

Ibingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR.

Friday, Nov 27, 1863.

To Correspondents.

The letter of "Cavalier" is omitted for the reason that a shorter letter to the same point will be found in these columns. "X" came to hand just as we were ready for press. It will appear next week. Glad to know the whereabouts of the writer in these times of locomotion, and hope to hear from him often.

From Knoxville.

Altho' rumors are abundant, facts come in slowly from our forces in the vicinity of Knoxville. All accounts concur, however, both Northern and Southern, in the great and important fact, that we have Knoxville invested. All the roads leading to the city, with one exception, were in our possession, and even that one could easily be occupied by Gen. Jones. The New York papers have long accounts of the conflicts between our forces and Burnside, and altho', as is their custom, they put our losses much heavier than their own, they acknowledge that they were whipped all along the road from Lenoir's to Knoxville, a distance of 22 or 23 miles.

The official statement from Gen. Bragg is, that the enemy's cavalry is almost broken up, and that Wheeler has cut off his trains from Cumberland Gap to Knoxville.

We have the rumor, apparently well authenticated, that Longstreet is not only in possession of Knoxville, but has captured Burnside and a large number of his troops. We do not place much reliance in this, but we have no doubt whatever that such will be the result, if it has not already occurred.

Brownlow, after issuing one or two numbers of his "Knoxville Whig and Rebel Ventilator," took to his heels on the first approach of danger, and telegraphs from Barboursville, Ky., that fighting was going on all about Knoxville. We have frequently heard the hope expressed he might be captured, but we have never yet believed that there was a greyhound in Lincoln's dominions that could have gotten away from Knoxville faster than Brownlow would at the first sound of fire-arms.

LATER.

According to all accounts, Burnside is in just about such a fix at Knoxville as Pemberton was at Vicksburg. He is there, but would rather be anywhere else. He has fortified all the hills in and around the city, and has erected defenses on the heights south of the river. His purpose is to hold out till reinforcements can reach him, but Longstreet is not quite so accommodating as to wait upon him. Before this time next week, the jig will be up with the Yankees at Knoxville.

Chickamauga.

It appears that another bloody ball is about to open at Chickamauga, if it has not already opened. On the 23d, the enemy advanced in force from Chattanooga, drove in our pickets and made a demonstration of battle. Rumors indicated that severe fighting had occurred, but no particulars received.

A Daring Robbery.

The store of John W. Lampkin, Esq., Elk Garden, Russell co., Va., was entered Saturday night, by boring out the brick, and about \$6000 worth of goods stolen. Sunday a number of the soldiers in that neighborhood got the trail and made search for the robbers, but gave up the hunt after a pursuit of eight or ten miles. Monday morning the pursuit was renewed, and the den of a part of the gang was discovered on the north side of Bear Town Mountain, but only one of the party was at home. He was engaged in making harness; but was left by the party in a condition that he will neither steal goods or make harness. About \$3000 worth of the goods was recovered, which induced the impression, from the goods having been divided according to kind and quality, that there was another party interested in the robbery. It is supposed the other party are higher up the country on the Bear Town Mountain—which is an exceedingly rough and wild region. The retreat, or den, of the thieves discovered, was a good log cabin with stone chimney.

Since the above was in type, we learn that the storehouse of Mr. A. L. Hendricks, in Russell, was entered by boring out the lock, the night previous to the robbery of Mr. Lampkin's store, and robbed of 14 sides of sole leather, which was recovered by the party in search of Mr. Lampkin's, at the den of the robbers.

In attempting to get up stairs of the store of Mr. Hendricks, the robbers woke two men sleeping in the counting room, and farther depredation was thus prevented. The men sleeping in the store report the number of the robbers at 15 or 20.

Wytheville Dispatch.

