

Abingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR

Friday, Nov. 14, 1862.

Northern Elections.

The success of the Democratic, or rather of the Conservative party, in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Ohio, has produced great excitement, and called out unusual demonstration of joy all over the North, among those disposed to peace and opposed to Lincoln's Abolitionism. It is true, both parties profess to be in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war, but the successful party contend that it should not be waged by the Federal Government upon the brutal principles heretofore adopted, but upon humane and constitutional principles.

We look forward with a great deal of hope to the result of these elections, as the Conservatives will doubtless have a majority in Congress, but we at the same time fear that they may produce apathy and inertness among our own people and in our own armies. The members elect, we believe, do not go into office until the 4th of March next, and hence the Abolitionists, knowing that their days are numbered without signal success in arms, will make a gigantic effort at subjugation.—They will be tireless in organizing and pushing new armies into the field, and blot us out, if possible, before the reins of power shall fall from their hands.

In this view of the case, and we fear it is a plausible one, it behooves us all to be more active and vigilant than ever—for those of us who can, to shoulder our muskets, and those who can afford it to open our purses and our hearts for the relief and comfort of the gallant men who are fighting our battles. It is no time now for self-interest—no time for speculation and extortion. All should be at work for the country, and none for themselves alone. If we would all do this, the morrow would be a brighter day for us, and Peace would spread her broad wing o'er our borders before the coming year in born.

Premature Censoriousness.

Our exchanges teem with articles from time to time on the true policy of carrying on a war. Some, a few, seem to shrink the dangers of attacking, and would forever wait to be assailed. For there, entrenchments, ambulances and masked batteries rise at every step, rear their horrid fronts, and are ready to annihilate or swallow up at a gulp whole armies. Some find the saving policy in continued retreat, leading the enemy the while like a Jack-o'-Lantern into pitfalls and morasses, to their destruction. The greater number of our brethren of the press would drive our armies, as they do their pens, always forward, and forward all the time. You are not to wait to get ready—"an army should always be ready"—Look at Mexico, Italy, &c., &c. You are not to consider numbers, nor seasons, nor arms, nor ammunition—forward—*en avant*—is the only policy—was the policy of Bonaparte—is all that is wanting to annihilate our enemies and overrun their country—to establish at once our independence, and subjugate the North! Tardiness is our bane and curse—trammels our operations, and shuts out victory and independence. "Sure and Slow" is not meant for wars. For them, dispatch is victory. So thought not Xenophon, or Fabius, or Greene, or Washington, or Wellington. So found not Bonaparte at Moscow or Waterloo, or Charles at Palatka, or—

But why multiply instances where defeat followed or accompanied despatch, or where it waited on tardiness or immobility! They might be multiplied to infinity. They all teach but this—that despatch or delay, tardiness, or celerity, or inaction, are in themselves as nothing—so subordinate to other considerations, that the man alike, who always advances, or always stands still, or always recedes, must always be beaten!

We conclude, then, that *circumstances* should always determine policy. *Circumstances*, the iron despot of sublimity destinies, which whosoever shall disregard—shall not consult—shall not bow to—he shall surely be crushed under as under the inexorable wheel of Juggernaut. Such is our view of "the policy of carrying on the war."

Well Done Johnson

We learn from good authority, that a Volunteer Company was organized in Johnson county, Tenn., last week, and two other Companies were in process of organization, with promise of success. A little sober reflection will bring all the people of that county right after all. They have had bad advisers, and they are beginning to find it out.

We have been requested to state that there will be no service in the Protestant Episcopal Church at night hereafter, until further notice. Services will be held in the mornings and afternoons of alternate Sabbaths.

Severe Skirmishing.

While our army was falling back from the Shenandoah Valley last week, several skirmishes occurred between Stuart's cavalry and the advanced forces of the enemy, in which several casualties occurred in Capt. Litchfield's Company from this county. We have heard of the following.

David Ryburn, (son of Jas. O. Ryburn,) mortally wounded and left in the hands of the enemy.

Rufus R. Cassell, wounded in the arm and left in the hands of the enemy.

Lt. G. V. Litchfield, wounded in the hand. John W. S. Saunders, wounded in the thigh.

Benj. Gildersleeve, left in charge of the wounded, and of course a prisoner.

Joseph Pendleton and Charles Morell missing.

