

Abingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR
Friday, Oct. 17, 1862.

The News.

We have some little news of importance this week, and that little is of a character to make us very anxious for more of the same sort. In the fight at Corinth on the 3d and 4th, we fear that our army was badly worsted, though not as badly whipped as Yankee accounts indicate. Our forces fought gallantly, and slew the Federals in piles, but they were overpowered by numbers, and forced to retreat. The battle was bloody and obstinate, and the loss on both sides very heavy. The forces of the enemy were about 50,000, and ours only about 25,000, and the former had the additional advantage of strong fortifications. Altho' this reverse is to be regretted—deeply regretted on account of the gallant men who fell—it is no cause of discouragement. However much we may desire it, we should not expect, in operations so extensive, to be always successful. Disasters will occur. The way to mend them is, to rally in the true spirit, trust God and keep our powder dry. We have whipped them out of their entrenchments and out of their breaches in a dozen consecutive pitched battles, and should not flatter or repine at one little reverse.

On the line of the Potomac, all seems to be quiet. It is thought by some that the Yankees are again threatening Richmond with an army at Suffolk and another at Centreville, numbering in all some 75,000 men. Our idea is, that they are feigning to threaten our capital to save their own. They want to coax Lee from his present position. He is too old a bird to be caught with chaff, and doubtless understands their manoeuvres. All will work right in that quarter.

Our Western army, when last heard from, was at Holly Springs, Miss., ready for another fight. If the President will put Gen. Price in command, we will hear of no more repulses. This is our opinion.

Of our Kentucky forces, we know but little. The Federal accounts say that they have retreated back to Crab Orchard. We don't believe it. If they have fallen back to that point, the movement is strategic, and was not forced upon them. At last accounts, heavy skirmishing had occurred on the Bardstown road, some 12 miles from Louisville. Kirby Smith was at Lexington or Frankfort, and Gen. Marshall at Mount Sterling. Thousands of Kentuckians had joined our armies, and we have an abiding faith that they will hold and redeem the State. Northern accounts state that Lincoln has called for 400,000 more men, making his new levies a million of men. We don't care if he marshals every man, woman and child in Yankedom, we'll lick them in the end.

LATER.

The news we publish to-day from Kentucky, is glorious. It will be seen that we give both the Northern and Southern account, and that they do not materially differ. Some of our contemporaries seem to be puzzled about the locality of Perryville. By reference to the map in Cornell's School Atlas, it will be found to be about 10 miles southwest of Danville, about the same distance south of Harrodsburg, on the road leading from the latter place to Lebanon, and about 35 miles south of Frankfort. This victory will make up for our reverse at Corinth, and strengthens the hope that Kentucky's redemption is a fixed fact. God grant that it may be so, and that the last invader will find his last resting place on the "Dark and Bloody Ground."

For cheering news from several points, see next page. It came by Thursday morning's mail, after our form had been made ready for press.

The Salt Proclamation.

The people of this part of the country have been somewhat startled by the Governor's Proclamation, not only on account of the position it assumes, but for the haste with which it has been issued. It had been thought and expected that the Governor would visit the works and inform himself, and then issue his proclamation, and not first issue the proclamation and then inform himself. We are not acquainted with the particular features of the bill upon which the proclamation is predicated, but the latter, in our view, savors strongly of the iron. We give the proclamation in another column, and invite particular attention to it. There are several clauses in it that we fear will result in incalculable injury, and very much fear that no good at all will be realized.

We may be dull of comprehension, but it strikes us that there is great injustice in the position that whilst contracts with States and counties are to be held inviolate, that contracts with individuals are to be abrogated, and all salt found in their possession to be seized by the Governor. Companies of individuals, from North Carolina, Tennessee,

Georgia, and perhaps other States, for the purpose of supplying the people of their particular States, having, as we are informed, entered into arrangements with their State authorities, have gone to heavy expense in erecting furnaces, &c., and now, as we understand from the Proclamation, their operations are forbidden, and the salt they may have on hand liable to seizure.

Again, that is an unfortunate and untimely clause, which prohibits the transportation of salt to other States of the Confederacy, until Virginia is supplied. We think this prohibition is simply monstrous. On sober reflection, we cannot believe that Gov. Letcher will enforce this provision. He is too much of a patriot and too good a man. He hasn't looked at the inhumanity of the thing; and if the character of the bill passed for his government in the matter binds him to it, he will reconvene the Legislature for reconsideration and modification before enforcing a law so palpably unjust and cruel.

