

## Abingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR.

Friday, Aug. 28, 1863.

### Gen. John B. Floyd

Died at the residence of Mr. Robert W. Hughes, in this vicinity, on Wednesday morning last, the 26th inst. He had been long and painfully afflicted with chronic inflammation of the stomach, but bore his sufferings without a murmur. He was a man of great kindness of heart and of strong points of character, and has left but few of higher order of talent or more devotion to the cause of his bleeding country.

### The Advance in Tennessee.

We happened to be on the line of railroad between Knoxville and Athens, Tenn., on Saturday and Sunday last, when a portion of Rosecrans' army, supposed to be 10,000 strong, was said to be at Washington, Rhea county, some 20 miles from the road. Considerable excitement prevailed, thousands of rumors were afloat, and consequently nothing positively reliable could be obtained. The enemy were certainly on the north bank of the river at or near Washington, comprising infantry, cavalry and artillery. It was said they had pontoons with them, and would try to effect a crossing at Washington.

On Friday, the day set apart by President Davis for fasting, humiliation and prayer, while the population of Chattanooga were in their houses of worship, the cowardly barbarians commenced shelling the city, killing four men and a woman and child in the street. On Saturday the shelling was continued, and late in the afternoon the sharpshooters on both sides were at work. It was thought by military men that the attack on Chattanooga was intended as a feint to cover a flank movement higher up the river, which we think very likely, as the force at Washington was said to be much the largest.

We heard the rumor at Kingston on Saturday, that Federal troops were advancing through Jamestown and Big Creek Gaps, but it was not regarded as very reliable.

A proper spirit seemed to prevail among our soldiery as far as we had an opportunity of observing. They all seemed to be active and eager, and confident of Bragg's ability, with the assistance of Buckner and Forrest, to thrash the enemy back. True, we saw a number of men covered with gold lace and brass buttons rushing upon the trains with a view of escaping to a place of safety, but of course they had pressing duties at a distance, and were anxious to discharge them, when they would return and fight the Yankee—after they have been routed.

### The Impressment Law.

There seems to be a misunderstanding about the mode of fixing the value of property impressed, for the use of the Government. The schedule of prices fixed by the State Commissioners, only applies where the property impressed is in the hands of second parties, or where it is necessary for the Government to accumulate supplies; in all other cases the value of the property impressed is fixed by the owners choosing one person and the Government agent another, and they choosing a third party, if they fail to agree upon what is fair and just compensation. It is plain that this is the fair and equitable mode of fixing the value of all property impressed, unless in the hands of speculators, for the obvious reason that the value of almost every species of property varies with the locality—and when the citizens' property is impressed it is his right to demand that the law shall be complied with.

### From Charleston.

The news from Charleston is not as encouraging as we would like to have it. Forts Sumter and Wagner are in a very critical condition. The heaviest armament, we presume, that has ever been brought to bear upon a single point, has been pouring its missiles upon Sumter for some days past, and one face of the wall is said to be gradually crumbling. Our forces, however, are holding out manfully, and are cheerful and determined. If Sumter falls, they have still stronger positions between that and the city, which they regard as impregnable.

### Abingdon Male Academy.

The rumor having gone abroad that this Institution, in consequence of being used at present as a hospital, would not be open for pupils on the first of September as advertised, we deem it proper to state that it is only in temporary use, and will, it is more than probable, be vacated by the sick in a few days, and the school will be uninterrupted. It may also be proper to state that there is no contagious diseases among the sick there quartered, the most of whom are convalescent.

### Impressment of Horses.

Monday was an exciting day in Abingdon, in consequence of an order from Headquarters to impress several thousand horses in Southwestern Virginia. Many were impressed, and still the work continues. We hope the officers who are attending to this thing will not deprive farmers of the necessary stock for their agricultural operations, while official clerks and others who have but little use for horses are unimpounded.

### Another Raid.

We have the rumor, well authenticated, that the enemy, in large force, are attempting a raid on New River Bridge. Gen. Jones, with an inferior force, is confronting them, but the news is they are still advancing. Reinforcements have been sent from Lynchburg, and we hope to hear of the route and capture of the marauders.

