

with thine. Go, my daughter, tell our victory for the country in which wives sell their wedding rings to buy powder, is free. Perish the Russians; now, Sawloiska, open all the windows. I desire to die in the sound of the canon.

Abingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR.

Friday, Sept. 18, 1863.

Spirit of Invaded Districts.

"Gentlemen who have recently returned from districts of this State invaded, and for a long time occupied by the enemy, give most encouraging accounts of the spirit of the people. In the Northern Neck, the Peninsula and the Eastern Shore, the people are, if possible, more loyal to the cause than at the beginning of the war. They have suffered and still suffer grievously, but their hope is as high, their courage as defiant and their fortitude as unbroken to-day as it was two years ago. Deprived of their servants and cattle, and compelled to perform menial labor not only for their own support but for the Yankees who are constantly billeted upon them, subjected to every species of insult and far from the strong arm of their natural defenders, they still look forward to the day of independence and of righteous retribution. The more they are called upon to endure, the stouter become their hearts. Robbed and oppressed but not humiliated, they maintain a devotion to their country and its cause which extorts the admiration and respect even of the ruffians who surround them."

We clip the foregoing from an editorial in the Richmond Whig, and would feel all the better if we could say as much for the people of other parts of our invaded territory, or of even those parts that are only threatened with invasion. We were in a certain town in Tennessee a few weeks ago, when it was supposed a Federal force was within 50 or 60 miles of there, and such confusion and panic we have but seldom witnessed. Instead of grasping their arms and defending their homes and property as they should have done, they were running hither and thither gathering up their traps and crowding upon the train to seek places of safety, without seeming to reflect that no place is safe for which they are not willing to peril their lives.

This portion of Southwestern Virginia is now more imminently threatened with invasion than it has been at any other period since the strife began, and it affords us pleasure to believe from surrounding indications, that our men will not only stand their ground, but will fight the invader to the death, should he dare to pollute their homes with his presence. That patriotism that talks loud and largely, but is not willing and ready for any sacrifice that invasion may produce, is not worth a straw—and the man who gives his undivided attention to his own possessions, without a thought of the common cause, is not to be pitied in any event.

It is every man's duty to contribute his aid, and his property, if necessary, to the public defence, and we are proud to say such seems to be the disposition of our people. There may be, and doubtless are exceptions, but they are few and far between. Whilst we do not believe there is immediate cause of uneasiness in this particular locality, it is certainly wise and proper to be prepared for any emergency, and hence we commend the spirit and activity that now prevail in Southwestern Virginia.

Surrender of Cumberland Gap.

For several days up to Monday last, we had various rumors of the surrender of this strong and supposed impregnable position, and when the rumor came that it had been given up unconditionally and without firing a gun, nobody believed it. The rumors, however, have been confirmed, and all that we had previously heard is true. We have conversed with several gentlemen who were there at the time of the surrender, and they all concur in the particulars of the transaction. Many of the men believe themselves to have been sold, but others attribute the surrender to the timidity of Gen. Frazier, who was in command.

It was surrendered on Wednesday, the 9th, at 3 o'clock, p. m. A few hours prior to the raising of the white flag, a council of war was held, and the officers were unanimous in holding out and fighting to the last, or at least for 15 days, for which time they had provisions. The officers and men, with scarcely an exception, believed they could hold the place, and were eager to try to do so. We learn from one of the persons who was there, that there were 12 pieces of artillery planted, and that the General would not allow the men to spike the guns. Lt. O'Connell and his men pitched their guns over a precipice some thousand feet high, and the batteries, 3 or 10 in number, fell into the hands of the enemy unharmed.

Gen. Frazier was under the impression that the place was invested on the south by Gen. Burnside and on the north by Gen. D. C. Casey, each with a very large force. Others thought the forces were mere detachments from the commands named, and not very formidable in numbers—certainly not strong enough to take the position, had it been bravely defended.

Our forces in the Gap were estimated at something like 3,000, about 1800 of whom were captured, the balance making their escape. Col. Slomp, of the 64th, escaped with all his Captains except one, and all his Lieutenants except 3 or 4, and about 100 privates. Capt. Wynn was taken. Lt. Col. Pridemore escaped.

Since the above was written, we learn that we had a large amount of bacon and wheat at the Gap, and 100 beef cattle. At 11 on Wednesday, Gen. Frazier received a dispatch from Gen. Jones, directing him to hold the position at all hazards, and that necessary reinforcements and supplies would reach him in due time. At 3 that afternoon the white flag was raised, in opposition to the sentiments and wishes of the whole command.

Murder in Lee.