Since the destruction of his office at Wytheville by the Yankee raiders in July last, the proprietor of the Dispatch has been constantly employed in making arrangements for its re-issue. A few days ago the Dispatch re-appeared from Hillsville, Carroll county, Va., as handsome and as pleasant as it was of yore. Almost any other man, despoiled as our friend St. Clair had been, would have given up in despair. He deserves great credit for his energy, and we hope the people will sustain him liberally.

From Charleston.

On the 22d and 23d, a most furious bombardment of Sumter and shelling of the city occurred. The Yankee desperadoes grow more reckless and furious in their despair. But few casualties had occurred on our side, and our batteries kept up a steady and effective reply.

For the information of those interested adjacent to the Saltworks and the Railroads leading thereto, we publish the subjoined "Bill" "to provide for the production and distribution of Salt," which has already passed the Senate, and will no doubt pass the House. The Bill of the 30th March, 1863, was certainly tyrannical enough, but this out-Herods Herod, and we do hope the citizens of the Southwestern counties of Virginia will take this matter in hand at once, and take such steps as will arrest this Bill on its passage in the House.

Had the Legislature of Virginia permitted Stuart, Buchanan & Co. to have had control of their own property, and have appropriated one-half the amount of money that has been, and will be, expended in providing the State with Salt, there would have been now no cause of complaint about salt; but every enactment of that body has tended only to embarrass the owners of that property, and lessen the supply of salt to the country. When the Legislature divested Stuart, Buchanan & Co. of ten of their furnaces, and gave to the Superintendent, Col. Clarkson, all the powers that could possibly be desired, an ample supply of salt was promised the country, but in how much better condition are the people of a large portion of the State now than they were prior to the passage of the Salt Bill, placing the furnaces referred to under the control of authorities of the State?

If the Legislature will only have the wisdom to retrace its steps and reinstate Stuart, Buchanan & Co., and give them what assistance and powers common sense should teach every man they are entitled to, there will be no more complaint about salt. But, will that body do it?

A BILL

To amend and re-enact the 2d, 5th and 7th sections of an act entitled an act to provide for the production and distribution of salt, passed March 30th, 1863. Oct. 28, 1863—Read first, to be read second time.

1. Be it enacted by the general assembly, that the 2d, 5th and 7th sections of an act passed March 30th, 1863, entitled an act to provide for the production and distribution of salt, be and the same are hereby amended re-enacted so as to read as follows:

2. "The superintendent shall, under the control and management of the board of supervisors, manage and dispose of the property, real and personal, leased, acquired and held of Stuart, Buchanan & Co., under a contract made by the commonwealth with said Stuart, Buchanan & Co., bearing date the 25th day of March, 1863, and such other property as may be required under the provisions of this act. He shall also, under the like control of said board, have power to lease any real property, and to purchase any personal property necessary to secure a supply of salt to the people of this commonwealth, and the distribution of the same; to contract for all needful supplies, and to hire all necessary labor for operating the said works; and if unable to agree upon the price to be paid for said lease, or personal property, supplies and labor, with the owners, he shall have power to impress the same, under the control of said board; and it shall be the duty of the sheriff of the county within which such property, real or personal, may be, whenever required by the said superintendent, to put the said superintendent in possession of the property so impressed; for what purpose he shall, when necessary, employ the power of his said county. And if the said Stuart, Buchanan & Co. shall fail to comply with their said contract, or any part thereof, the said superintendent shall have the like power and authority to impress their property described in said contract."

5. "The superintendent shall have power to appoint and remove at his discretion, the following assistants, viz: One deputy manager, at a salary of \$3,000; one chief clerk, at a salary of 2,500; and two assistant clerks, each at a salary of 2,000; and such other assistants as he shall from time to time find it necessary to employ in the proper conduct of his operations."

