

Abingdon Virginian.

BY COALE & BARR.

Friday, Jan. 29, 1864.

Knoxville.

We were entertained a few evenings ago with an interesting narrative of the state of affairs in Knoxville, by a very intelligent gentleman who had been there from the time of its occupation by the Federal army until about three weeks ago, when he watched his opportunity and slipped out between the pickets. He says the character of Federal rule and policy there has pretty well cured the Union men of their Unionism, and has more firmly and resolutely determined Southern men to fight them to the bitter end, and to throw all the weight of their services and influence in the scale of Southern independence.

When he left, about the 10th of January, there was a vast deal of sickness in the city, besides some 350 cases of small pox. We have heard from another source, that they bury the dead in the yards and gardens, or wherever most convenient. Our informant says there were not less than 100 dead horses and mules lying in the streets, and for a mile or two round the whole face of the earth was strown with decomposing carcasses.

Those who have been at Knoxville will remember, that there were many beautiful ornamental trees both in the streets and in the grounds of private residences. All these have been cut down, either in wantonness or for fuel, and not one left standing. Even those in the Asylum grounds, and in that vicinity, have all been felled and consumed.

The oppression of Southern citizens, is the most despotism ever heard of in a civilized and Christian country. They are not allowed to follow their occupations, or to sell or buy, without a permit from Gen. Foster, and cannot obtain this without taking the oath of allegiance. Nor is this all—without the means of procuring food, they cannot even draw the scanty rations allowed loyal subjects, without swallowing the detestable oath—hence same have been starved into compliance.

The rations issued, are one hard cracker per day, and a little lean, blue, stringy beef. This beef is driven from Kentucky, and as no forage can be had from Cumberland Gap to Knoxville—a distance of 62 miles—the cattle necessarily become about as thin as Pharaoh's "lean kine," and many of them die by the way from fatigue and starvation.

Our informant also says that there is scarcely a panel of fence or a frame outhouse left in the city, all having been used for fuel, while all the churches and hotels, as well as stores and residences, have been converted into hospitals. Many of the citizens have been compelled to crowd themselves and their effects into one or two rooms, while the balance of their large and comfortable mansions is appropriated to officers' quarters.

The whole country round, as well as the city, is one broad waste of ruin and desolation. From Knoxville to Loudon—a distance of 30 miles—scarcely a rail or farming implement is left, and what little remaining stock remains, wanders at large to nibble a scanty subsistence from the naked fields. The beautiful and fertile estate of the Messrs. Lemoir, one of the finest in East Tennessee, is as bare of provender as the Great Sahara, and those gentlemen themselves forced to the alternative of drawing Yankee rations or starving.

This is a disheartening picture, truly, and we give it for the benefit of those who may think that Yankee evictions are not much more oppressive than Confederate requirements. Let it be borne in mind that what is true of Knoxville and the adjacent country now, will be true of every inch of our country upon which the scythe is permitted to plant his foot. Are we willing to endure this, or even to remain at home in comparative comfort while so many of our friends and fellow-countrymen are enduring it? We are called upon to take up arms to defend our families and homes, as well as our country and our rights, and the man who shirks this duty with ability to perform it, deserves just such treatment as he will be sure to receive, should he ever get into the coils of Lincoln's snares.

"Variety is the spice of life," says an old writer, but it is often the name of life to the printer. We have a variety, both in hue and quality, of paper, and if it were not aggravating it would be amusing to look upon the small lot of motly paper we are sometimes so fortunate or unfortunate to obtain. The week before last and for some weeks previously, we printed upon an article that had the sombre color of a thunder cloud, last week it was tolerably fair, and this week it has that beautiful tinge which characterizes the beautiful telegraphed and paper. Well, we shall not complain, for some of the Richmond journals are printed upon paper that looks as if it had been subjected to the operations of a pepper-box, and is almost as transparent as mud. And this is not all—the ink is as bad or worse than the paper. Instead of being composed, as in former times, of lamp-black, olive oil and turpentine, it has the appearance of a combination of boot, saw-dust and dubbing. We hope to do better after a while.

J. M. Bennett, Auditor of Public Accounts, in his instructions to Commissioners of the Revenue, says, "The law fixes the first of February of each year as the time to commence the assessment of persons and property. It is a duty, however, that may be waived, for proper considerations; and as I anticipate an amendment of the assessment law, I advise a postponement of such commencement until further instructions."

The Rival Administrations: RICHMOND AND WASHINGTON.

This is the title of a pamphlet of some 30 pages, written by Mr. E. A. Pollard, author of the "First and Second Years of the War," and issued by the Richmond press. It is very ably written, but exhibits, we think, rather more bitterness against "the powers that be," than might be altogether prudent at this particular time, when harmony and conciliation are so desirable, not bickerings and distrust. President Davis, we admit, often permits his prejudices to mislead his better judgment, and is governed, to a great extent, in his patronage and appointments, by his former political predilections; but still, take him all in all, we very much doubt if there is a man in the Confederacy who would have done better, or more nearly filled the measure of the arduous and delicate duties devolving upon him.