### An Affecting Scene.

The Rebel gives the following affecting description of the first intimation given to the citizens of Chattanooga of the presence of the enemy on the 21st inst.:

One of the most impressive scenes we have ever witnessed, occurred in the Presbyterian Church on yesterday. The services were being held by the Rev. Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans, and the pews and aisles were crowded with officers and soldiers, private citizens, ladies and children. A prayer had been said and one of the hymns sung. The organist was absent, "and I will be thankful," continued the minister, "if some one in the congregation will raise the tune." The tune was raised: the whole congregation joined in singing, as in days gone by; the sacred notes rose in humble melody from the house of God, swelling their holy tribute to His glory, and dying away at last like echoes of departed days; the second, or what is known as the calm prayer, was begun, when out upon the sullen voice of a hostile gun—ringing from the North bank of the river, and echoing back and back among the far off glens of Lookout peak. It was sudden; it took every one by surprise; for few if any expected the approach of an enemy. The day was one of fasting and prayer; the public mind was upon its worship. Its serenity had not been crossed by a shadow. And it was not until another and another of these unchristian accents trembled in the air, and bled themselves away to the hills, that it was generally realized that the enemy were shelling the town.

Without a word of warning, in the midst of church service, whilst many thousands of men and women thronged the several places of public worship, the basest of human fiends had begun an attack upon a city crowded with hospitals and refugees from the bloody pathway of their march, and in no wise essential to a direct assault.

There was a little disturbance in the galleries; the noise in the streets grew louder; near the door several persons who had other duties, military or domestic, to look to, hastily withdrew; the mass of the congregation, however, remained in their places, and the man of God continued his prayer. It was impressive in the extreme. There he stood, this exile preacher from the far South, with eyes and hands raised to Heaven, not a muscle or expression changed, not a note altered, not a sign of confusion, excitement or alarm, naught but the calm, christian face uplifted and full of the unconsciousness to all save its devotions, which beam from the soul of true piety. Not only the occasion, but the prayer was solemnly, eloquently impressive. The reverend doctor prayed, and his heart was in his prayer: it was the long prayer, and he did not shorten it; he prayed it to the end, and the cannon did not drown it from those who listened, as they could not drown it from the ear of God. He closed, and then, without panic or consternation, although excited and confused, the dense crowd separated whilst shells were falling on the right and left.

All honor to this noble preacher and to those brave women and children.

### Attempt to Break Jail.

Tuesday night, the 18th inst., between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock, Capt. Barker hearing a sound in the "inner prison," that did not sound altogether right, called for a posse of the Provost Guard, one of whom was on duty at the jail, (and heard the same sound,) and proceeded to the cell in which four prisoners were confined, where he discovered they were boring round the bolt by which the door was secured. After searching the persons of the prisoners and removing all to another cell but one—Hordy Pool—made search of the cell, and discovered an augur, two chisels and a pair of blacksmiths tongs, which Capt. Barker learned by the confession of one of the prisoners, were brought in by Mrs. Leftwich, the wife of one of the prisoners. She had come up from Bristol that day, on a visit to her husband, and we suppose had the tools concealed upon her person.—The gentlemen are now securely ironed.

It will be difficult in future for the wives of prisoners to visit their husbands in the jail at this place, as Capt. Barker's confidence and kindness have been so shamefully abused by Mrs. Leftwich.

### Sick Soldiers.

Within a day or two past, several hundred sick soldiers have been sent to Emory and this place from Knoxville. One of the large hotels here has been converted into a hospital, and other buildings will doubtless be required for the same purpose.

### Mosby Promoted.

We learn from the Bristol Advocate that Capt. Mosby has been promoted to the rank of Colonel. He richly deserves the honor, for but few have rendered better service or are a greater terror to the Yankees.

### Latest from Tennessee.

Up to the time of going to press, we have nothing reliable from the "situation" in East Tennessee. It is rumored all through this country that the Yankees have taken Chattanooga, Kingston, &c., not one word of which is true. It may be that they are attempting to reach Kingston or Loudon, but that they will be permitted to get to the railroad we do not believe. Gen. Polk, it is said, is in command of our forces, in consequence of the illness of Gen. Bragg, and every inch of ground will be contested. Nothing but skirmishing has yet occurred, tho' a general engagement is expected within a few days.

P. S.—We have just learned that the Yankees crossed the Tennessee at Pinhook, not far from Washington on Wednesday, and are evidently aiming for Loudon.

Pool and Leftwich, in confinement under charge of larceny in Goodson, were examined on Monday last, and sent on for further trial.

On Wednesday, John McCrackin, charged with the murder of Joseph Thomas, in the lower end of this county, had his Examining court, and was discharged upon proof that he acted in self-defence.

Two Yankee gunboats, with a number of prisoners and valuable property, were captured off the mouth of the Rappahannock on Saturday night last, by a few of our marines.

We direct attention to the card of Col. Jas. K. Gibson in another column, calling upon holders of certificates for Coupon and Registered Bonds to present them. He asks and expects immediate attention.