7. "For the purpose of ascertaining the value of the property, real and personal, impressed under the second section of this act, it shall be lawful for the superintendent to appoint one assessor, and the owner or owners another assessor, and these two shall appoint a third; and it shall be the duty of these three, or a majority of them, to assess the value of all property impressed under this act. They shall make duplicate statements of any such assessment; of which, being endorsed by the superintendent, they shall return one copy to the board of supervisors, and deliver the other to the owner of the property taken. Upon such certified statement, the owner may demand and receive payment from the treasury of the amount so assessed.—If the owner in any case fail or refuse to appoint an assessor, the assessment shall be made by the assessor appointed by the superintendent; and thereupon the like proceedings shall be had as in other cases. When the property impressed shall be real estate or fuel, the superintendent shall be authorized to take possession thereof whenever the assessor on the part of the commonwealth shall have been appointed, without awaiting further proceedings."

2. This act shall be in force from its passage.

Our friend, L. L. Waterman, Esq., Clear Branch, has presented the Junior Editor with a gallon of Sorghum equal to the best Sugar-house molasses, and a sack of very superior Irish Potatoes, and a round of the best of Beef. Now, if any of our friends can be more liberal than that, we would like for them to show their hands. It is not often printers are served in that way, but as we are well disposed souls we submit to our old friend's infliction. We are not hurt by it. The Potatoes are the largest and finest we have seen this season. Half dozen selected—of course the largest—weighed near ten pounds. Who can beat those Potatoes?

Important.

Mr. Geo. Sandoe, Post Master at this place, informs us that he has been notified by the Post Master General, that a Post Office has been established in General Lee's army, called "Army" Post Office.

In future all letters intended for persons in Gen. Lee's army, will be directed as above—giving the Company, Regiment, Brigade, Division and Corps, if known.

Upper East Tennessee.

An important movement of our troops in upper East Tennessee has taken place within a day or two, and we are hourly expecting thrilling news from that quarter.

Col. A. Fulkerson, of the 63d Tennessee Regiment, who was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, reached his mother's near this place on Saturday evening last, and is rapidly improving.

Meade's army is said to be in Fauquier county, with pickets extending into Culpeper.

The British journals say that Russia is making great preparations for war.

On the night of the 24th, a heavy shelling of Sumpter was kept up. Capt. Frank H. Harleston was mortally wounded and one negro killed.

Hon. JOHN W. C. WATSON has been elected Confederate States Senator, by the Legislature of Mississippi, at its recent Session, for the term of six years.

We are indebted to Mr. John A. Seabright for Baltimore papers of late date.

For the Virginian.

"Honor to whom Honor is Due."

Hd. Qrs. 2d CAVALRY BRIGADE, Edon's Ridge, E. Tenn., Nov. 15th, 1863.

Editors Virginian:—In your issue of Friday last, appears an editorial headed, "Gen. Jones—his victory at Rogersville;" also one in the Lynchburg Republican of the 12th inst., in both of which great injustice is done Col. Giltner and his command, the 2d Cavalry Brigade.

Doubtless this was unintentional, as it is presumed you published the affair as reported to you. And it is further presumed that you are willing to be corrected as to any errors into which you may have been led. Oblige, then, a lover of even-handed justice, in giving place to the following statement of the facts in the case:

Gen. Jones and Col. Giltner were ordered to move with their respective brigades upon a force of the enemy at Big Creek, four miles from Rogersville, on the night of the 5th inst.; Col. Giltner, with his command, taking the Holston Valley road north of the river, Gen. Jones the Beech Creek road south of the river, in order to gain the Chickamauga and other fords by which it was supposed the enemy would attempt to escape. The two columns were ordered to make a simultaneous attack at daylight the following morning.

