

Bingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR

Friday, June 19, 1863.

A Bad Scare in Smyth County.

The good people of Marion, and the region round about, towards the Woolen Factory of Messrs. A. Thomas & Son, were thrown into the biggest sort of excitement on Saturday last, by a report that a large force of Yankees had, by some hocus pocus means, gotten into the vicinity of Messrs. Thomas' factory—a little above. But as the destination of the enemy had been very mysteriously and cautiously kept in the bosom of the daring commander, nobody could conjecture where the blow impending upon that usually considered safe locality would fall. All the horrors that an invading vandal force could bring upon an inoffensive and quiet people at home, minding their own business, were now about to be inflicted upon the good people of the beautiful village of Marion, and the surrounding section; but, they were resolved, if suffer they must, that they would strike for liberty at least one blow, and so far as they were concerned, the enemy should feel that there was a power still at home, that was not to be overrun and despoiled without an effort on their part to repel them, if not crush them. Every spare horse, of every description, old and young, was pressed into service; and every conceivable species of fire-arms, and swords too, if there were any, were brought into requisition; and every man, old and young, whether maimed or not, that could use a gun or pistol, or sword, were all eager for the fray, and only waited for definite information as to the locality of the enemy, to march and strike in defence of their homes, and wives and little ones. A courier arrives at Marion—he has spread the news all along as he comes—that a full regiment of Yankees is on the South Fork, five or six miles South of Marion. He saw them with his own eyes. Soon another courier arrives—a youth of that very extensive family that has its locality every where and in every neighborhood, by the name of Jones. He was considered a very "reliable" boy—(now if we could only find the "reliable" gentleman, we would be just fixed)—and reported he saw full a thousand, one-half mounted cavalry, and the other half on foot, certain, and no mistake. His report was rather doubted, but he was vouched for as strictly "reliable," and that every word he would say might be fully confided in—for he was a boy of the strictest veracity, and not to be doubted.—Though there was no time to be lost in preparing to go out and meet the foe, and punish them for their temerity, one or two of the less credulous determined to *spy* the courier, and by cross-examination, try and get the whole truth. He was "taken apart" and "examined" as to the truth of his report, and he asseverated most positively that his report was true. Immediately the commander of the regiment at Glade Spring Depot was telegraphed as to the reported presence of the enemy, and to hold himself in readiness to come to the rescue at a moment's notice, and the citizen soldiery put themselves in motion, and started for the field of action and glory. Soon, however, the truth was developed, and the one thousand men, mounted and unmounted, dwindled down to two men—John V. Duncan and an associate, by the name of Carlton, who had been detailed to gather up deserters and conscripts, but instead of attending to their legitimate and proper business, had gotten drunk, we suppose, and were cutting up generally, and maltreating several inoffensive citizens.

The facts are about these—Carlton went to the house of old Mr. Wolfe and demanded a horse. The old gentleman either had no horse, or refused to let him have one. He then went to Mr. Campbell Anderson and demanded a horse. Anderson told him he had only five—three were colts. His wife had rode one, and he expected to ride the only remaining one to Marion. A good deal was said between the parties. Soon Duncan came up. He drew his pistol, and Carlton his gun, and with a bitter oath, required Anderson to "take the road." Not being armed, he thought "discretion the better part of valor," and "took the road." They proceeded then to old man Wolfe's. Carlton went into his porch, gathered him by the collar, denounced him as an old scoundrel and liar and made him "take the road," and marched him, and Anderson towards the river, and were just about making them "take water," when some of the neighbors, who had got wind of the matter, came to the rescue, and Duncan and Carlton were made to "take the road" to Marion, and there safely lodged in jail. The Court being in session Tuesday, the Grand Jury indicted Duncan, the officer in command of the Conscript corps, and yesterday evening he was brought to the jail of this county, from which he escaped 26th August, 1861. It will be recollected that Duncan was confined in the jail of this county upon a charge of murder.

