

Abingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR.

Friday, Nov. 13, 1863.

The News.

Except the handsome affair of Gen. Wm. E. Jones at Rogersville, we have nothing to brag of this week. Indeed, the news from every other direction is anything but cheering. We don't like the signs at Chattanooga at all, and would not be surprised at any moment to hear that Bragg had been forced to fall back into Northern Georgia. It may all be for the best for him to do so, as some who ought to know have intimated, but we must confess we always feel a little unpleasant when we hear the word in connection with any part of our army.

The disaster on the Rappahannock, is another dark cloud on our path. Our loss, though not very great—perhaps not half the loss of the enemy—is more than we like to hear of at one time, and more than we expected to hear of in that direction, with the glorious prestige our men had before them.

The disaster to Gen. Echols' small force in Greenbrier, is another damper to the bright hopes of our people. But, as misfortunes never come alone, it may be that they have all come at once this time. Whilst we regret these reverses, we are by no means discouraged, for we have all the time been prepared for a darker day than any that has yet cast its shadow upon us. As yet, we have had nothing of the sufferings of the heroes of the first American Revolution, and a thousand such disasters as those we now record will not subdue, or conquer, or even check, an enlightened people in pursuit of enlightened freedom. There have been darker periods even in this revolution than the present, and our army is, perhaps, in better condition to-day than it ever has been. Let us "look aloft," then, and be thankful that our condition is not a hundred-fold worse, and be cheered by the certainty of ultimate success and a glorious independence.

Gen. Wm. E. Jones—His Victory at Rogersville.

Just as we expected to hear from Gen. Wm. E. Jones as soon as he should get within reach of the enemy, he had a brilliant victory at Rogersville on Friday last. The force of the enemy was three regiments—the 2d and 3d Tennessee, and the 7th Ohio. The fight commenced early in the morning at McKinney's farm, some 3 miles this side of the town. The enemy, hearing of Gen. Jones' approach, prepared to meet him at the place designated, and planted his artillery upon a high point between the old stage road and the river, but Jones came from an opposite direction to what they had expected, and approached their guns at the wrong end for them to do much execution. Gen. Jones was assisted by Col. Giltner, as brave a soldier as there is in the service, and who has as brave a command. They soon put the enemy to flight, captured 852 prisoners, 4 pieces of artillery, 2 stands of colors, 60 wagons, and 1,000 horses and mules. The prisoners—700 of them—passed here on Monday evening, on their way to Richmond.

We learn from a very intelligent and observant young lady, who was at Rogersville on the morning of the fight, several interesting particulars. She says that the troops of the enemy were mostly renegade East Tennesseans, under command of Col. Gerard, of the 7th Ohio. They knew nothing of Jones' approach until he was among them. She thinks there were but two Confederates killed and a few wounded. She saw a few dead Yankees in the road as she left town, and a good many wounded. She informs us that there were a number of deserters from our army among the Yankees, particularly from the 3d Va. Regt., Col. McMahon's. These latter had been in the fight at Chattanooga, and subsequently joined Burnside's command for the purpose of helping to take the Saltworks. Capt. Avery, of North Carolina, was also among the deserters.

The Yankees had issued tickets, and were to have had a grand ball at Rogersville on Friday night, and our lady informant says they thought Gen. Jones acted in bad taste to come unbidden before the proper hour.

The Yankee Headquarters were at Mrs. Bynum's residence, and they were using both hotels as hospitals. They had destroyed all the records and papers in the Court House and Bank, and had signed a large number of blank notes found in the latter and put them in circulation.

We learn from a trustworthy correspondent, says the Richmond Examiner, that the Yankee force, which lately appeared in Stafford, numbered not less than seven thousand cavalry, with eight batteries, all under the command of Kilpatrick. The detachment which was sent down as far as Brookes' station, was evidently for the purpose of reconnoitering, and soon returned to the main body in the neighborhood of the Court House. Our correspondent believes that it is the advance of Meade's army, which will re-appear at Fredericksburg, and endeavor to seize the town and heights; or, failing in that purpose, will winter in their old quarters, between Aquia Creek Landing and the Rappahannock. Their fortifications are untouched, the vacancies in the railroad track will be easily supplied, and the water communication to supplies are the best to be found in Virginia.

We have again been compelled to "curtail our fair proportions." We find it now, since the enemy's occupation of East Tennessee, almost impossible to procure paper of any sort, and we do the best we can under the circumstances. Even the paper upon which this is printed, inferior as it is, costs us more before it is printed than we get for it afterwards.

Lee County.

We learn from good authority, that a small body of Yankees came up to Jonesville on Friday last from the Gap, and committed all sorts of depredations. They burnt the Academy and Masonic Hall, set fire to a Church, and stole all the horses, cattle, grain and negroes they could find.