On Sunday, the 5th inst., Mr. Francis Bishop, of Lee county, was shot down in the main road by a soldier, and died immediately. The facts as detailed to us are, that Mr. Bishop and his brother-in-law, Mr. McPherson, were riding up the road towards his, Bishop's home, on the road leading from Cumberland Gap to Jonesville, when they were halted by a soldier. Upon enquiring the cause of the halt, the soldier replied that he had been placed there to examine all persons passing, to see whether they had arms. Both dismounted and submitted to an examination—neither were armed. After the examination, the soldier said to McPherson—"You can go on; but I will detain this man," alluding to Bishop. Bishop had a large sum of money in a belt around his body, which no doubt was discovered by the soldier in his search. McPherson mounted his horse to leave. At the same time Bishop put his foot in the stirrup to mount his horse. The soldier perceiving it, fired upon him and shot him through the heart. As he fell he caught hold of the pistol, jerked it out of the hands of the soldier and handed it to McPherson, who exploded five caps without firing the pistol. He then threw a rock at the soldier, and luckily dealt him a stunning blow on the head, which brought him to the ground. He then beat him severely over the head until he thought life extinct, and left him for dead; though he was not dead when last heard from. The soldier had no authority to halt, and adopted that mode only as a blind to secure his prey the more certainly.

Mr. Bishop was a highly esteemed citizen of Lee county, and a good man. He leaves a wife and twelve children—three of whom are in the service of their country.

County Organization.

A meeting was held at the Court House in Abingdon on Wednesday, for the purpose of organizing companies throughout the county for home defense. Judge Campbell was called to the Chair, and Mr. Wm. King Heiskell appointed Secretary.

The people of each Magisterial District were requested to form a company; where one could not do so, a union with another district was recommended. Meetings were then appointed for the several districts on Saturday next, the 19th, as follows:

No. 1, at Abingdon; No. 2, at Hall's Bottom; 3d, at Three Springs and F. Ellington's; 4th, at Capt. J. W. Worley's; 5th, at White's Mill; 6th, at Blackford's Mill; 7th, at Patterson's Mill; 8th, at Grant's Store; 9th, at Parks' Mill.

It was requested that, as soon as the companies were organized, they report to Capt. Martin, Commandant of Post at Abingdon.

A corps of Couriers was also appointed, under direction and charge of Capt. Martin.

These companies, to be efficient, will of course be drilled, and the oftener the better, but at least once a week. If prompt to duty and properly drilled, there is no telling the amount of most important service they may be able to perform, and certainly adequate to the defence of the county against ordinary raids.

The Abingdon Company.

The Iowa Company for home defence was fully organized on Wednesday last, by the election of Gen. P. C. Johnston Captain, J. T. Campbell 1st Lieut., Chas. F. Keller 2d Lieut. and W. R. Trigg 3d Lieut. A full complement of Sergeants and Corporals was then appointed, and Saturday, at 10 o'clock, appointed for drill, and every Saturday thereafter, at the same hour, until otherwise ordered.

Death by Lightning—Four Persons Killed.

On Thursday evening, the 10th inst., during a severe thunder storm, four persons, two men and two women, were instantly killed, on the Russell turnpike, about 1 1/2 miles from this place. Their names were Thomas D. Perry, of Col. Johnson's Ky. Cav. Battalion, H. G. Oston of the 5th Ky. Infantry, Rebecca Lynch and Elizabeth Murry, of this county. They had taken shelter under an oak tree in the corner of the field of the late Judge Hopkins, near the turnpike. They were all brought to town that evening, laid out in the hospital, and were buried the next day. This dispensation should be a warning to evil-doers.

Earn Burned.

On Friday night of last week, the barn of Mr. John D. Alderson, on Moccasin, in Russell county, was consumed to ashes, including a large amount of grain and hay, and four horses. It is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

Governor's Message.

We insert on the 1st page of this paper, a synopsis of Gov. Letcher's Message to the Legislature now in extra session. We commend it to the attention of all, particularly those who are disposed to be frightened by the State of the currency and the magnitude of the State war debt. It is a very able paper, and affords a considerable amount of information. We regret our want of room for the entire document.

"Marion Visitor."

After a suspension of a couple of years or more, our old neighbor of Marion appeared on Friday last, somewhat "shorn of its fair proportions," and tho' not "as large as life," quite as natural. Our friend Kennedy is still the editor, and will doubtless, as heretofore, make an excellent family journal.

"Wytheville Dispatch."

Our friend D. R. St. Clair, for whom the late Yankee raiders at Wytheville destroyed the best Printing establishment, in preparation to its extent, in the Confederate States, has procured new materials, and will resume the publication of the Dispatch in a few days. We wish him the fullest success, and hope the public, for whom he has heretofore so faithfully labored, will appreciate and encourage his energy, perseverance and nerve, under such adverse circumstances.