It will be seen in our news columns that "Fighting Joe" has again "changed his base," and that that now remains of the Yankees near Fredericksburg, is a few deserted tents, smoke from smouldering fires, and the wide-spread evidences of their barbarism and brutality.

A Fight with Deserters.

A friend at Hillsville, Carroll county, gives us the outline of a chunk of a fight that occurred in Carroll on Saturday last, between the Enrolling officer, assisted by Capt. T. L. Hale and 6 others, and a party of 10 deserters from the 29th Va. Regiment. These deserters had passed near Hillsville the day before, and had told some persons they would die before they would be taken. The Enrolling officer with Capt. Hale and six others pursued and overtook them on Saturday, dismounted and charged upon them. They seemingly surrendered, and during a parley, some words occurred between Capt. Hale and one of them, when Capt. H. fired on and knocked him down. He soon rose and fired on the Captain, the ball taking effect near the groin, passing through the hip, inflicting a very severe, and it was feared, a fatal wound. Both parties then commenced firing, but the deserters being better prepared to load quick, the others fell back to load and again pursued. The deserters, however, escaped in the brush, two of them being wounded, one supposed mortally. Part of their guns and knapsacks were captured.

The same letter also informs us of a sad and fatal accident that occurred near Hillsville on the same day. Mr. John Worrell, an old and respectable citizen, was riding a horse with harness on him, when the horse took fright and ran, throwing Mr. Worrell, when his feet became entangled in the gearing. He was dragged some distance and almost instantly killed.

Home Defence.

We invite attention to an annihilation of Gen. Richardson's order calling out the militia for home defence. It will be seen that every non-conscript from 18 to 45, as well those who have substitutes as those who have not, are called upon to report themselves; and that those who have heretofore been exempted are to be re-examined, many of whom, doubtless, will be called upon to make a "change of base."

There are many grumblers at this order, principally among those who have paid substitutes to do their fighting, but this call, it is argued, is for the defence of their immediate homes, while substitutes are defending the Government. It is right, and each man and boy, no matter what his age, if he is able to carry a gun and has brains enough to shoot it, should be drilled and disciplined, and prepared to defend his own door. It is not the first time in the history of the world that men have been called upon to do this thing, when thieves and barbarians infested their country, and the mere knowledge that such is the fact here, will stop many a Yankee raid, and change many a Yankee opinion.

The family of Jas. S. McConnell Esq., has suffered deeply in this war. But a few weeks ago, one of his sons, a fine looking and excellent young man, fell mortally wounded at Chancellorsville, and a few days ago, another, Thos. J. McConnell, just past his 18th year, fell mortally wounded at Culpeper.—Such bereavements are truly painful, and nothing but the consciousness that they fell in the noble discharge of duty can bind up the bleeding hearts at home.

Mr. McConnell's remains reached here on Wednesday night. He was shot through the head, and lived five days.

From Vicksburg, the news grows better. Grant is surrounded by countless difficulties, not the least of which is, the hauling of muddly, tepid water eight miles for his thirty men, broiling in an atmosphere where the mercury rises to 90 in the shade. Pemberton and his gallant men are cheerful and full of hope, and don't intend to "give up the ship." Gen. Johnston had commenced to cross the Big Black at Moore's Bluff, with a large army, anxious to "pitch in."

Lt. Col. Salyer.

Lt. Col. Salyer, of the 50th Va. Regt., having been reported mortally wounded or killed in the battle of Chancellorsville, writes a few lines to the Richmond Enquirer by flag of truce on Saturday last, stating that he is a prisoner at the Old Capitol in Washington, nearly well of his wound, and expects to be exchanged soon.

A Cincinnati dispatch dated the 10th, says that Carter's forces drove Pegram from Monticello, Ky., on the 9th, and were pursuing him toward Cumberland Gap, having captured a number of prisoners.

Official.

The following is the official vote of this county, by delegates to the Legislature: Cummings 1003, Graham 597, Dunn, 502, Terry 420, Byars 411.

The Wytheville Dispatch, of the 13th, brings the death of HAROLD S. MATHEWS, Esq., its editor and founder. He was in the midst of his prime and usefulness, a genial and accomplished gentleman.