When it is remembered that there are abundant supplies in Lee—enough to winter a division of our army—it is almost criminal to permit these depredations, when the presence of a Battalion of men could prevent it. We would respectfully commend this matter to the attention of our authorities, who can save the large supplies of that county with two or three hundred men, if they will.

Unfortunate Occurrence.

On Sunday last, a rencontre took place between Capt. Thos. White, of the Virginia House, and Col. Clarence Prentice, in Abingdon, which resulted in the death of the former. Capt. White was a refugee from Kentucky, and Col. Prentice is in command of a Battalion now encamped in this county. We have not heard the particulars, but understand that Capt. White was the assailant.

Richmond Market.

For the information of our readers, we extract the following from the review of the Examiner of the Richmond markets:

The Money Market.—The trade in gold and Yankee funds has been quite active for the last week, there being a large number of "blockade-runners" in town, who have been changing their rolls of Confederate notes with the brokers preparatory to their return to Yankee land. The rates of gold on Saturday were: buying at \$11.50, selling at \$12.50. Silver—very little to be had; the brokers buy it readily at \$9 to \$9.50, and sell it at \$11. Sterling bills firm at \$14. Bank notes—Virginia and North Carolina notes buying at \$2.50, selling at \$3; South Carolina and Georgia notes range from twenty-five to fifty per cent. higher.

Stocks and Bonds.—We have no material change to note in the prices of stocks and bonds since our last. Fifteen million loan, \$195; Eight per cent. bonds, (1863,) \$106 to \$107; Eight per cent. bonds, registered, (1861,) \$113; Eight per cent. bonds, convertible, \$112; Virginia sixes, \$210 and interest; North Carolina sixes, old issue, \$450. Other quotations as in our last.

Breadstuffs.—The market is very scant of breadstuffs. There is a very small stock of flour; not sufficient to the demand. Prices have greatly advanced, and it is impossible to quote anything like the market value. Prices range from \$75 to \$125, according to quality and the stress of circumstances. Corn meal was selling on Saturday at the groceries at \$18 per bushel, and scarce at that.

Groceries and Provisions.—Sugar, common brown, \$2.50 to \$3; crushed, \$5 to \$5.50; bacon, hog round, \$2.50 to \$3; lard, \$2.10; butter, \$4 to \$4.50; eggs, \$2.50; Irish potatoes, \$10 to \$12 per bushel; sweet potatoes, \$12 to \$15; tallow candles, \$4; adamantine, \$5.50 to \$6; salt 55c. per pound; coffee, \$9.50 to \$10; sorghum molasses, \$12 to \$15 per gallon.

A Duel.

A duel was fought near Bristol on Tuesday last, between Col. W. E. Peters and Maj. Hervey, both of Va. They exchanged one shot with rifles at 60 paces, after which the difficulty was adjusted by the interposition of friends.

Col. Dodamead, Superintendent of the Va. & Tenn. Railroad, deserves great credit for his activity. Within the last month he has had seven bridges re-built on this end of the road, and the trains have been running through to Bristol for more than a week past.

We understand the trains run to Zollicoffer on the East Tenn. road.

Gen. John S. Williams has been in this place for several days. We learn from the Richmond papers that he has been relieved from duty at his own request. He is a brave and skillful officer, and has seen much hard service.

Special Terms.

We have been requested by Judge Campbell to state, that there will be a special term of the Circuit Court held in Russell on the 1st Monday in December, and in Washington on the 2d Monday in December.

Jail Delivery.

On Monday night last, eight prisoners escaped from the Jail of this county. How they made out to escape we cannot tell, as there is a guard around the jail day and night. This is the second squad that has escaped recently.

A young man writing from the battleground of Chickamauga to his brother in this vicinity, among other incidents, relates that he saw two Yankees burying a dead comrade. They had dug the grave north and south, and when they were about to consign the body to it, a dispute arose as to which way the head should be laid. "Let's put it south," said one. "No," said the other, "let's put it north, for it's already been too far south for it's own good."

The nearest point at which we can hear of the Yankees on the E. T. & Va. Railroad, is Bull's Gap, 16 miles beyond Greenville, and we should not be surprised to hear that Jones had persuaded them to travel before this time.

To the Editor of the Examiner:

I send you an extract from a letter of a distinguished officer of the State in regard to the infamous renegade, Major-Gen. Thomas: "I am surprised that so many mistakes have been made in reference to the Major-General G. W. Thomas who has superseded General Rosecrans, and that nothing has been said in reference to his correspondence with Colonel G—, in January, 1861."