Hon. Robert Jamison, Jr., was elected at Montgomery, Ala., on the 22d inst., to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Yancy in the U. S. Senate.

The Yankees intend to make Martinsburg the base of their Valley operations hereafter. Winchester is too far from the Baltimore and Ohio road.

### For the Virginian.

### The Ladies versus Private Soldiers.

Messrs. Editors:—The estimable class of the community called private soldiers, have many grievances, not the least of which is the bogus one, that the ladies do not admire them, and do not respect them, because they are privates in the army. This superciliousness of the feminine kind is so galling to the feelings of some high-minded privates, that they have not scrupled to bring their complaints before the public eye, through the columns of the newspaper press. Ladies are not chary of recognizing private soldiers, and do not respect them the less because of their rank. The reason for females, generally speaking, treating private soldiers with a distant and cool reserve, lies more with themselves than perhaps they possibly imagine.—Young ladies are often met in the streets by dirty, awkward, loutish and round shouldered specimens of Confederate independence, who think themselves warranted in staring out of countenance every feminine passer-by. They seem to imagine that their uniform, or rather their semblance of such, should be an "open sesame" to all the circles of polite society, and that they should be on an equal footing with those whom education and refinement have placed far above them. The soldiers of the army of South Western Virginia, have every opportunity to be a well drilled and thoroughly soldier-like class of men, and well dressed and cleanly in their appearance. Let them act up to the maxim that "cleanliness is next to godliness," leave the boorish propensities of camp life behind them when they visit ladies, make a clean shirt and clean face the rule rather than the exception, and they will be better appreciated by the community at large. The noble army of Northern Virginia have never complained of the scorn of ladies, even though they are often both ragged and dirty, for, God knows, they have had other work to do than dance attendance on ladies. Many of the young gallants of that army, previous to the war, may have been proficient in lisping the dulcet accents of flattery in the ear of flirting beauty, and perhaps they may also have been adepts in the art of dressing well, but who can recognize in the smoke-begrimed and dusty, yet exultant veteran heroes, a single trait of the fancy fop, or male flirt? The cause for which they have fought so well, and for which they are willing to die, has transformed their souls from that of the common class of mortals, into that of god-like heroes, whose actions will live through all time. It seems the height of frivolousness, in this hour of our country's peril, to hear any soldier prate about not being sufficiently recognized by the ladies. Let us banish all soft emotions from our minds, and let the one idea, what can we do for our country? possess the hearts of us all.

### From the Army.

The Central train last evening brought the usual report from the army of Northern Virginia—"all quiet in front"—"nothing new." Meade having fallen back, our troops are left in undisputed possession of the territory on this side of the Rappahannock, and there is no immediate prospect of any important military movement. The army is in superb condition, in fine spirits, and ready to meet the enemy again whenever the Commanding General shall will it. Several thousand absentees have returned since the President's proclamation. Meade's army, on the contrary, is said to be greatly demoralized, and desertions are frequent. The Northern papers boast that conscripts are being forwarded at the rate of a thousand a day, but that is all empty talk. The article which we publish elsewhere, from the New York Times, indicates quite plainly that Meade is in no condition to offer or accept battle. It would not be surprising if he should withdraw his forces to the defenses of Washington, and there await the results expected as the result of the draft at the North.—Richmond Whig.

### From the Richmond Examiner.

### The Latest from Charleston.

Operations before Charleston—Furious Attack on Fort Sumter—the Walls give way under the Terrific Fire—Threats to Shell Charleston—some few Shells Thrown in the City—Gen. Beauregard's Reply.

CHARLESTON, August 20.—The firing of the Parrot guns upon Fort Sumter to-day, was exceedingly heavy, but not so accurate as heretofore. About noon, the flag was shot away, but was soon replaced. No casualties are reported. Colonel Alfred Rhett is commanding, and the garrison is stout-hearted.

The battery of Parrot guns is distant from Sumter two miles and five-eighths. The missiles used are two hundred pound bolts, eight inches in diameter, two feet long, with flat head of chilled iron. Shells of the same dimension are also used.

Up to Wednesday night, the third day of the attack, 1,972 of these missiles struck Sumter, and, including to-day, 2,500 have struck. The damage is, of course, considerable; and, for the last two days, all the guns of the south face of the fort have been disabled.

Yesterday, about four o'clock, the ironclads formed in line of battle, to renew the attack on Sumter, but the Fort opened at long range from the east face, and they retired without attacking. To-day the Ironsides and two Monitors kept up a fire on Wagner, at intervals, and the Yankee sappers have begun to make approaches on that battery, from the nearest work. A shot from Wagner disabled one of the Parrot guns, and the James Island batteries, under Lieutenant Colonel Yates, exploded two of the enemy's ammunition chests.

