. Such was the rapidity of the enemy's advance that our men were compelled to retire hastily, leaving their camp and all its appurtenances in the hands of the Yankees. A quantity of forage, some horses and wagons, and a few prisoners, were captured at the mill.

The enemy at once formed into line of battle across the plankroad, stretching his columns out through Burgess's fields, and planting a heavy battery on the commanding hill which overlooks the mill pond and the road in this direction. Our forces confronted him on the eminence this side of the pond, a valley and a bridge lying between them.

The artillery on both sides was mostly engaged until late in the evening, when the musketry took part, and the fighting was very severe until after dark. At night our men had failed to dislodge the Yankees from their position, and they still held the Boydton plankroad and Burgess's mill.

An official dispatch, received yesterday at the War Department, thus describes the enemy's operations in this quarter:

"The enemy crossed Rowanty creek below Burgess's mill, and forced back the cavalry in the afternoon. General Heth attacked, and at first drove them, but found them in too strong force. Afterwards the enemy attacked and were repulsed. They still hold the plankroad at Burgess's mill. Heth took some colors and prisoners.

Our loss in killed, wounded and missing is estimated at three hundred. This flank movement places the enemy still further from the Southside railroad than whence he started. It was a detour to avoid our strong line of works, with the hope of forcing our troops back into them, and will amount to nothing more than to extend somewhat their foraging limits. Mr. Brugess was taken prisoner by the Yankees.

About dark, the enemy made a feint on our skirmish line in the vicinity of Wilcox's farm. Their attack amounted to nothing.

About ten o'clock Thursday night, the enemy made a determined and vigorous onset upon our lines in the vicinity of Rives's farm and to the left of the Southampton plankroad. They were entirely unsuccessful, however, although they massed their columns almost into phalanxes and endeavored to press us back by the sheer weight of their heavy bodies of troops; but this was only productive of more terrible slaughter, the artillery mowing great gaps in the squares of men and the Southern rifles bringing down whole ranks at every volley.

The Federals made a number of distinct assaults, but were repulsed each time with very heavy loss.—We took a few prisoners.

Yesterday, the Yankees, satisfied, or rather suffering from the results of the previous day's fight, remained quiet. A report prevailed among the passengers who came by last night's train that they had abandoned the position which they had gained on the Boydton plankroad. Two hundred and fifty Yankees arrived by last night's train from Petersburg.

General Dearing, who was reported killed (and so supposed), was only separated by accident from his command, and eventually returned to it.

FROM THE RAPPAHANNOCK.

The gunboats reported to be ascending the Rappahannock river have returned. They did not come up as high as Port Royal.

MANASSAS GAP RAILROAD.

Parties of the enemy, supposed to be detachments from Sheridan's army, are committing depredations in the counties of Fauquier and Rappahannock on the line of the Manassas Gap railroad.

FROM THE VALLEY.

Sheridan is reported to be retreating towards Winchester. General Early is following.

FROM MOSBY.

A portion of General Lee's official dispatch of yesterday says, "on the 25th, Colonel Mosby, near Bunker Hill, captured Brigadier-General Duffie and several other prisoners, a number of horses, and killed a number of the enemy. He sustained no loss."

Lieutenant Johnson, of his command, with a small party of men, fell in, a day or two since, with a squad of fifteen Yankees. He killed six, wounded five and captured four. What became of the remainder is not known.

FROM TENNESSEE.

The Federals have evacuated Cleveland, Tennessee, and vicinity.

PRISONERS SENT NORTH.

General Page and a large number of the Fort Morgan prisoners have been sent North from Mobile.

FROM GEORGIA.

There is nothing new from Georgia. Some idea of the celerity of General Hood's remarkable movements may be formed from the fact, that in fourteen days his army has marched one hundred and fifty miles. All the railroad destruction which has been effected was done by only a portion of one corps, which did not march with the main army. There has been no infantry fighting since the attack on Altoona. The town of Resaca was menaced, but found too strongly defended, and was not attacked. In the main army each division drives its drove of cattle before it, and as fast as they are thinned out they are replenished from the surrounding country. The men have plenty of rations, but are in want of shoes and clothing. On Tuesday, the 18th, the army was at Blue Pond, twenty-six miles from Gunter's landing, on the Tennessee river. The river was high, but had commenced falling.

General Beauregard issued an address on the 17th in taking command. He says the enemy must be driven out of Atlanta, and offers an amnesty to all deserters returning to their commands within thirty days.

ANOTHER STATEMENT OF THE BATTLE OF STRASBURG.

CAMP NEAR NEW MARKET,
October 20th, 1864.