Both columns moved at the appointed time, but owing to the impracticability of the road south of the river, Gen. Jones passed to the north side of the river and over to the Carter Valley road, crossing Col. Giltner's path at Seagunville. After halting some time to let Gen. Jones' column pass, Col. G. moved on slowly, intending to give Gen. J. time to get to the rear of the Yankees by the Carter Valley road. He soon encountered a scouting party, which he drove ahead of him to within three or four miles of their camp, where he again halted till he was informed by couriers that Gen. Jones had gained the enemy's rear upon the other road. He then moved upon them in front. As his advance came in sight of Chickamauga's ford, they found the Federals beginning to cross at that point.—The 1st Tennessee (Confederate) was ordered forward at a double quick to cut them off from the ford, which it did in a few moments. Foiled in their attempt to escape by this ford, they fell back across Big Creek and took up a strong position on high ground, leaving two pieces of artillery with a support of three companies of the 2d Tennessee (Federal) on our side of the creek.

The 1st Tennessee (Confederate) advanced upon these pieces, and at the same time the 10th and 4th Kentucky cavalry were brought up at a gallop, dismounted and brought into action in line style. A short dash gave the 1st Tennessee (Confederate) possession of the two pieces they had advanced upon, and the two regiments coming up at this moment, the whole line immediately charged the position beyond the creek, with a yell. They carried it, capturing the remainder of the enemy's artillery, the whole of the 2d Tennessee (Fed.) regiment, and routing the remainder of the force, which being mounted, fled in great confusion to the river and towards Rogersville. To the 4th and 5th squadrons of the 4th Kentucky cavalry, belongs the honor of first gaining the height and reaching the enemy's guns planted there. The attack was so short and decisive that the 10th Georgia Battalion and 6th Virginia regiment, which were held in reserve, and ordered forward on horseback as soon as the enemy was seen to give way before our charge, did not get a shot, tho' they pursued the fugitives till they had either crossed the river or run upon Gen. Jones' force near Rogersville. Up to this time nothing had been seen or heard of Gen. J.'s force in the rear. He, himself, appeared on the field about an hour and a half after the fight was over. He did not arrive, indeed, until after Col. G. had recalled his troops from the pursuit, and had the captured artillery carried to the rear, and was in search of a camp, intending to remain near the battle-field till all the captured property was secured, and the men and horses were fed and rested.

Countermarching Col. G.'s order to camp, General J. ordered the whole of the forces to march that night back beyond the north fork of Holston, over twenty-four miles distant. There was, consequently, much property left upon the field. Several hundred stands of arms of the finest description, two caissons belonging to the captured battery, for which, in the hurry of leaving, sufficient teams could not be procured. A number of wagons were burned for a similar reason. All this property could have been saved by a delay of a few hours. Besides this, on account of marching the prisoners during the night, a considerable number escaped the guards.

Gen. Jones was enabled, by going to Rogersville, to intercept and capture about two hundred and fifty Federals who were flying from Col. G.'s victorious troops. He also captured and destroyed, we understand, a considerable amount of Q. M. and Comr. stores, and burned a number of wagons at Rogersville.

Such is a plain statement of the affair of the 6th inst. We are willing and anxious to concede to Gen. Jones all that is due him in the premises. He is, we believe, a brave and efficient officer, but on this occasion he was very unfortunate in not getting into position soon enough to participate in the fight, and still more unfortunate, allow us to say, in having friends who, in their eagerness to add to his well-earned reputation, claim achievements justly belonging to another. You are doubtless right in saying that "Gen. Jones would, whenever he got in reach of the enemy, gain a victory;" but in this case he did not reach the Yankees till the victory was gained by some one else. 'Tis true he captured the town of Rogersville with some army stores, and killed a few straggling Yankees there. If that is what is styled "his victory at Rogersville," we desire you would put in comparison with it, "Giltner's Victory at Big Creek," four miles from Rogersville, in which his brigade carried the enemy's position, capturing all their artillery and more than half their men. You say "Jones came upon the wrong end of the enemy's guns for them to do much execution." That could not be said of the boys of the second brigade, for they approached the open end of those pieces with as much intrepidity as any veterans ever did. And when the 1st brigade got to them, neither end was very dangerous, for they had been in our possession for several hours. You also say that "Gen. Jones was assisted by Col. Giltner" in the fight. Here again we must beg leave to correct you, for, on this occasion, (to borrow a simile from a game somewhat in vogue in camp,) "Giltner went it alone," and he "made a march."