### SECOND DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, August 21.—The fire of the enemy's land batteries has been heavier than ever to-day. A new battery of Parrot guns opened on Sumter this morning, and the fires have been concentrated upon the east battery and its guns. The south wall of the fort is now a pile of rubbish. On the north the wall is also crumbling into a heap of ruins.

The flag has been shot away twice to-day, and six times during the attack. The flag-staff is shot off, and the flag flies from the ruins of the south wall.

Just before sunset Sumter fired several shots at the Ironsides, which was engaging Battery Wagner.

A Monitor this morning fired at Sumter while making a reconnaissance, but was not replied to. There is no report of casualties. The sappers are making a regular approach on Battery Wagner.

The Yankee officer killed on Monday was a captain of one of the Monitors.

### THIRD DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, August 22.—From 5 o'clock, A. M., until 7 o'clock, P. M., yesterday, the enemy's fire on Fort Sumter was very heavy. Nine hundred and twenty-three shots were fired, and seven hundred and four struck the fort either outside or inside. The eastern face of the fort was badly battered. Some guns on the east end and the northeast face were disabled. The flag was shot down four times. Five privates and two negroes were wounded in Sumter.

The enemy's fire on Wagner caused five casualties, including Captain Robert Pringle killed. Our sharpshooters are annoying the Yankees considerably. It is supposed that the enemy burst one of their Parrot guns yesterday afternoon.

At 11 o'clock last night, a communication from the enemy, unsigned, was sent to General Beauregard, demanding the surrender of Sumter and Morris Island batteries, with a notification that the city would be shelled in four hours if the demand was not complied with. Beauregard was on a reconnaissance, and General Jordan returned it for the signature of the writer.

About 2 o'clock this morning the enemy began throwing shells into the city from a battery on the marsh between Morris and James Islands, and distant five miles from the city. Twelve 8 inch Parrot shells fell in the city, but caused no casualties. The transaction is regarded as an outrage on civilized warfare. The shelling had a good effect in hastening the exodus of non-combatants.

At daylight this morning the enemy opened fire vigorously on Sumter. The Ironsides has since opened. Sumter is replying. Wagner is firing briskly on the enemy's advanced works, four hundred and fifty yards from our battery.

### FOURTH DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, August 22.—The fire of the enemy's land batteries has been kept up on Sumter, and more guns disabled. There was only one casualty.

There was also a heavy fire on Battery Wagner from the fleet and land; also on Battery Gregg. The casualties at Wagner were one officer and four privates.

General Gillmore's demand for the surrender of Fort Sumter and Morris Island, with the threat to shell Charleston in four hours from the delivery of the paper at Wagner, was signed and returned at seven o'clock this morning.

General Beauregard, in his reply, charges inhumanity and violation of the laws of war, and affirms that if the offence be repeated, he will employ stringent measures of retaliation.

Up to this time, the threat to shell the city has not been executed.

### FIFTH DISPATCH.

CHARLESTON, August 23.—On Saturday 604 shots were fired at Sumter, of which 419 struck inside and outside. The east wall is much scaled and battered in, and the parapet undermined. The northwest wall, arches, etc., have fallen in. Guns were dismantled and one private killed.

On Sunday the land batteries opened from south to north and the Monitors from east to west, coming close up. The fire was very damaging; the east wall was cracked and breached, and the shot swept through the fort. A shell burst, wounding Lieutenant Boylston seriously, Colonel Rhett, Captain Fleming, Lieutenant Soule and Fickling slightly. The Fort is now a ruin.

Colonel Rhett is ordered with his brave garrison to hold this outpost even as a forlorn hope, until relieved or taken.

On Saturday, at Wagner, a Lieutenant and four men of the siege train were wounded.

On Sunday, the brave Colonel Gillard lost his life.

It is said to-day that there are 25 vessels

inside, including the Ironsides, Monitors, &c., and 13 outside the bar.

General Gillmore sent a communication at 11 o'clock on Sunday, giving notice that, at 11 o'clock to-morrow, he would open fire on Charleston. In the meantime, non-combatants can go out.

Yankee Account of the Atrocious Slaughter of a Confederate Family in Mississippi.