We recorded a terrible accident that occurred in this vicinity, in a slip we issued last week. It was the serious, if not fatal, injury of the four sons of Mr. Francis Smith, by the explosion of a shell. The oldest of the boys is some 16 or 17, and the youngest 5 or 6 years old. The two oldest were the worst injured. The oldest had his right hand blown off, and his right leg had to be amputated. Besides this, his head and face and other portions of his body were badly lacerated. The second boy had a large portion of the flesh of one leg and thigh torn from the bone, and a large splinter driven entirely through the thigh. The third son was but slightly injured in the neck by a piece of the shell, and the fourth was badly burned in the face and head. They are all still alive, tho' the condition of the oldest is considered precarious.

Since the above was written, the eldest son, Andrew, died on Wednesday morning.

We understand Col. A. C. Cummings has declined serving as one of the Assessors of damages under the Act of the Legislature in regard to Salt.

Ninth Georgia Battalion.

This Battalion of Artillery, under command of Major Leyden, left this place on Tuesday last, for a distant field of operations. It was really an imposing sight to see the long line of guns, caissons and forges, each with six horses attached, followed by a long train of ambulances and baggage wagons—stretching out at least a mile. Some idea of the immense expense of an army may be arrived at, when an Artillery Battalion comprising only about 200 men, requires 60 bushels of corn and 1400 lbs. of hay per day for its horses.

Gen Beauregard, on the 8th inst., issued a General Order at Charleston, S. C., giving notice that all NON-COMBATTANTS who are able to provide for their own removal and support, should leave the city with their slaves and moveable property as soon as convenient, indicating that warm work may soon be expected in that quarter.

We have the fullest confidence in General Beauregard's ability to hold the city against the Abolitionists.

We learn that the last of Gen. Marshall's forces had scarcely gotten through Pound Gap, before an Abolition force was at Pikeville. They are perhaps still there, and will doubtless attempt a raid on this side of the mountain.

The communication signed "Myrtillis," in this paper, is a little behind time, but it is neither the writer's fault nor ours that the mails are irregular and uncertain. It may be that Col. Dunn has changed his base since the letter was written, as the Abolitionists are said to be advancing up the Kanawha valley.

We have in type a long communication from our old friend and correspondent Meshach Horner, of Bear Cove, Wise county, in which he gives speculators and extortioners a most merciless drubbing. We are sorry it is crowded out, and will try to make room for it in our next. It is, however, rather too long for as small a sheet as ours.

For the Virginian.

Messrs. Editors:—I desire, very briefly, to call the attention of the citizens of Smyth county, to the propriety of making some provision for the benefit of the wives and children of our brave soldiers, now standing between us and an enemy threatening our destruction. The most efficient way of bringing about this desirable object is, for the County Court of Smyth to levy a tax on the property of its citizens, for a sufficient amount to give entire relief to that unfortunate class of our community. In view of this, I would respectfully suggest that the people hold a meeting at our next County Court, and instruct the Court to summons all the Justices of the county to attend at the next term of the Court, for the purpose of making a levy for the purpose, and appointing suitable men to carry the object into effect. Every patriotic citizen of the county will see the importance of this subject, and will sustain the Court in any levy they may make for this purpose, and I for one will consent to be taxed \$500, if necessary, annually, for said object.

SEVEN MILE FORD.

For the Virginian.

Messrs. Editors:—Some time since, from the banks of Gauley, I dropped you a few lines, and, without knowing anything of their fate, I have concluded to venture another scrap.

For the last eight or ten days we have been quartered at Summerville, the county site of Nicholas county. This was once, no doubt, a nice and flourishing little village, and the country around indicates that peace, happiness and plenty once resided here; but, with the approach of the invading foe, these things have all passed away, and, in their stead, there is now little else seen than distress, want and ruin. The village, and all the country around, wear the aspect of some desolate widow draped in robes of sable hue, mourning a brighter and a better day. On first entering this devoted village, a strange melancholy sensation involuntarily absorbed every other consideration, and scarcely could I refrain from weeping over its war-ridden ruins. On either side of the street were seen the remains of smouldering ruins which only marked the place where once stood the beautiful mansion—the hotel, or house of merchandise. A beautiful brick church, handsomely situated on a hill that overlooked the whole village, has the joints torn from its walls, the glasses shattered from its sashes, the benches converted into ashes, and the very walls nearly battered down by their hammering out all around a double set of loop-holes, from which they expected to shoot the approaching Rebels. Of the country, and what the war has done for it, I would speak at length, but similar things have often been detailed to you from this and other portions of the State that have been overrun by the unscrupulous Yankees, and cursed with a population whose ignorance and wickedness has led to the destruction of their own neighbors and homes. Some of these have seen their error and are now doing good service in the Southern ranks; but, there are yet here, a set of poor misguided devils, who seem determined to live and die in their folly. Seven or eight hundred of these are now entrenched at Bull Town, some forty-six miles from this place, impatiently awaiting the return of their allies and brothers, the Yankees, and from the best information I now have, I expect ere this, their fondest hopes have been realized. Others are wandering and skulking the mountain gorges, committing all kinds of depredations, and shooting good Southern men from behind trees and rocks, and making their escape through the almost impenetrable forest of this wooded country.