From the Charleston Mercury.

The Siege.

Final of the Contest for Battery Wagner—Evacuation of Morris Island by our forces, etc.

To sum up the events through which we have just passed, Battery Wagner has been subjected during the last three days and nights to the most terrific fire that any earth work has undergone in all the annals of warfare. The immense descending force of the enormous Parrott and mortar shells of the enemy had nearly laid the wood work of the bombproofs entirely bare, and had displaced the sand to so great a degree that the saltpetre was almost entirely blocked up. The parallels of the enemy yesterday afternoon had been pushed up to the very mouth of Battery Wagner, and it was no longer possible to distinguish our fire from that of the enemy. During the entire afternoon the enemy shelled the sand hills in the rear of Battery Wagner (where our wounded lay) very vigorously.

Under these circumstances, and in view of the difficulties of communication with Cummings Point, the impossibility of longer holding Morris Island became apparent, and it was determined that strenuous efforts should be made at once to release the brave garrison of the Island, who seemed to be almost within the enemy's grasp. This desirable result was accomplished with the most commendable promptness and success.

About six o'clock, yesterday afternoon, the order for the evacuation was delivered to Col. Keitz, commanding our forces on the island. Everything was at once made ready for the abandonment of Batteries Wagner and Gregg. The dead were buried, and at midnight the wounded were carefully removed in barges to Fort Johnson. The guns which for so many weeks had held the foe at bay were double shot and spiked; the heavier pieces were dismounted, and the arrangements rendered worthless. The preliminary preparations being thus completed, the work of embarkation was nobly begun, and the brave men of the garrison in forty barges, were soon gliding from the beach that they had held so stoutly and so long. The evacuation was conducted by Colonel Keitz, assisted by Major Bryan, A. A. G., and the success with which what has always been considered one of the most difficult feats of warfare has been performed, is worthy of the highest praise. Batteries Gregg and Wagner had both been carefully mined, with a view to blowing them up. It was about one o'clock this morning when the last three boats containing Colonel Keitz and a number of his officers, left the island. The slow march was lighted by Capt. Hagsnull, at Wagner, and by Captain Lesesne at Gregg, but, owing to some defect in the fuses, no explosion took place at either fort.

During the evacuation the enemy was not idle. A constant fire of shell was kept up against Wagner, and his howitzer barges were busily plying about this side of Morris Island, to prevent the retreat of our men. But fortunately the night was murky and all our barges, with the exception of one, containing about twelve or fifteen men, passed in safety.

A little before three o'clock this morning the following was received from Major Elliott, commanding Fort Sumter: "Fort Sumter, Sept. 7—2:40, A. M. "All the garrison of Morris Island who came here have been shipped. Lieutenant Haskell's boat from the Osceola was captured by a Yankee barge. Two of the crew came to Fort Sumter and report that all our troops had left the Island."

"STEPHEN ELLIOTT, "Major Commanding." Thus ends the defence of Morris Island. The issue has been foreseen since the enemy's first success on the 10th of July. The defence of the island had been prolonged far beyond what was deemed possible at first, and the brave garrison who have held it, deserve the admiration of their countrymen.

The aggregate of casualties in the struggle for the island have been, on our side, about 700 killed, wounded and missing. The enemy's loss is estimated at about six thousand. The successful evacuation, after the glorious defence of forty-eight days, is, under all the circumstances, a most gratifying military event.

Consolidating Companies.

A letter from Gen. Lee's army proposes the consolidation of companies which have been reduced to mere skeletons by disease and battle. It says: "There are companies in service at this time, the commissioned officers of which almost equal the number of privates."

"The Government should take some steps to remedy this great evil, and it can only be done by consolidation. When Congress convenes, that should be one of the first subjects taken into consideration, because it would save the country large sums that are spent unnecessarily."

Terrible Bombardment of Batteries Gregg and Wagner.

After a quiet interval of two days during which the enemy is believed to have been assiduously employed in preparations, the Yankee fleet about five o'clock Saturday morning recommenced the bombardment of batteries Gregg and Wagner. Since that time the fire upon the batteries, especially upon the staunch fortification Wagner and its heroic garrison, has been terrific and incessant, being kept up by the Ironsides, six Monitors, four mortar hulks, from three to four-land batteries, the enemy's rifle pits, and several pieces of light artillery put in position in an advance battery, and bearing upon its sea face. Most of the shots and shells of this galling fire were poured into Wagner.