Look at the position for a moment. If the manufacture of salt is alone sufficient for Virginia, this State is to have it all, and the other States none. And who are to be the sufferers? The families of the brave and self-sacrificing men who have left their own homes to meet the invader and drive him from the soil of the old Dominion—the families of the men whose blood has hallowed every battle-field from Bethel to Shepherdstown, and who at this moment, amid privations at which the heart sickens, are a living bulwark on the Virginia border.

There are other clauses of the proclamation quite as unjust as those referred to, and to which we will refer when we have more time and space. We had not intended to inadvertently upon the proclamation at all in this paper, as it came to hand after the larger portion of the issue had been made up, but are not willing that it should go to the public without one warning note. This we have done hastily, and perhaps not to the point, but we will enter more fully into the subject when we understand it more fully.

We see a letter in the Knoxville Register of the 14th, over the signature of R. R. Butler, of Johnson county, Tenn., denying the truth of a letter that appeared in the columns of the Register a few days previous, giving an account of the wrongs and depredations committed by the Union men of Johnson county. Of these things we have no personal knowledge, nor should we notice Mr. Butler's letter, but for the fact that he disputes the statement made in these columns a few weeks ago, that 400 Tories were skulking in the mountains of Johnson county. He pronounces the whole statement false. Of this, also, we have no personal knowledge, but the statement was made upon the authority of two as respectable gentlemen as Johnson county affords, and gentlemen, too, who stand out openly fair and square, and who would scorn to carry water on both shoulders.

If the statement was untrue, and injustice done Messrs. Grayson and Johnson, these columns have been, and still are open to them for their vindication, but it will require something more reliable than the mere ex parte statement of a man who seeks to sustain his own cause by calumniating others.

One Thousand Dollars Reward.

We understand that the sum of one thousand dollars has been made up, and will be given to any one who will apprehend and deliver at Abingdon Montgomery's Jerry, the supposed murderer of Mr. Wm. McDaniel.—For years past he has been infesting the whole country between Abingdon and Bristol, sometimes going as far down the country as Greene county, Tenn. He is somewhere in the lower end of this county, and ought to be found. He is not black, but a dark copper color, about 5 feet 10 inches high, and 25 years old. The surest way to catch him, will be to watch for him at night, in those portions of the county where he commits his depredations. There are two other negroes with him, both mulattoes, one very large, the other younger. They have all been seen in the neighborhood where the late murder was committed, and with due diligence may be caught.

Negro Regiments in Kansas.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Democrat, writing from Kansas City, gives a description of some of Gen. Lane's volunteers, as follows: A detachment of Lane's new negro brigade, numbering 200, arrived to-day at camp Lane, near Wyandotte Bridge, in Kansas, opposite this city. Their departure from Leavenworth yesterday is described by an eye witness as being novel in the extreme. The detachment, accompanied by their baggage trains, marched through the principal streets, singing "John Brown's body lies moldering in the ground." On arriving at the levee a most ludicrous and affecting scene occurred in the leave takings of the darkey women, girls and old men. Tears, grimaces, grips, ivory, and "God bless ye's," were commingled in laughable, melancholy, wretched style. One crippled darkey, in gibbering a general adieu, admonished them thus: "Show your pluck, Africans; neber show your back to the 'seeh."

For the Virginian.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Though a stranger to you personally, yet as I have of late been traveling over a portion of our State, where the foot-prints of an invading foe is yet visible, I have concluded to drop you a line, not doubting but it will be kindly received, and, perhaps, read with some degree of interest, at least, by a portion of your numerous readers. But before I say anything of the doings of these vandals of the North, permit me to call your attention to an organization recently gotten up with the view of scouring the disloyal portion of our Northwestern border, and to assist our gallant friends, who have long been in exile, again to return to their once peaceful and happy homes.

The organization spoken of has been gotten up by Col. Ambrose C. Dunn, from Maryland, a gentleman according to the nicest definition of the term, and an officer who will grace, and do honor to any position that may be assigned him. His Battalion is almost a complete medley, being made up by companies and men from almost every State in the Southern Confederacy. His staff, a polished set of gentlemen, are, first, Thos. Hardy, Jr., Adjutant, from Norfolk; Chas. C. Duncan, Kanawha, Va., Quartermaster; J. H. Simoot, Com., Alexandria, Va.; G. S. Herbert, Sergt. Maj., Savannah, Ga.; Thos. Hudson, Qr. M. Sergt., La.; S. A. Carson, Com. Sergt., Va. Of the other officers and men we cannot now speak individually. We know them, however, to be gallant and brave, and expect soon to have the pleasure of recording some noble and daring deeds performed. They are known by the appellation of "Partizan Rangers." I believe the command is an independent one, duly constituted by a charter from the Department, consequently its march and its moves will mainly be directed by our present commander, who has the entire confidence of the whole Battalion, which is now about 800 strong, and its strength constantly increasing. From these, you shall again hear ere long.