A correspondent of the Missouri Democrat furnishes the following particulars of a brutal murder near Island No. 10, in the Mississippi: Yesterday, the 4th, a white man, who held no commission under any Government, established or assumed, unaccountably in command of a body of negroes, some forty-five, not one of whom was enlisted or otherwise in the service of the United States, at Island No. 10, sent eleven of these men to the house of a family named Beckman, living near the line in Tennessee, consisting of eight males and females, with instructions to bring from thence two contraband boys, peaceably if possible; but should resistance be offered, to kill every member of the family and to burn their house.

They proceeded there and literally fulfilled the orders, with the exception of firing the house; they sacked it, however, and in this condition it was found by a party of United States cavalry that happened there by the merest accident, soon after the massacre took place. Immediately upon ascertaining the direction which the fugitives had taken, the cavalry started in pursuit, overtaking nine of the negroes ere they had crossed to the Island. Another was subsequently captured—by whom, or where, I was unable to learn—but I understand that ten of the negroes, Dwyer, and a man called Fevras, who is suspected of being implicated in some way, are in confinement at Island No. 10, and no doubt remains of all parties concerned having speedy and sure justice done them.

Gunboats came up shortly afterward, and fired several broadsides with the hope of causing the bodies of some of the victims who were thrown into the river to rise to the surface. As far as known, it exceeded only in one instance: one of the victims, a Mr. Beckman, 35 years of age, and father of the children, came to the surface and was taken to the shore. His hands and feet were tied together, a deep gash in his back, apparently made by an axe, and that portion of his forehead immediately above his left eye torn away. The body of an old man, of sixty or seventy years of age, and that of a boy of six, were recovered previously; but those of the three daughters, aged from eight to fourteen, have not yet been found.

From the appearance of the corpses, and the confessions of the negroes, they fought most desperately, but were overpowered.—The mother was away from the house visiting, and her son, a lad of thirteen, was also absent, at school, at the time. These were the only ones of the family who escaped.

### From Charleston.

Intelligence from Charleston indicates the ultimate, if not the immediate fall of Fort Sumter. The Atlantic Appeal has private advice that it will have to be evacuated. The impression that Fort Sumter is the key to the city, and that the loss of the first necessitates the loss of the other, is fallacious. Upon this point the Charleston Courier says, if the enemy's attempts to reduce Fort Sumter be successful, there should be no unnecessary alarm created thereby. Experience has taught us the value of brick fortifications against Parrot guns in the case of Fort Pulaski. We shall be ready to meet the foe in our second and stronger line of earth-work defenses, the great superiority of which have been abundantly proved in the case of Battery Wagner. Let every one await with cheerful confidence the final issue.

The Appeal says for some time this result has been anticipated by the reflecting—at least since the enemy was allowed so carelessly to gain such an important position on Morris Island.

We cannot learn, however, that any physical advantages will result to the foe from even the fall of Sumter. Its strength by no means is essential to the protection of the harbor and city. By auxiliary defenses, which have not yet been developed to the enemy, the old defenses were really of but little importance, and in Charleston as much confidence continues to be felt as ever. The new works on James Island, in which guns of the first class have recently been placed, are expected to more than supply the place of anything we have or may lose. Of these the Yankees have not yet had a taste, nor will they until the proper moment arrives. We should not be surprised to hear at any moment that Sumter has been abandoned.—Knoxville Register.

### An Anecdote of Gen. Ewell.

In the course of the address by Governor Smith on Saturday night last, he told the following anecdote of Gen. Ewell:

During the hero Jackson's lifetime, Gen. Ewell was wont to remark that Jackson could do the praying and he could do the swearing, and that the two together could whip the devil. After Gen. Ewell lost a leg, the light of the gospel shed its benign influence over his spirit, and he became a christian. Under the influence of this new feeling, he found the enemy heavily entrenched at Winchester.—He said that he felt averse to exposing his "poor boys" to the deadly slaughter certain to result from an attack on the works. He retired to his tent, and there spent a time in prayer to the Throne of Grace. It seemed then, said he afterwards to Gen. Smith, as if a sudden fear got hold of the enemy, and he abandoned his works without a fight. The hand of God is visible in this.

The Governor then remarked to his audience, we have in Ewell a fit successor to the lamented Jackson, a praying and a fighting man.

A fight took place in Cincinnati on the 4th instant, in consequence of a soldier tearing down a flag on which was inscribed the names of Vallandigham and Pugh. The coprehensions commenced gathering, and swore vengeance on the author of the act. An invalid soldier in the crowd was badly beaten for approving the act. All soldiers in the city were arrested and put in the guard house to prevent further disturbance. In the evening a crowd assembled before the door of the store where the flag was hung. After parading the streets, the crowd went to the store and presented the owner with a flag, which will be hung out again to-day. Further trouble was apprehended.