Since writing the above, I have conversed with a gentleman directly from Clarksburg and Bull Town, and find that the rumors, and all that I was anticipating, is even so. The Yankees are eight or ten thousand at Clarksburg—have already sent a strong reinforcement to their Virginia brothers at Bull Town, and started the rest of their forces down the Kanawha Valley. They have, in all, about twenty thousand troops, and swear in their wrath, that they intend to retrieve all that they have recently lost in this part of the State. This is no idle rumor; I have it directly from one who is an officer and a gentleman, and who has witnessed these things with his own eyes, and heard them with his own ears, and I send it to you, hoping that publishing the same will cause our gallant boys from every part of the west, to come immediately to the rescue. We can hold all this part of the State now if we will. The Yankees have left us all their strong fortifications which they were fourteen months in building. They have scared and arrayed thousands against them, who were their sworn friends while they were here. We are also in the possession of all the means for prosecuting the war, and already have in the field a victorious army ready to shield and protect us until we can make it strong enough to bid defiance to all the Yankees in Christendom. So

"Now's the day and now's the hour;
See the front of battle lower;
See approach old Lincoln's power—
Lincoln's chains and slavery."

Our gallant commander, Col. Dunn, is uniting in his exertions in making preparations to meet the enemy. He keeps himself posted as to all their moves and secrets, and will make use of the first available opportunity to make some of them sheaddle. Our other officers, too, are constantly on the lookout. They are scouring the country with squads, every night and day, and scarcely ever return without bringing in some of those misguided devils. Evening before last, while Lt. W. C. Dunn was in pursuit of a lawless band, headed by a notorious character by the name of Ramsey, he was waylaid by a portion of the band, and fired upon from a thick mountain gorge, who succeeded in wounding one man and one horse. The Lt. continued the pursuit through the night and a part of the next day, but was unable to flush the game. I name this as being the only instance in which any of their fires have taken effect, though they shoot at almost every squad that goes out, but generally at too great a distance to be of much effect.

MYRTILLIS.

Oct. 26, 1862.

For the Virginian.

According to an act of Friendship Baptist Church, Washington county, Va., Oct. 14th, 1862, we submit the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, The Rev. R. R. Owens has just taken his leave of us, as our Pastor, in which capacity he has served us so ably and faithfully for three years, therefore

1st. Resolved, That we regard him as a Christian gentleman of deep-toned piety—only fully able to defend the truth in its purity—esteemed and much beloved by all—that he leaves behind him an imperishable name—that his good deeds and Christian deportment will be cherished in the minds and hearts of all to whom he has ministered in holy things, while memory performs its office.

2d. Resolved, That, whilst it is with feelings of regret that we yield to the wishes of our dear brother, and give him up as a Pastor, yet we feel that he is actuated in his course by a sense of duty, and our loss, though heavy, will be the gain of others.

3d. Resolved, That our brother carries with him, as a Christian and Minister of the Gospel, the best esteem and affection of this Church, and we feel greatly indebted to him for his able defence of the truth among us, and we most cordially recommend him as an able Minister of God's Church, and bespeak for him a kind reception, and trust he will receive a hearty welcome wherever in the providence of God his lot may be cast.

4th. Resolved, That the prayers of this Church follow our much esteemed and beloved brother, that our Heavenly Father may sustain

him in his calling—that his health, though feeble, may be improved, and his life be long and useful—that peace and prosperity may attend him and his family.

5th. Resolved, That this Church respectfully solicit brother Owens to preach for us whenever a convenient opportunity offers.

JAS. O. SPEER,
WM. B. MCKEE,
B. D. HAWTHORN, } Committee.

For the Virginian.

Tribute of Respect.

At a meeting of the pupils of Abingdon Male Academy on the 12th inst. the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, It hath pleased an all-wise Providence to remove from our midst our much esteemed fellow student ANDY SMITH,

Resolved, That in his untimely death we have lost a much beloved associate and our school a diligent and exemplary member.

2d. That we deeply sympathize with his bereaved parents and friends in their sad affliction.