To the Editor of the Dispatch:

Since I wrote to you last from this camp, many and important movements have been made by this army. My last letter was written just after our little fight of last Sunday. In it I stated that parts of Wofford's and Terry's brigades were engaged. I wish to correct a mistake in so far as Wofford's brigade is concerned. It was Conner's South Carolina brigade, of Kershaw's division, that was engaged, instead of Wofford's. General Conner was severely wounded at the same time.

After that affair of Sunday, we lay in the front of the enemy offering battle for three days; but as they refused to attack us, we then made an attack upon them, as I shall state directly, which proved a perfect success.

I understand that General Early gives General Gordon all the credit for the movement, and his action on the field pronounces him one of our first generals, both in planning and in executing.

About sunset of Wednesday, the 18th, orders were issued to all the army to be in readiness to move at twilight—soldiers leaving their cups and canteens, and officers their swords, behind, so that the movement might be as secret as possible. Early in the night we were on the way, crossing rivers and winding around the foot of the mountains, along unfrequented roads and by-paths, until four o'clock A. M. Thursday morning brought us full view of the enemy's picket fires, a short distance in our front.—Here we halted until our cavalry came up in beautiful order and passed on to the front. At half-past four o'clock we waded the river and pressed on toward the enemy's camp, which was strongly fortified.

No pickets were encountered until within about two miles of camp, when they fired on our cavalry.

It was a complete surprise. Just at break of day a part of Kershaw's division charged upon their strongest position and took it at the first onset, capturing sixteen pieces of artillery in the first charge. We continued to drive them through their whole camp, some two or three miles in extent. They made three stands to save their camp—at one time behind a stone fence—but were driven from every position they then held into the woods beyond Middletown.

As our troops had become much scattered and mixed up in the pursuit, General Early here ordered a halt, to re-organize and to collect the straggling men.

Their tents were left standing, and in many places their bed-clothing just as they had jumped from bed. Their camps were filled with all kind of plunder from the adjacent country. Chickens, turkeys and cows were tied to stakes, waiting to add delicacies to their tables. All kinds of plunder was strewn upon the field. Coffee and sugar were especially sought for by our men, who felt the need of them after the night's march.

This plunder proved the loss of the day afterward. Although strict orders were issued that no one should stop to plunder, a great many did so, and did not afterwards join their command; so that when our line of battle was afterwards formed on the road running through Middletown perpendicular to the pike, about one-third of the army was in the rear.—About half-past 3 or 4 o'clock, the enemy, having received reinforcements from Winchester, made a simultaneous attack along our lines, at the same time flanking us with a force perpendicular to the left of our lines. Very soon the left was compelled to give way; and as the enemy continued to advance perpendicular to our line, the whole gave way, and the enemy pressed on and drove us across the river. In the confusion, the enemy's cavalry dashed upon our train just after it had crossed the creek and captured a number of wagons and some eighteen or twenty pieces of artillery. It is useless to disguise the fact that our army was completely stampeded.—All attempts to rally the men proved utterly useless, and they crowded down the river like droves of cattle. Five hundred resolute men, formed on the hill this side of Cedar creek, could have easily prevented the loss of our train, but, unfortunately, each man was pressing to the rear so fast that he had no time to stop.

Upon the whole, this fight proved much more disastrous to the enemy than to us. We lost many guns and wagons in the evening, but not so many as we had captured in the morning. The whole field for miles was covered with the enemy's dead. I suppose, from my own observation, that at least a thousand of the enemy were killed and left on the field, whilst of our men I saw very few. I was across the whole field, and saw certainly not over forty dead Confederates. Our loss was small compared to that of the enemy. We captured about two thousand of the enemy in the morning, and I am certain that we did not lose one-half so many in the evening.

Our army was organized again at Fisher's Hill and moved back to this point last night.

Many deeds of gallantry were, no doubt, performed on different parts of the field. I will only mention two which have come to my knowledge.—Early in the morning, General Pegram, seeing a single Yankee about to carry off a piece of artillery, dashed upon him and cut him down with his sword. General Terry, commanding the First, Second and Third brigades of Jackson's old division, deserves great praise for the several attempts he made to check the enemy advancing on the flank after Evans's brigade had broken on his left. He rallied some two or three hundred men behind a stone fence, some half a mile behind the original line, and fought until the enemy again flanked his left, when he called for a few men from this number and formed a skirmish line in front of their advancing column. This he did a second time, until the enemy drove them back to the field, and the remnant that he had rallied were compelled to retreat.

The disaster was caused by the lack of troops.—The enemy's line extending some half a mile to the left of ours, we were easily flanked, and compelled to fall back. It is said that ten thousand fresh troops from Winchester joined the enemy in the interval between the two fights. We brought off all our prisoners and many of the wagons in the morning.