I said I had recently passed over a portion of our State which was lately in possession of the enemy. Over this road I have traveled in other days, and when peace, plenty and universal happiness gave constant cheerfulness to the bold and romantic scenery that looms up continually along and within view of the road leading from the Kanawha Valley to that blue chain which separates the two Virginias, the genius of romance still hovers over those wild peaks of nature, and they yet stand proudly forth, bidding defiance both to the storms of elements and of war. The once fruitful valleys too remain, but their silence and desolation seem to mourn a better day. Heaps of smoldering ruin meet the eye, where stately mansions, smiling faces and plenty, once made the weary traveler at home. But the work of these lawless invaders has now been completed. They spent fourteen months, sacrificed thousands of lives, spent millions of dollars, incommoded some inoffensive women and children, and have accomplished nothing farther than to unite these people henceforth and forever against them. The seepage has in truth departed from Judah, and if these Yankee thieves ever venture up this valley again, four days will be a time much too short for them to get back again.

Gauley Bridge, Va.

From the Knoxville Register.

The Issue.

Correspondence Between Revs. F. E. Pitts and N. G. Taylor.

The following correspondence between two distinguished divines of the M. E. Church, will explain itself. Coming as it does upon the heels of Mr. Nelson's address and Judge Luckey's letter, it is indicative of that revolution in popular sentiment which we may hope will redeem East Tennessee from the stigma which has rested upon her:

KNOXVILLE, Sept. 24th, 1862.

To the Hon. Nat. Taylor—My Dear Friend: According to promise I pen you a few lines. Your character and position in East Tennessee are now and have been for a long time such as to awaken the liveliest solicitude amongst your numerous friends, that your influence as a Christian minister, a patriot and a statesman, should promptly and publicly be thrown on the side of our oppressed and insulted country. In claiming you to be thoroughly Southern in heart and soul, will you assure me in your response that I truly represent you?

Very respectfully,
I am, dear brother, yours,
F. E. PITTS.

HAPPY VALLEY, Oct. 2, 1862.

Rev. F. E. Pitts: Dear Sir: Your brief note of the 25th ult., was received yesterday. Having assured me that you would write me from Greenville or Knoxville, I expected to hear from you, but had hoped to hear something of as well as from you, and that you would devote a portion of your letter to yourself, and not all of it to me. Protesting that you place a much higher estimate upon the "influence I have amongst my numerous friends" than I merit or claim, and regarding "brevity as the soul of emphasis," I hasten, at once, to respond to the one solitary question you have propounded to me, as clearly, concisely and comprehensively as I can.

You say, "In claiming you to be thoroughly Southern in heart and soul, will you assure me in your response, that I truly represent you?" I answer, in claiming me to be thoroughly Southern in heart and soul, you do truly represent me, and only do me simple justice.

I am yours, very respectfully,
N. G. TAYLOR.

Jackson once Surrounded.

An army correspondent tells the following incident that occurred in Maryland between Stonewall Jackson and the ladies. They surrounded the old game cock (he said, "Ladies, this is the first time I was ever surrounded.") and cut every button off his coat, and they say, commenced on his pants, and at one time it was feared he would be in the uniform of a Georgia Colonel, minus all except a shirt collar and spurs. "For once he was badly scared."

More Brilliant Exploits of the Yankees.

Several Deserted Breastworks Carried at the Point of the Bayonet—Several Women and Children Bravely Fired Upon—A Gallant Hunt for Sick Soldiers.

To the Editors of the Enquirer.

QUANTICO, NEAR DUMFRIES, VA.,
October 3, 1862.