He was at that time considering the propriety of being a candidate for the position of Chief of Ordnance of Virginia, and also that of Commandant of Cadets of the Virginia Military Institute; and in reference to these matters a correspondence was opened between him and Colonel G—.

Thomas was then in New York. He was very particular in his enquiries as to whether these offices were political and dependent upon the fluctuation of parties. And he then added, in substance:

"I am still in New York, undetermined as to what I shall do. I have not yet resigned—I am waiting to hear from Virginia. One thing I have made up my mind upon, and that is, I will never draw my sword against a State struggling for its constitutional rights."

I do not think much harm will result to the State of Virginia that so unworthy a son is now found in arms against her.

The letter was in Colonel G—'s hands until the summer of 1861, when it was handed to Hon. William Ballard Preston.

I am, sir, &c., W. H. R.

* Colonel G— was at that time Instructor of Tactics and Commandant of Cadets at the Virginia Military Institute.

The Col. G. here alluded to is, we presume, Col. Gilliam, and "W. H. R.," the writer of the card, Gen. Wm. H. Richardson.—Eds. Virg.

Fight on the Rappahannock—Meade Reported Advancing.

About 3 or 4 o'clock on Saturday evening, a force of Yankees, a portion of Meade's army, variously estimated at from 15,000 to 20,000, advanced on Hay's Louisiana and Hoke's North Carolina brigades, who were picketing on the north side of the Rappahannock, near Kelly's Ford. The enemy being in overwhelming force, our two brigades were cut off and overpowered, and most of them taken prisoners. A small number were killed and wounded. Gen. Hays, we understand, saved some six hundred men, while a small number of the North Carolina brigade escaped. We also lost four pieces of artillery, but saved the horses and equipments.

Our loss in prisoners is estimated by some at 900 or 1,000, and by others at a much larger number. The numerical strength of the two brigades will scarcely exceed 3,000 men. We learn that General Hays himself was captured at one time but subsequently escaped. Gen. Hoke is on detached duty in North Carolina, and his brigade was commanded by the Senior Colonel, whose name we have been unable to learn. Although encountering an overwhelming force, our men are represented to have fought most gallantly, and piled the ground with large numbers of killed and wounded Yankees.

The foregoing are substantially the facts as correctly as we could ascertain them from officers and men who left the army yesterday. We may add that no official information has yet been received that we have learned in relation to the affair, and nothing through the Associated Press. We hope that further information will show the affair to be less serious than at present reported.

It is believed that the greater portion of Meade's army has crossed the Rappahannock and is probably advancing, in which event a general engagement of the two armies may occur at any time soon. Of our own movements it may not yet be advisable to speak. Suffice it to say, Gen. Lee is as well prepared now for a fight as when he lately chased Meade to Bristol Station, and that he will fight him, if it is necessary to fight, in a position of his own choosing. It will be seen from the news from the Herald, of the 4th, in another column, that Meade has been preparing for an immediate advance.—Richmond Whig of Monday

Bombardment of Fort Sumter.

The Charleston Mercury says: During the bombardment of Fort Sumter, begun ten days since, we learn that shot and shell to the number of seven thousand four hundred and twenty-five have been fired by the enemy, and that the fortification has withstood the blows of six thousand two hundred and ninety-eight striking it. The casualties in that period have reached thirty-nine—that is, nineteen killed and twenty wounded. The flag has been shot away something like twenty times.

This terrible fire has followed a season of comparative inaction and preparation since the attempt to storm from barges early in September. The enormous number of fifteen thousand five hundred and eighty-three bolts, shells and shot have been hurled at Sumter since August 17, when the first cannonade (which lasted sixteen days) began, twelve thousand three hundred and two hitting.

In the course of the present bombardment, the flag staff has been shot away not less than twenty times. Finally, the staff was so cut up as to be insufficient to hold up even a rag, and the flag itself was destroyed. The battle flag of the 12th Georgia Battalion was raised in its place, and this, too, shared the same fate. It was three times knocked from the parapet into the water. It will not be long, however, before another flag will be floating where these glorious ensigns went down.

Florida.

An exchange paper says: Florida has had in the service of the Confederacy 2119 more men than she has ever voted, aside from her "Home Guard," now being raised for her own defence.

As one of the evidences of the gallantry of her sons in action, we learn that out of the fourteen medals awarded to the regiments of Breckinridge's division, seven of them were bestowed upon Florida regiments.

Florida, too, is now furnishing to the army most of the beef cattle required for its subsistence, and can furnish all of it.

Corn is selling in that State at from \$1 to \$1.50 per bushel, and is abundant.

Affairs in Mississippi.

The capture of Vicksburg has by no means had the gallant State of Mississippi at the mercy of the enemy. The people are roused to exertion by their clear appreciation of the fate that awaits them if they yield to Yankee domination; and the President's late visit showed him the pleasing spectacle of his own State thoroughly awakened, stripped of battle and put on its mettle.