Of 500 negroes recently sent to the Negro Republic of San Domingo, one-half have already died of diseases of the climate, and the other half it is thought will soon follow.

From every direction tidings come up of unusually promising crops. This will give us another year of grace from Yankee starvation.

Another Victory.

The telegraph brought us the news on Wednesday, that Gen. Early stormed the enemy's entrenchments at Winchester, on Monday, capturing train, artillery, &c. Milroy was in command of the Federal forces.

The Lynchburg Republican of Wednesday, brings the following particulars:

The Operations about Winchester.

From an officer of the army who left Woodstock at 4 o'clock Monday morning, we learn that on Friday morning General Ewell, with his army, appeared unexpectedly at Front Royal, eighteen miles from Winchester, and immediately pushing on towards the latter place, encountered a force of the enemy when within ten miles of Winchester, with which skirmishing immediately commenced, but in a very short time the enemy commenced retreating, our forces pursuing, the skirmishing being still kept up.

On Saturday morning, the advance was resumed, the enemy contesting the ground gallantly, but being compelled to fall back before our advance. About noon Saturday our forces reached Winchester, and a flag of truce was sent in demanding the surrender of the town. The officer commanding the garrison replied that he would abide the issues of battle, and that if Gen. Ewell attacked him he would burn every house in the place. Gen. Ewell immediately returned for answer to this barbarous threat that if any house was burned other than those fired in the course of the bombardment, he would hoist the black flag and show no mercy to such savages. The bombardment of the enemy's works then immediately commenced, and was continued until dark. On Sunday morning it was renewed at an early hour, and continued until late in the night, the cannonading being very heavy and the enemy defending themselves desperately. On Monday morning, at 4 o'clock, our informant left Woodstock, but previous to his leaving the firing had been resumed. Of subsequent operations he is not advised.

General Lee's dispatch announces the capture of the town with its artillery, and it is to be presumed that the enemy with their main force, escaped capture, or some mention would have been made of them. They were reported at eleven regiments when the attack first commenced, averaging 500 each, but were afterwards reinforced with two full regiments, making the total force about 7500 under the command of the infamous Milroy.

General Robert E. Rodes is reported shot through the hand. General William Smith, lately elected Governor of Virginia, one account says is killed, and another reports only wounded. We sincerely trust that neither of these reports are true, and are induced to doubt them from the fact that had high officers like Gen. Rodes and Smith met with any casualty, Gen. Lee would have been informed of it, and would have communicated the intelligence to the government. His dispatch says nothing of them, and we therefore doubt it.

Lt. John Roberts and private Samuel L. Stone, of the 37th Regiment, each of whom lost a leg at the battle of Chancellorsville, have returned to their homes, and are doing well. The latter lost one leg, and was severely wounded in the other.

An Election.

An election for Mayor and Councilmen will be held at the Court House in this place on Saturday, the 20th. The ringing of the bell will be the signal for opening the polls.

An Interesting Expedition.

The following extract of a letter from Lieut. Warren M. Hopkins, of Gen. W. E. Jones' Staff, will be found graphic and interesting.—An account of the expedition has already appeared in this paper, but not in detail:

We left our camp on the 21st of April, and traveled over a very rough road and through rain to Moorefield, Hardy co. When we arrived here we found the South Branch of the Potomac too high to be forded, consequently we had to march around by Petersburg to cross the river. The ford was deep, rough, rapid and dangerous. One man of the 6th Va. Cavalry was drowned. The command being across, we moved down to the old fields, about 8 miles below Moorefield, on the opposite side of the river, thence to a narrow pass, Greenland, where the enemy, in a log church, attempted to stop us. As soon as it became dark, the Maryland Battalion and White's Battalion charged the building and succeeded in firing it—the enemy were then compelled to surrender. We captured about 80 prisoners, killed two and wounded several. Our loss was 4 killed and 22 wounded. We then moved on, traveled all night and reached Rousesburg the next evening, and attempted to destroy the bridge and trestle work across Cheat river, on the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. This we failed to do, because some officers did not carry out the General's orders. We then moved on westward to Evansville, thence to Independence, where we destroyed a bridge, thence to Morgantown, Monongahalia co., within 8 miles of the Pennsylvania line, thence towards Barriokville, where we destroyed two bridges. The enemy did not expect us at this point, and were prepared for us at Fairmont, Marion co. They came out and attempted, with 400 infantry, to stop us, but we met them, and after a fight of four hours, we captured nearly 300, killed 12 and wounded several. Our loss one killed and 5 wounded. Within ten minutes after the surrender, reinforcements came from Grafton, about 150 Infantry and three pieces of artillery, but two of our Regiments, the 7th and 12th Va. Cavalry, behaved very gallantly, and soon succeeded in driving the enemy back. We then destroyed a magnificent iron bridge at Fairmont, the most costly one on the road.—It cost half a million of dollars. We then moved towards Clarksburg, but did not go to that place, as there were about 5000 Yankees there. We turned to the left when within five miles of the town, and crossed the Parkersburg R. R. at Bridgeport, where we destroyed a bridge and trestle work, and captured 41 prisoners. We then went to Philipi, and sent the captured horses and cattle to the Valley, and the effective portion of the Brigade turned towards Backanon, Lewis co., where we joined Imboden. We remained here two days and then started west, and Imboden started towards Summersville, Nicholas co. We destroyed five bridges and a tunnel

on the Parkersburg R. R., between West Union and Cairo, Ritchie co. We captured a good many prisoners along this road, and then turned south to the Oil Wells, on the Little Kanawha River, in Wirt co., where we destroyed 15,000 barrels of oil, about 50 engines, a good many boats and all the machinery at the place. We then traveled over the most mountainous and meanest road I ever saw, towards Glenville, Gilmer co., thence to Suttonville, Braxton co., thence to Summersville, Nicholas co., thence to Lewisburg, Greenbrier county, thence to the Hot and Warm Springs, thence to Strubling Springs, thence to Harrisonburg. The whole trip sums up about as follows: We killed about 50; captured about 625 prisoners, about 1000 horses, 1000 cattle, about 500 stand of arms. We destroyed on the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. 9 bridges and one train of cars with engine attached, on the Parkersburg R. R. we destroyed 7 bridges, a tunnel and one engine, with many cars, and destroyed the Oil Wells, with 15,000 barrels of oil, and marched about 670 miles in 32 days. Our loss on the trip was about 20 killed and 20 wounded. I suppose we lost about 400 horses, some saddles and arms. We were within 8 miles of Pennsylvania, and within 25 miles of the Ohio river. We passed through a corner of Maryland, and over some of the roughest country I ever saw.

For the Virginian, Correspondent
CAMP SALTVILLE, June 10th, 1863.

Messrs. Editors:—Seeing my name published in your paper as a deserter, I deem it due to myself to make the following correction:

I served as a volunteer in Co. E, 50th Va. Regt., in 1861—I did not re-enlist in that company, but joined Co. K, 63d Va. Regt., in April, 1862, to which I have belonged ever since. The 50th and 63d Regts. belonged to the same Brigade from July, 1862, to March, 1863, at which time, the 63d came here, leaving the 50th at Dublin. I had a conversation with Capt. of Co. E, (Capt. King) who was here in April, and he did not even intimate that he claimed me as a member of his company. P. J. ROLAN.

I do certify that P. J. Rolan has served as a volunteer in Co. K, 63d Va. Regt., from April, 1862, up to the present time, and he has not been absent without leave from the company at any time. JOHN F. OURY, Capt. Co. K, 63d Va. Regt.

The Late Fight in Culpeper.