Gentlemen:—On Sunday, last a scouting party of 160 Yankee cavalry, commanded by a Major Lee, of New York, surrounded the village of Dumfries and searched for sick soldiers, but found none. They arrested Messrs. Wm. F. McConchie and Newton Harper, formerly of Alexandria, stole several horses, and left for Alexandria. Mr. McC. was released next day. Mr. Harper was sent on to Washington. The Yankees were piloted by a man named Stiles, from Fairfax, Thomas Smoot, of Occoquan, and Thomas Lamb, an old Yankee settler, two and a half miles above Dumfries. The Yankee settlers in Prince William, who professed sympathy with the South last year, and made small fortunes by trading with the Southern soldiers, with few exceptions, have proved spies and traitors to the Southern cause. A number have left the State since the last battle of Manassas.

On Monday last a party of Yankees landed at Ship Point, under protection of three gunboats, and proceeded to destroy the batteries and guns at that point. They have been employed all the week blowing up the works at Ship Point and Cockpit Point. Women and children were shelled and fired upon from muskets while driving up their cows. The commander of the expedition reports to Secretary Welles a glowing description of this "gallant achievement" of the Federal navy. According to this Yankee account, they defeated a party of our cavalry (old women and children, driving up their cows) and blew up the "bomb-proof" batteries!

From information received through different channels from Washington, I am satisfied that Lincoln contemplates a naval attack upon the fortifications below Richmond. They are collecting a large fleet of iron clad and other gunboats, to be commanded by Com. Wilkes.

When Gen. Lee first crossed into Maryland the Yankee government were so frightened that they kept a gunboat at the Navy Yard, under steam day and night, to escape in; and I have no doubt the old dirt batteries on the Potomac were destroyed for fear we should again blockade the Potomac and cut off their retreat.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

Latest from the North.

We are indebted to Capt. Cashmyer for New York and Baltimore papers of the 8th instant.

The Baltimore "American" thus sums up the news:

Dispatches from Gen. Grant confirm and amplify the victory achieved at Corinth and the subsequent total rout of the rebels under Price and Van Dorn. On Sunday Generals Ord and Hulbert overtook the rebels in their retreat and drove them back five miles toward the Hatchie river in the direction of Corinth, from which they were flying. Two batteries, many small arms, and three hundred prisoners were captured. Gen. Grant apprised Gen. Rosecrans of these facts, and directed him to urge on "the good work." Gen. Rosecrans, under date of Monday, informs Gen. Grant that the enemy were totally routed, and throwing away everything. The pursuit was sharply followed by both Gen. Rosecrans and Gen. Hulbert, and the prospect seems good that the entire rebel force, forty thousand strong, will be either captured or dispersed. The rebel general Martin is reported killed in the fight.

The reports brought in by Gen. Sigel's scouts represent the Rebel army as retreating towards Richmond. Three deserters—two conscripts and one Northern man—gave themselves up on Monday to our scouts at Throughfare Gap. These men state that the Rebel army is retreating from Winchester toward Richmond; that their supply train is at Staunton, and their cattle at Fort Jackson, and that Longstreet, with his command, is already on the road to Richmond, and will soon be followed by the whole Rebel army.

The Union forces under General Schofield in Southwest Missouri on Saturday attacked the Rebels at Newtonia. After a two hours engagement, in which they suffered heavily, the Rebels broke and fled. It was understood they were concentrating their whole force at a point twelve miles distant, and General Schofield was pushing rapidly forward with the expectation of renewing the battle on Sunday.

The execution of the draft was attended with great excitement in Cleveland, Ohio, particularly among the Germans and Irish, who were persuaded that the matter had been so arranged as to free the richer class. Three hundred infantry and artillery, with a cannon, were called out and so disposed of as to keep the crowd in check, and the draft was proceeded with without any special disturbance.

General McClellan has issued an important general order to the army of the Potomac, in which he refers to the President's Emancipation Proclamation, and defines specifically to the officers and soldiers the relation borne by them towards the civil authorities of the Government. Armed forces, he says, are raised and supported simply to sustain the civil authorities, and are to be held in strict subordination thereto in all respects. Political discussions in the army, it is declared, tend to impair and destroy its discipline, and the ballot box is pointed out as the only proper remedy for political errors.

The whole number of conscripts reported in thirty-four parishes of Louisiana up to the 22d of September, was 15,578. From thirteen parishes no returns have been received.

A severe shock of an earthquake was felt at Memphis on the night of the 30th. They will experience the earthquake itself before long, when our army gets ready and attack the city.

Lincoln's Visit to McClellan's Camp.