We can hardly, we think, be accused of "sounding our own trumpet," in making the above statement, after having waited patiently and expectantly for a week for some one of the 1st brigade to come forward, with that generosity characteristic of Virginia gentlemen, to correct the numerous misrepresentations of the press, in reference to this fight, and award the meed of praise to those to whom it justly belongs. We waited in vain, and are at length compelled to speak out ourselves against the injustice done our fellow-soldiers of the 2d brigade, in the accounts heretofore published.

A PARTICIPANT.

for the Virginian.

Colonel Wm. E. Peters.

The loss of the services of this gentleman in the councils of the State, occasioned by the resignation of his seat in the Senate of Virginia, is much to be regretted.

In these times of trouble and difficulty, the State has need of the services of her gifted sons. Col. Peter's legislative career was short, but long enough to give evidence of his eminent fitness for the position to which he had been chosen by his late constituents. His highly cultivated mind, his laborious habits, his application and attention to his duties, and his courteous and gentlemanly deportment, won for him the respect and confidence of his fellow members, and his future promised a career alike honorable to himself and useful to his native State. The writer of this has known him well for many years, and always admired him for the noble qualities of his head and heart.

It was with much gratification that he heard of his election to the Senate, and he watched with much interest his course as a member of that body which so soon placed him in so favorable a light in the estimation of his brother Senators.

It has been stated that his late constituents will again return him to the Senate. I trust that such may be their determination, and that the State he loves so well and which he has served with gallantry in the field, may again have the benefit of his talents and energies in her councils. "A VIRGINIA SENATOR."

For the Virginian.

Messrs Editors:—May I claim a brief space in your columns, in offering an earnest appeal to the citizens of Lee, to come forward in this time of greatest need? As I am a citizen of Lee, and think I understand the character of her people, I would enquire if there is a man willing to claim that noble county as his home, who is not willing to come forward and assist the "war-worn soldiers" to liberate our homes. The vilest foe that ever cursed any land, now tramples our soil, oppresses our people, desecrates our homes, insults and robs our mothers and sisters and loved ones, while there are many of our able-bodied citizens—many, too, who are refugees from home, who seem to be willing to submit to such outrages, as "actions speak louder than words." I hope this will not longer be the case. Let every man, able to bear arms, come at once to the assistance of our soldiers, whose breasts have been bared, whose arms have been raised in defence of our homes, yet who have been over-burdened—their arms falling powerless by their sides from the overwhelming weight upon them—and who are waiting and hoping for help from our patriotic citizens. Will they wait in vain? Shall they despair of help? Have none any rights worth contending for but the soldier's? I fancy the response will come from every home and heart that our homes shall be free. Let those who are dull or insensible to the call of our bleeding and oppressed country—those who can resist the call of the soldier—go listen to the appeals of our helpless mothers upon a sleepless pillow, whose hearts are beating in suspense, expecting, at the deep dark hour of midnight, to be aroused by the despot whose only ambition is to plunder and destroy. Let those who still resist; deny their birth-place, and seek a refuge where woman's voice and influence can neither be heard nor felt. Let those who are unwilling to resist the invaders of our once happy homes, but now desolate and ruined—let those who fear to approach the battle-field, when their dearest rights are threatened—when everything that can make life desirable is exposed—let those claim no privilege, but forever shrink back in disgrace, and in shame confess that they were unwilling to strike for their homes and their rights. Let those who will not come forward, in times like these, be at once conscripted and sent to the armies of Lee or Bragg, allowing them no privileges more than the deserter, for their country's need is the most urgent call—the language of mothers and sisters oppressed—the ruins of home and country, until, in the call to arms of all our citizens, who are able to bear arms, to assist our soldiery in driving back the infamous foe.

I venture the assertion that if every man—