Our losses in the late affair in Culpeper do not seem to have been as great as were at first supposed. The enemy only claim to have captured two hundred prisoners, instead of five or six hundred, as the first accounts represented. The Richmond Enquirer states that we lost some stores, camp equipage, and about 350 in killed, wounded and missing. The enemy's loss in killed and wounded is not correctly known, but must have reached between two and three hundred, while his loss in prisoners certainly numbered three hundred and eighty, including fourteen commissioned officers, all of whom have arrived in Richmond. Some twelve or fifteen of his wounded fell into our hands. The severest fighting was near Brandy Station, towards the close of the engagement, being a desperate hand to hand fight of cavalry.

Accounts of the battle from various sources present an array of brilliant pictures, which may well adorn the history of the war.—The spirit of our gallant soldiers, fighting though they were at a disadvantage, was brought out in its noblest light. Hand to hand they fought, with sabre and musket, and drove back the assaults on every part of the field. In one instance the enemy charged a battery, and our gunners met them with their rammers, unhorsed the first who dashed forward, and aided effectually in beating back the rest. Of such incidents the fight was full.—Lynchburg Virginian.

Execution of Confederate Officers as Spies.

An official dispatch from General Rosecrans communicates the following facts, furnished him by Col. Baird, Federal Commander of the Post at Franklin, Tennessee:

Two men came into camp about dark, dressed in our uniform, with horse equipments to correspond, saying they were Col. Anton, Inspector General, and Major Dunlap, Assistant, having an order from Adjutant-General Townsend, and your order to inspect outposts, but their conduct was so singular that we arrested them, and they insisted that it was very important to go to Nashville to-night. Col. Baird asked if there were any such persons in the army; and if so, their descriptions. I replied at once that they were probably spies, and directed him to order a court, and if they proved to be spies to execute them immediately, which was done, and they were tried, condemned to be hung, and the sentence was carried into execution before 10 o'clock this morning.

On being discovered, they confessed they were officers in the rebel army, one a Colonel, named Lawrence W. Orton, formerly W. Orton Williams. One claims to be a first cousin to Robert Lee, and is said to have been chief of artillery on Gen. Bragg's staff, and formerly to have been on Gen. Scott's staff of the 2d regular cavalry.

Great Salt Mine.

It appears from scientific investigation that the salt deposit at New Iberia, Louisiana, is of the most extensive and wonderful description. According to recent Yankee accounts, for vastness and purity it is unequalled on the globe. One penny-a-liner says: "Imagine, if you can, the granite quarry of Massachusetts, or the marble quarry of Vermont, to be solid deposits of pure rich salt, clean and transparent as so much clear white ice, in some solid, inexhaustible mass, underlying the earth, and you then acquire an imperfect idea of the vastness of this salt formation."

Mosby at Work.

On Thursday last, Major Mosby crossed the Potomac at Seneca Falls, into Maryland, and attacked a company of Yankees stationed there. Our men succeeded in killing five or six, and capturing seventeen, with horses and equipments, together with two negroes, and recrossed the river into Virginia. The prisoners arrived here yesterday evening. It is reported that Mosby lost two of his officers, killed in the engagement. This bold and daring exploit, performed within seventeen miles of Washington, has but few parallels in the history of the war.—R. Whig.

Highly Important from Mexico.

The Fall of Puebla and the Surrender of the Mexican Army Confirmed.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 7, 1863.

The steamship Constitution has arrived from Panama, bringing, via Acapulco, dates from Puebla to the 18th, and from the City of Mexico to the 19th of May.

On the 15th and 16th of May the French were repulsed before Fortress Carmen.

The garrison and inhabitants of Puebla were reduced to a state of starvation, and their ammunition entirely gave out before they would consent to surrender.

Gen. Ortega was greatly disappointed in Gen. Comonfort not cutting his way through with supplies.

On the 17th of May, Gen. Forsy sent a flag of truce to Gen. Ortega, offering to allow the Mexican officers and soldiers to march out, the officers with their side arms, provided they would give a parole not to serve against the French again.

This was refused by Gen. Ortega.

Meanwhile, Gen. Ortega spiked his cannon, burnt his gun carriages, destroyed the arms of his infantry, and then surrendered as prisoners of war.

Gen. Regais and his aids, and also the advance officers, preferring death to being prisoners, committed suicide by shooting themselves.