3d. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his parents, and the Abingdon Virginian requested to copy.

Committee.—Thos. White, Con. Trigg, W. Roadman, H. Haller, Tyler Heiskell, William Hearitz, C. C. Jenkins and David Ropp.

T. PRESTON, Chm'n.

W. COSBY, Sec'y.

Salt Excitement.

We were shown a letter yesterday from Dalton, Ga., to a gentleman of this city, which stated that a number of ladies in that place had gone to the State Depot and demanded of the agent some salt. He directed them to the Commissary's office, when they repaired thither and demanded salt or blood. That officer gave them some salt, which supplied their immediate wants. We regret the occurrence of such scenes, but not knowing all the facts, we refrain from any comments for the present.—*Atlanta Confederacy.*

A somewhat similar scene, we learn, transpired at the depot of the E. T. & Va. Railroad in this city, yesterday. A woman entered the depot and looking around spied a pile of sacks of salt in one corner. With a bound and an exclamation, "here it is!" she ripped open one of the sacks, filled a tin bucket in a twinkling, and then turning to the astonished President of the Road, who was standing by, triumphantly exclaimed, "I've got it—now touch me if you dare." It is needless to say that she was allowed to march off with her prize.—*Knoxville Register.*

Another Trouble in Ohio.

Another serious riot has occurred in Crawford county, Ohio. The Cleveland Leader says:

A regiment of soldiers, with loaded guns and fixed bayonets, and with a fearless fighting Colonel at its head, is wanted at Bucyrus, Crawford county, according to the reports which we receive from there. We have already noted the disturbance which prevailed in that town at the commencement of the draft, when the streets were paraded by bands of men hurrahing for Jeff Davis, and swearing that they would never support the Federal Government. That excitement was quelled, and temporary quiet ensued. A few days subsequent to that disturbance, Judge Hall was arrested for having resisted the draft, and taken to Camp Mansfield. This aroused the ire of the traitors, and they swore no more arrests should be made. On Saturday last, the town was intensely excited. The ring-leaders denounced the Federal Government and cheered for Jeff Davis, while their followers helped to swell the chorus of infamy and treason. One man was arrested and taken to jail, when the Sheriff refused to imprison him, and he was therefore released. Treason was rampant, and it was really dangerous for any man to appear on the streets and declare himself a Republican. What the end of this day's proceedings was we did not learn, but it is evident that there is a nest of traitors in Crawford county, which must be crushed out by military or civil power.

From the Kanawha Valley.

The following is the latest from the Valley, which is contained in the correspondence of the Philadelphia Press:

POINT PLEASANT, Oct. 31, 1862.

The intelligence comes in reliable that the advance up the Kanawha has proceeded rapidly, and without any check in its progress by the enemy. Gen. Cox, with the portion of the forces immediately under him, have reached Charleston without any opposition, and his advance is six miles further up the river.—The army, passing up the Valley of the Kanawha, presented a most picturesque and stirring sight.

NO REBELS THIS SIDE OF GAULEY.

It has been positively ascertained that there is no force this side of Gauley, that is, any force that is connected with the main body of the enemy. They seem to be falling back on a new base of operations. It was not expected that they would stay long in one place when Floyd got command.

GEN. MILROY.

Gen. Milroy, who, with his portion of our forces, moved up the valley from another base of operations, somewhere in the vicinity of Parkersburg or Clarksburg, was, by appointment, in the time table heretofore made out, to be at Gauley to-night, and by this strategic movement was to cut off the retreat of the enemy, who were, by the time table before mentioned, to be bagged somewhere between Gauley and Charleston, but the stupid rebels have again refused to enter into any such contract, and have persistently managed to keep just outside the short harness in which our profound strategic generals had intended to work them.

Simple and Effectual Cure for Diphtheria.

After bathing the feet, wrap up warm in bed, take a teaspoonful of the tincture of lobelia, and apply a tar poultice to the throat as warm as can be borne. It will afford relief in a short time.

Having tried this remedy successfully in a great many cases, the Editors of the Express will oblige a lady friend, by giving it publicity through their columns.—*Petersburg Express.*

From the Lynchburg Republican.

Western Virginia.

The rumor that the Yankees were in Monterey, in Highland, is revived. We understand that the Postmaster in Staunton wrote yesterday to the Postmaster in Charlottesville, requesting him to provide a place in that town for his Post-office, as the enemy were 5,000 strong at Monterey.