Several days since we re-published from Northern newspapers accounts of President Lincoln's visit to the "Army of the Northern Potomac," and the review of the same by himself and General McClellan. It will be recollected that the reception of these high dignitaries—especially that of the latter—was represented as enthusiastic in the extreme, but we were left to conjecture the immediate occasion of Mr. Lincoln's visit. On this subject the Northern journals, generally so redundant in particulars, were mute. And why honest Abe should have torn himself from the delights of the "Soldier's Rest," to mingle with the mongrel tribes of McClellan's host, we have only just now been informed.

A gentleman of intelligence who left Washington on Tuesday and Alexandria on Wednesday, arrived here yesterday evening, gives a rational and satisfactory solution of the question. On the receipt of Lincoln's emancipation proclamation, McClellan's army was thrown into a terrible ferment, which threatened to break into an open and general riot. The abolitionists and democrats were instantly arrayed in deadly hostility, the latter declaring that if the proclamation was not withdrawn they would throw down their arms, or if forced to use them, would turn them against the abolitionists for whose advantage and advancement the war was being prosecuted. All the efforts of their commanders having failed to pacify the troops, Lincoln was telegraphed for and set out at once for the army. The success of his mission is not definitely known, but it was said in Washington that notwithstanding many promises and explanations made to the troops, he had not found it possible to allay their excitement, and had returned home leaving matters little better than he had found them.

It may be well to add that this statement of our informant is fully corroborated by intelligence received at the War Department, and there believed authentic.—Rich. Examiner.

Latest from New Orleans.

The New York papers have advices from New Orleans to the 23d ult. General Sherman had command of all the Federal troops at Carrollton, six miles from the city. The gunboats were also lying there. A letter says:

The great excitement now in our city—we must always have a great excitement, you know, in these times—is that which is incident to the near expiration of President Lincoln's sixty days for "taking the oath." It came hard, and was postponed by thousands until the last moment; but consulators are making up for lost time, I assure you. The Provost Marshal has been obliged to open a large number of subordinate offices, at which those who, at length, have made up their minds that it is better to come in; the arrangement, can be accommodated; and to day, the last day of grace save one, has witnessed a scene that no pen can adequately describe. The City Hall and the Custom House, the headquarters of all the military authorities, have been literally besieged throughout the day, and will continue so to be during the whole of to-morrow, by persons, male and female, white and black, high and low, rich and poor, native and foreign, naturalized and unnaturalized, desirous, in the language of that inimitable "eighth section," of "returning to their allegiance." As the Delta of this afternoon truly says, "the bench and the bar, physicians, gentlemen of property and leisure, and ladies of the highest circles of respectability, have freely subscribed to that important document."

General Butler has caused it to be distinctly understood that the law is to be carried into execution to the very last letter. There is a great deal of property in this city that stands in danger of the stringent requisitions of the act, and as it now begins to look, even in the eyes of the most credulous and hopeful, as if the outlying bands of the guerrillas will not be able to retake New Orleans before to-morrow night, the property owners have come to the sagacious conclusion, that it is upon the whole the safest plan to succumb to the necessity they cannot easily, or indeed, at all evade.

Nearly two full regiments have been raised among the Creoles, and the regiments bro't have been recruited, and this is proof that we have friends here, notwithstanding the denial of Union men South? There would be more of them if the Government could make their rights more secure.

The losses in property and the sufferings, are enormous. For example, the Soules, before the war, had an income of 80,000 a year, and this is now reduced to a mere living on plain pork and flour.

Bob McNelly and the Speculators.

Our six feet of "esteemed cotemporary"—Col. Bob McNelly, of the Cleveland Banner—gives "all the world and the rest of mankind" the following deservedly hard rub upon their speculating propensities. Friend McNelly's experience is very similar to our own, only we have not been able to express it in his terse style:

"Mack, why in the hell don't you give it to these speculators," says a farmer. What speculators, we ask? "These infernal merchants." We promise him to do so, but he hardly gets out of sight till a merchant steps in and says "Mack, I want you to rake down the farmers generally—they are asking three or four prices for every thing they raise—they have got chickens up to 50c apiece; butter to 50 cents per pound, eggs 30 cents per dozen, and everything else according, and I can get nothing to eat." These are the ejaculations we frequently hear, but after mature consideration, as every body is speculating who has anything to sell, we have concluded that we were all nothing more than a set of hungry cannibals trying to eat each other up, and plunging headlong to the devil as fast as the wheels of time can carry us, where we all will land sooner or later if we don't do a good deal better than we have been doing. There is no use of jumping on one class of men for speculating when every body that can raise a few dollars is engaged in the same thing. The "almighty dollar" is all the present generation lives for or cares for.