The bombardment was commenced by the Ironsides opening a heavy fire upon Battery Wagner, as heretofore, frequently discharging whole broadsides.

The fire from the fleet was more accurate than usual, the calm weather favoring the movements of the vessels, there being scarcely more than a slight ripple upon the surface of the water.

Batteries Wagner and Gregg returned the fire of the Ironsides with spirit, making splendid shots and striking her frequently. The balls, however, seemed to rebound without inflicting any serious damage.

At the same time our James Island batteries, Simkins, Cheves and Haskell, kept up a rapid and well directed fire on the enemy's land batteries, while Fort Moultrie and Battery Bee, on Sullivan's Island, opened a heavy fire on one of the Monitors which had rounded Cummings' Point and commenced throwing shells at Fort Sumter, with an occasional shot at Battery Gregg. The Monitor ceased firing after an hour's work, and hauled off, leaving the Ironsides to continue the fight.

During Saturday a river steamer was observed busy during the morning transporting ordnance stores from vessels off the coast and landing them at Oyster Point. On Saturday afternoon a large body of Yankee infantry were seen moving along the beach back of Folly Island toward Lighthouse Inlet. They were observed marching in line by company, and forty-three companies counted while passing one point, and they were then still coming.

The bombardment was continued during Saturday night with unabated vigor by the Ironsides. Our casualties for the first day up to five o'clock, were reported at one hundred killed and wounded, mostly the latter and most of them slight.

Between one and two o'clock Sunday morning, the enemy were reported approaching our batteries through Light House Creek in barges, evidently for the purpose of making an infantry assault. They attempted to effect a landing in the rear of Battery Gregg, but our batteries, together with Fort Moultrie, opened upon them such a destructive fire of grape, canister, shell and musketry, as to check their progress and drive them back. The enemy failed entirely to effect a landing, and the piercing cries and shrieks heard by our men as the barges moved off told plainly that they had suffered severely. While this was going on, three or four of the Monitors opened again on Sumter and Moultrie. The latter responded, and the commanding was literally deafening, shaking the houses in the city. With many the impression was that the enemy was again shelling the city. During the whole of this heavy firing our forces at the batteries were all prepared, anticipating an assault.

For nearly two hours it was an incessant roar of cannon and musketry.

Early Sunday morning six Monitors and the Ironsides again advanced in line of battle off Cummings' Point, and opened fire upon Battery Wagner, the placid waters enabling them to make every shot and shell fall upon the devoted battery. Fort Moultrie and Battery Bee replied, and the engagement was kept up with great spirit for about two hours. Two of the Monitors left, proceeding Southward. The firing of the fleet gradually ceased, the land batteries continuing the fire without intermission.

After this severe bombardment the fleet made no further demonstration until last evening, when another fierce cannonade was opened on our batteries, the result of which we had not learned up to a late hour.

Our casualties during the whole of this tremendous bombardment are reported to be between one hundred and fifty killed and wounded at Battery Wagner, and between thirty and forty at Battery Gregg. The battery itself under this terrible fire has suffered to a considerable extent.

A Battle with Deserters.

We learn from the Danville Register that a large band of deserters were captured in Franklin county, a few days ago, by the Enrolling officer of that county and his guard, assisted by some citizens. It appears that there were a large number of deserters in that county, and that they had been banded together for offensive and defensive operations by an outlaw named Goodson, who was once sentenced to the State Penitentiary but broke jail and has since escaped arrest by taking refuge among the mountains and living out of doors. Under the lead of this character, the deserters had commenced pillaging and robbing the people, breaking open houses and committing other depredations, preparing for winter by laying in supplies of provisions and clothing. It is said that they had actually erected in the mountains a sort of fort in which they designed to defend themselves, if attacked against all authority, civil or military. But their career has been brought to a close.

Capt. Ridgway, enrolling officer for Franklin county, determined to break up the band, and for this purpose organized his detachment and such volunteers as he could get, placed guards at the passes of the mountains, to prevent escape, and hunted down those deserters, capturing between sixty and seventy of their number. Four of his own men were wounded. Two of the deserters are reported killed, but this is not known to be certainly the fact. The outlaw, Goodson, made his escape, but the people declare their determination not to relax their efforts for his capture until he is brought to justice.

The example of Capt. Ridgway and the people of Franklin might be profitably followed in other counties and neighborhoods. It will require strong and prompt measures to rid the country of this great nuisance, deserters.—*Lynchburg Virginian.*

France Aiding the Privateers.

Rebel Vessels Building in France.

THE INVASION OF MEXICO.