General Ramseur was severely wounded through the body, and fell in the hands of the enemy.

Of officers we lost very few; but this loss falls very heavy upon that division, which had so lately lost their beloved General Rhodes.

I cannot now give much account of casualties, as I have been able to learn of but few. I suppose I can do so soon. ASA TENNET.

ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
RICHMOND, Octob er26, 1864.

ALL PERSONS having claims against this office will please present them *immediately* for settlement. W. E. WARREN,
oc 27—4t* Captain and Assistant Quartermaster.

FOR SALE, an average-sized BLACK MAN, in his twenty-fifth year; is good-looking and an excellent Cooper. Has worked at the trade about ten years. Apply at Cary Street Jail. oc 29—2t

FOR HIRE, for the balance of the year, an excellent HOUSE SERVANT or NURSE. She has a good character. R. CAUTHORN. oc 29—2t

FOR SALE, a No. 1 one-horse SPRING DRAY. Apply to Mr. C. BURNETT, on Virginia street, near the Danville Depot. oc 28—3t*

LOCAL MATTERS.

THE SCHOOL-GIRL POISONING CASE.—Yesterday morning, the case of Amanda, slave of Samuel Overton, and George, slave of Benjamin Hatcher, charged with poisoning the Misses Clarke and Misses Maule, pupils of Miss M. E. Allen, on Thursday, the 20th instant, was taken up by the Mayor and disposed of so far as he was concerned.

Mrs. Clarke, the mother of four of the victims, testified that Amanda, who is the cook for her family, made a short-cake, about the size of a cup-plate, and calling her daughter Betty into the kitchen, gave it to her to take to school. Betty divided about a third of the cake with her three sisters, at home, and took the remainder to school. Soon afterwards her children became very sick, suffering from violent vomiting and pain in the head and stomach. Becoming alarmed, Mrs. Clarke was in the act of sending for her daughter who had gone to school, when, just at that moment, she was brought home by Miss Allen, seriously ill. They were now well. She had never imagined any unpleasant feelings between her children and Amanda; always thought they were on the best of terms.

Miss Betty Clarke testified that she was sent for that morning by Amanda to get a short-cake she had baked for her. Gave a piece to her little sisters and took the rest to school. A few minutes before ten o'clock divided the rest of it with the two Misses Maule, when shortly afterwards they all became suddenly sick at the stomach. Did not ask the cook to bake her a cake; it was altogether voluntary on her part.

Mrs. Maria Allen—My daughter teaches school. About 10 o'clock she came to me and said that some children were very sick. The little Maule girls board with us, and they were immediately put to bed, when I applied all the remedies usually resorted to for sick stomach, but they did them no good, and I sent for a physician. The children continued extremely ill till about one o'clock next morning, and then began to get better.

Drs. Anderson and Haxall visited the children; found them very ill, vomiting violently; suffering from headache, pain in stomach and bowels, and showing every symptom of having eaten something poisonous. Upon inquiry, heard of the short-cake, and judging from the small quantity which each of the children had eaten that the dough had been charged with some poisonous drug, applied several remedies at hand, but none seemed to do much good. Then, after some difficulty, succeeded in getting an antidote, which seldom fails to act where arsenic has been taken into the stomach, and giving it to them, it soon had the desired effect. Did not know what the poison was; could not get any of the cake they had eaten.

Dr. J. P. Little—Officer Jenkins brought some flour, two or three papers of powders and a piece of the short-cake about the size of a thimble to me to examine. In one of the papers I found sulphate of zinc, and upon applying the usual tests, I found some of the sulphate of zinc in the piece of bread of which the children had partaken. Sulphate of zinc is used in violent cases as an emetic. It is poisonous, and when powdered is white and resembles soda, as a great many other poisons do. There was no arsenic.

Dr. Thomas Pollard—In June last I attended Amanda, and sent her some sulphate of zinc through the hands of George, her husband. I do not consider it a poison, but a very active emetic. Do not know whether the sulphate which was put in the short-cake was the same I sent her in June or not.

At the conclusion of the testimony, the counsel for the accused suggested to the Mayor that Amanda, doubtless, put into the dough the sulphate of zinc in mistake for bread soda, they both being alike in appearance. He hoped, therefore, that she would be discharged. But His Honor thought it had not been fully established that the error was made through mistake, and therefore sent the case on for examination before the Hustings Court.

HENRICO CIRCUIT COURT, YESTERDAY.—The case of the Commonwealth against Michaels and Schwalmeyer, indicted for felony, was adjourned until the next term of the court, and they were recognized for their appearance at that time.

The trial of James Clark and James H. Miller, who were indicted for stealing a horse, was postponed until Wednesday next, the