The Postmaster at Staunton is evidently frightened, as we believe the most reliable information to be that the Yankees are not in Monterey. We learn that officials of the government in Staunton place no reliance in the report, and do not anticipate any immediate advance from that direction. To provide against such a contingency, if it arise, we understand that a sufficient number of our troops are in a position to check the advance.

The Alabama '290' pursued by an English Cruiser.

THREE BRITISH MEN OF WAR AFTER HER.

The New York Times has the following paragraph, containing some disagreeable information about the gallant '290':

Upon receiving the information that Captain Semmes had disregarded the certificates of a British Consul, and in the face of the British consular seal, regularly affixed to papers establishing the British ownership of certain property captured by him, had deliberately proceeded to burn the property with the vessel which contained it, the British Consul in this city, we are informed, immediately took steps to represent these transactions most forcibly to Admiral Milne, commanding Her Britannic Majesty's squadron in the American waters. The Admiral, upon receiving the representations of the Consul, forthwith ordered three British men of war in pursuit of the Alabama, with orders, as we understand, to overhaul that vessel of wrath, and convey her to some British port, where her violations of international law may be judicially inquired into.

Conduct of Cheatham's Division.

No letters have been published during the war which have been more eagerly sought after than those of "Ora," the Army correspondent of the Mobile Register. In very truth, when he writes of a campaign, he might append to all his statements of incidents and battles the old saying, "Quorum pars fui." Here is his sketch of the conduct of Cheatham's Division in the battle of Perryville:

It was about 1 P. M., on the day of the 8th, that Gen. Polk ordered Cheatham's division, which had moved in the morning from our extreme left to the extreme right, to advance in line of battle in front of the enemy and drive back his columns. Cheatham's division, on this occasion, consisted of only Donelson's, Stewart's and Maney's brigades, Preston Smith's being absent, as also Withers' division, with Gen. Kirby Smith.

The enemy occupied a rolling ridge, or hill, immediately in front of our extreme right, and Col. Wharton, with his gallant Texan Rangers, was ordered to charge the enemy and drive them from it, which was done in most glorious style—Cheatham's division closely following up and taking possession of the hill. At this moment, Gen. Cheatham ordered Capt. M. Smith, Chief of Artillery, to bring up his battery and open on the enemy, who, although falling back, was still keeping up a galling fire. "Smith's battery," which was in the rear, was immediately advanced at a gallop, and in no time opened a terrible enfilading fire, with shell and canister; at not more than two hundred and fifty yards distance. A battery of twelve pounders of the enemy replied to us, and for more than an hour the fire was kept up without intermission on both sides. Our troops at the same time had steadily advanced, driving back the enemy, and were not so far in front as to become endangered by the fire of our battery. Gen. Cheatham here rode up and ordered our battery to "cease firing," as our forces were about to charge the enemy's lines, which had been re-formed on a succeeding ridge, under cover of a thick woods.

Some sixty yards to the rear of these woods, and on the left, there were several cornfields. Then came the terrible charge of the barefooted brave Tennesseans. Rising from the hollow and breasting the hill-side, they rushed forward like a mighty ocean wave, sweeping the enemy's ranks like grain before the scythe. Roar after roar of musketry now echoed over the hills until it became one continuous crash. Gap after gap was made in our ranks, but which were immediately closed up like a railing of iron, while the green hill-sides became dyed with human gore. Driving the enemy steadily back from the cover of the woods, our men pushed forward to the open cornfields, where four of their batteries opened on us a terrible fire, which was responded to by our own guns, shaking the earth with the thunder of artillery. Through that dense cloud of battle-smoke, lighted by the lurid glare of the flames which leaped from the cannon's mouth, onward came the fearless and stalwart Tennesseans of gallant Maney's brigade, and charging over headbeats of the enemy's dead, drove the Abolition foe from a battery of eight brass pieces, Napoleon 12 pounders. The slaughter was frightful.—Two more batteries were taken, but we could not hold the third.

Gen. Cheatham's division in this fight was opposed by 30,000 men! His loss in the three brigades which battled against and whipped this superior force, was 1,440 killed and wounded out of 4,500 men! Maney's brigade lost over 600!—more than one half, and the gallant Col. John H. Savage, of the 16th Tennessee, who was wounded, lost 199 men out of 316! Such fighting against such fearful odds is unparalleled in the history of warfare. That night the gallant and heroic Capt. Smith brought off the field seven of the captured Napoleon guns, destroying two caissons of ammunition, the enemy having carried off the limbers.

The gallant Gen. John H. Morgan was born in Huntsville, Ala., in the year 1827, and is consequently about 35 years of age.