The steamship City of New York, Captain Kennedy, from Queenstown on the 27th of August, arrived at New York on the 6th instant. Her news is highly interesting:

A Queenstown writer states that a powerful rebel iron ram, lately built in Liverpool, had put to sea, notwithstanding the fact that a memorial had been forwarded to the government in London asking for her detention under the Foreign Enlistment Act.

The Herald has the following extracts regarding our privateers:

[From the London Post, Aug. 25.]

The frigate Alanta, from the Confederate States, has arrived at Brest to repair damages.

[From the Liverpool Post, Aug. 26.]

One or two items of maritime news, which wear a rather doubtful aspect, will be found in this morning's telegrams. A Confederate frigate is being repaired in the Imperial dock at Brest, and several vessels on the stocks in French yards, built on the Alabama model, are said to be for the Southern States.

[Paris (Aug. 24th) correspondence of the London Herald.]

The Pays makes the following announcement, which, under present circumstances, is calculated to attract much attention: The American frigate Alanta, belonging to the Southern States, has arrived at Brest to repair damages sustained at sea.

There is no reason why a Confederate man-of-war should not enjoy the same privileges in neutral ports as the Federal navy, but that she should have the rare privilege of making good her damages in an imperial dock yard is a hopeful sign. It is a fitting answer to the bombastic threats of Yankee organs; but whether it be a harbinger of the speedy recognition of the Southern Confederacy is more than I am able to say. At all events, it should be borne in mind that that step was long since decided on by the French government, and deferred only out of a wish not to run counter to Lord Russell's neutrality hobby; but if anything it is likely to be hastened by the sinister predictions of Federal croakers on both sides of the channel.

Whether the presence of the Alanta at Brest is to be considered a political symptom or not is a matter for conjecture, but we all know how it will be viewed at Washington. Political men of all parties here consider that the establishment of the new state of things in Mexico renders the formation of an alliance with the Confederate States an indispensable necessity, and there is nothing surprising in the report that negotiations should be going on with a view to bring about that great result.

There is also a report that well-known ship-building firms at Havre and Bordeaux are building cruisers for the Confederate States, but it is probably a spurious due the alarmed imagination of the Federal and their friends. "The thief doth fear each bush an officer," and every Yankee shipper in a European port sees a future Alabama in every vessel with a clean run that he may see on the stocks. For the sake of the South; however, I hope the rumor may turn out true. The Emperor of the French will, in such a case, reap all the advantages his good will and material support have entitled him to expect from the Southerners, while England, though far from unanimous in her sympathies, will have contrived to lose the opportunity of securing a valuable ally without incurring the bitter hostility which prevails against her in the North.

THE REBEL IRON RAMS AT LIVERPOOL.

(From the London News, August 18.)

It will be seen from the memorial to Earl Russell which appears in another column, that there is reason to believe that the builders of the Alabama, undeterred by the declaration of the legal representatives of the crown that the building of that vessel was an offence against the laws of the country, are about to launch two powerful iron plated rams to prey upon the commerce of the United States. It will be a disgrace to the country and to the administration of our laws if those vessels are allowed to leave the Mersey. It appears, however, that there is no time to be lost, as one of them is said to be on the point of sailing to-morrow. The duty of the government in such a case is as plain as it is urgent. If there is, as the memorialists affirm, good ground to suspect the character and destination of these vessels, their departure ought to be arrested, if need be, by telegraph and without a moment's unnecessary delay, until the charges against them have been fully investigated. There was an acknowledged failure of justice in the case of the Alabama, through want of proper vigilance and promptitude; but after the strong declarations of the government as to the law of the case, and their decided action with regard to the Alexandria, we are entitled to assume that no such remissness in the administration of our own laws, as well as in the discharge of our duty towards a friendly Power, will be allowed to occur again.

THE CONFEDERATE LOAN.

On the 25th instant the Confederate loan experienced a further recovery of three per cent., closing at 24 1/2 discount.

MEXICO.

THE UNITED STATES CANNOT MAKE WAR ON FRANCE.

The London Times of the 27th of August, in its city article, says that there is no belief in the threats of the Washington government against France, in regard to Mexico. The general belief is that the American protest will now be feeble, and unattended by any threat, for the first really offensive threat against Napoleon would be the signal for the deliverance of the Confederates.

Troubles in North Carolina.

We most sincerely regret to learn that there are a large number of Conservatives (i. e. Submissionists to Lincoln rule, who prefer fighting their friends and brothers, and even their fathers, with the deserters from the army, than meeting Yankees on the battle field, now banded together to the number of about 200, at "Fralleys," twenty miles above Staunton, resisting the constituted authorities.

Yesterday, as we have been informed, a severe battle was fought by Lieut. ... with 40 Confederate soldiers.