Gen. W. H. Jackson, on the 16th October, indicated, with his division of cavalry, a severe repulse on a body of the enemy's troops which had ventured across the Big Black, and advanced in the direction of Canton. They were met by General Jackson, at the bridge over Straight-fence Creek, and, after a hot contest, were driven back and pursued to the Big Black river.—Gen. Jackson has issued a congratulatory order to his troops, from which we extract:

Now, as the last of the discomfited and retreating foe are crossing their weary columns over the Big Black, the Brigadier General commanding, takes this opportunity to thank the brave officers and men of his division, for their firmness and dauntless courage in so persistently and obstinately resisting the advance of this great expedition, which outnumbered them five to one, and had for its reported object the establishing of new lines on Pearl river.

Soldiers, you have accomplished much; you have harassed and annoyed the enemy upon his flanks and rear, and met him so boldly in his front that he only advanced ten miles in three days. In your various engagements you have dealt him stunning blows, disputing every inch of soil, and delayed him by compelling him at each stand you made, to advance his whole force in line, and finally, you have checked him in his desolating march, and, turning upon his flying troops, forced him to seek shelter within his lines.

Dr. Rucker's Escape through Alleghany.

This recently escaped prisoner, says the Fincastle Express, passed through Covington on the morning of the 29th, about 3 o'clock, calling at the door of an old acquaintance and making enquiry "if the bridge were guarded?" He was recognized, but before pursuit, he had left the road some 9 miles west of Covington, and concealed himself in a gorge of the mountain, where he was accidentally discovered by Mr. J. Wyatt, who was unarmed, and on Rucker's appeal to be furnished with food—and allowed to rest until night (at the same time showing his 6 shooter.) Wyatt took him food and then returned to inform the Provost Guard of his lurking place. It seems the guard, of 5 or 6 men, placed themselves in the ravine, on either side of Rucker, with the purpose of closing in from both sides and capturing him. By this time it was growing dark.—(how the whole day was spent we are not informed) and he escaped by flanking one of the parties, in the brush and darkness,—leaving in their hands his horse, shawl, &c. Some further pursuit was made, in vain, and information sent to the various routes leading to the enemy's lines. Rucker is represented as suffering much from hunger, exposure and sickness. Whether he has been able to effect his escape to the enemy is not yet ascertained.

A Brief History of the Troubles about Bragg.

The Chattanooga correspondent of the Mobile "Tribune" gives the following summary of the result of President Davis' visit to Gen. Bragg's army:

A great deal of gossip and military scan may has been written about the President's visit here in reference to the settlement of certain difficulties which are supposed to exist among the corps and division officers of Gen. Bragg's army. As the affair has been distorted to suit the fancy and prejudice of writers, I will now give you a plain statement of the facts.

It seems that a number of the Generals in the Army of Tennessee petitioned for the removal of Gen. Bragg from the command of the army. (Gen. Breckinridge and some others excepted.) while the President was on his late visit. President Davis requested a personal interview with these gentlemen, and asked them to state their reasons why they demanded that Gen. Bragg should be relieved from his command. The reasons given did not appear to satisfy the President that he ought to take any action in the case. Gen. Bragg, on being informed of the nature of the petition, insisted on and urgently requested the President to relieve him; but President Davis persistently refused on the ground that it would be hazardous to the general good of the service and welfare of the country.

The Army of Northern Virginia.

We learn from the Richmond Sentinel that a large force of Yankee cavalry, supposed to be 5,000, with several batteries, came down the Garrisonville road, and encamped on the Aquia flats, near the old village of the same name. About three regiments of cavalry, with some pieces of artillery, were sent to Falmouth, and a similar force to Stafford C. H., as a support to those sent to Falmouth. The enemy remained but a short time in Falmouth, and have not since returned. They were commanded by Kilpatrick, who was probably looking for Gen. Stuart or Fitz Lee where he did not expect to find them. Without the Yankees re-occupy Aquia creek and the railroad, they cannot remain in the lower part of Stafford or Prince William for any length of time, as the country has been stripped of supplies of every description.—Lynchburg Republican.

Letter from the President.

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 29, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. L. Polk, Atlanta, Ga.:

GENERAL—After an examination into the causes and circumstances attending your being relieved from command with the army commanded by General Bragg, I have arrived at the conclusion that there is nothing to justify a Court Martial or Court of Inquiry; and I therefore dismiss the application.

Your appointment to a new field of duty, alike important and difficult, is the best evidence of my appreciation of your past services and expectation of your future career.

I am, very truly and respectfully, yours,
JEFFERSON DAVIS.