The Advance of the French army is at Cholula, six miles beyond Puebla, on the way to the capital.

The Mexicans are much embittered against the French.

All Frenchmen in the city of Mexico have been ordered to leave the country within eight days.

The Mexicans are determined to defend the approaches to their capital to the last, and drive the invaders of their country back.—The greatest enthusiasm prevails among them to engage in the common struggle, notwithstanding the disaster which betel the heroic garrison of Puebla.

In San Francisco the houses of the Mexicans are draped in mourning, while the French have the tri color everywhere flying.

The foregoing news is from Mexican sources.

Escape of Confederate Officers from a Yankee Steamer.

Vallandigham Nominated for Governor of Ohio—His Restoration Demanded by the Democracy, &c., &c.

Richmond, June 15th.

Northern dates of the 13th received. On a steamer which was conveying 300 Confederate officers from Fortress Monroe to Fort Delaware, Wednesday, the prisoners overpowered the guard, captured the boat, and ran her in near the Virginia shore, when all but 26 escaped.

Gen. Dix sent Cavalry after them, but up to the latest advices had not captured them.

The Democratic State Convention at Columbus, Ohio, has unanimously nominated Vallandigham for Governor. Resolutions denouncing his arrest and banishment, and to provide for the appointment of a committee to demand his restoration, were adopted.

Alleged Impostor.

The Francis T. Blair, jr., whose case has been ventilated in this column, has been pronounced an impostor by parties acquainted with the Blair family of Missouri and Maryland. If Blair is an impostor he will not be the first who has imposed his pretensions on the military authorities of Richmond. It is a lucky circumstance that he is exposed so early. Others here have run their race, and left at the moment appointed for them, carrying valuable information to the enemy.—Richmond Examiner.

The Dixon Murder.

The trial of Robert S. Ford, charged with shooting and killing Robert E. Dixon, Clerk of the House of Representatives, on the 24th of April, 1863, is progressing in Richmond. The Examiner says the prisoner is a young light-haired man. His manner was cool and unembarrassed. But for an angry roll of his large blue eyes, it would be difficult to believe that he had ever been or could be a principal actor in a tragedy so deep and bloody as the one claiming the attention of the Court.

The following statistical extract from Rosecrans' report of the battle of Fort Fisher, is taken from the Journal of Commerce:

We moved on the enemy with the following force: Infantry, 41,421. Artillery, 2,225. Cavalry, 3,296. Total, 46,940.

We fought the battle with the following force: Infantry, 37,977. Artillery, 2,233. Cavalry, 3,200. Total, 43,400.

We lost in killed—Officers, 92; enlisted men, 1,441. Total, 1,533.

We lost in wounded—Officers, 334; enlisted men, 6,861. Total, 7,245. Total killed and wounded, 8,778. Being twenty and one-third per cent. of the forces in action.

Rosecrans then estimates our forces at 62,480—puts our loss down at 14,500, and claims to have whipped Bragg in every fight of equal numbers on equal ground.

He only failed of achieving a crushing victory by extending his right wing too far out. They fired 2,000,000 rounds of musketry, and estimate that one ball out of 146 hit a rebel. They fired 20,000 rounds of artillery, and believe that they put one rebel out of the fight every 27th shot. This is the way they arrive at our loss. His report concludes: "On the whole it is evident that we fought superior numbers on unknown ground, inflicting much more injury than we suffered."

—Mobile Register.

General Bragg has been associated with the Protestant Episcopal Church. He was confirmed a few days since, at his quarters at Shelbyville, Tenn. Rt. Rev. Bishop Elliot, of the diocese of Georgia, officiating.

\$50 REWARD.

On the night of the 13th inst., at Saltville, either strayed or was stolen, a large light Bay Horse, dark streak running along his back many very light in quantity and dark, a small knot on his left fore pastern joint, carries his ears erect like a rabbit, a natural and rapid runner. I will pay the above sum for his delivery, or on for information by which I can get him.

Address: S. CHAPMAN, Saltville, Va.

June 19, 1863.—3w