The positions assumed by Mr. Pollard with reference to the blunders of the Executive, are, as far as we know, altogether truthful; but then ought we not to make liberal allowances for the extraordinary and embarrassing circumstances by which President Davis and his Cabinet are surrounded? We think so, and while we admire the ability and zeal of the author, we do not altogether approve his style, and the time he has chosen to utter his criminations.

The price of the pamphlet is \$1, and it will be sent postpaid to any part of the Confederacy on sending remittance to the office of the Richmond Examiner.

In for the War.

How any man can feel depressed and despondent, when each day brings the cheering tidings that the veterans in the field—the men who have stood between their homes and danger from the hour the dark cloud of war overshadowed our land—are, with most remarkable unanimity, stepping forward and tendering their services to the Government to the end of the war, he it long or short. The troops of Tennessee, we believe, took the lead, and Brigade after Brigade, and Division after Division, have followed the noble example. Such men are unconquerable, and we are now more convinced than ever, that a people determined to be free will be free, no matter what the power or odds against them.

SMALL POX.

This terrible disease, and one of the evils that never fail to accompany war, has again made its appearance in this county. We understand there is a case or two at Bristol, and a friend writes us there is a case at the house of Mr. John Gobble, on the North Fork, in the lower end of the county. We fear it will spread in the latter case, as a great many persons visited the sick man before the character of his disease was known.

Daily Telegraph.

This is the title of a new paper that has sprung from the ashes of the *Jonesboro* weekly. Express, the first number of which is before us. It is published by Mr. John Slack, the proprietor of the late Express, at \$3 per month. It is very neatly gotten up, and we wish it success.

Meeting of Next Congress.

The present Congress will adjourn on the 18th of February, and the new Congress will assemble, we presume, on the first Monday in May, when all the members elected during the past year will be entitled to seats.

Capt. Rodefer having resigned the position of Quartermaster of this Post, in consequence of declining health, Capt. M. E. Tate, of Smyth county, has been appointed his successor.

It is due to Capt. Rodefer to state, that he has filled the place with more than usual fidelity, and retires without having amassed a fortune.

Washington Mounted Rifles.

The members of this Company, the first to enter the army from Southwestern Virginia, have been permitted to return to their homes for a few weeks, and are now among us. For nearly three years have they been actively engaged, and now, for the first time, have a short respite from the dangers of the field, and the toils and privations of the scout and march. This is the Company of which Gen. William B. Jones was the first Captain, and of which Maj. Mosby was a private member. For two years past it has been under the command of Capt. G. T. Litchfield of this place, and has distinguished itself on many hard-fought fields.

Rev. Thos. Brown will preach at Union next Sabbath, 31st inst.

For the Virginian.

Editors—I see by your last paper, that Gen. Humphrey Marshall had consented to become a candidate to represent the 8th District of Kentucky in the Congress of the Confederate States. This must, indeed, be gratifying to all Kentuckians who have any pride still with them for the State in which their homes are situated. Gen. Marshall, as a statesman, has a reputation as broad as our country, and at such a time as this, it must be pleasant to exhort Kentuckians to think they have such a man still left to guide their interests. He served in our army two years, and only left it with a sense of honor would not permit him to remain longer. I am myself cognizant of many of the circumstances which induced him to resign, and know how much he regretted them, and still further that there is not a more high minded and pure-hearted patriot in the confines of the Southern Republic. We have few such men as Humphrey Marshall available to us at present, and in honoring him, we reflect honor upon ourselves.

I do not know who his opponents may be, so far as I can learn he does not appear to have any in this section of country—but let them be whom they may, I presume the simple announcement that Gen. Marshall is a candidate will be sufficient to secure the support of every soldier who has served with him, as it has done in the case of Your Humble Servant.

For the Virginian.

To John A. Willis.

Candidate Congress in 8th Ky. Dis.

Sir—Having your card announcing yourself as a candidate for Congress, and rather liking the manner in which you seem disposed to view things, having no personal acquaintance with you, and not being able to enlighten myself among fellow-soldiers, I propose to ask you a few questions in this public manner, for my own information as well as for many others who are enquiring about you. You will have an opportunity before the election takes place to reply to my interrogations through the same medium, as I hope you will not fail to do so. I must not be far from you, the fact that there are some sites in circulation here, which do not rebound in your favor, but satisfactory answers to a questions I propose will silence these at once.

1st. How long have you been in the Southern Confederacy, and how long you employed your time since you left Kentucky?

2d. You speak being a soldier, and knowing their needs. How long have you been in the service, and what command have you been serving, and what actions have you been engaged in?

3d. I learn by you are quite a young man. If this be true, is it that you propose to abandon the arms of our country at such a time as this, and turn soldier?

KENTUCKY SOLDIER.

the Virginian.

ABINGDON, VA., Jan. 27th, 1864.

Messrs. Editors—Being a soldier myself, I presume I have the privilege of saying a few words to my countrymen in arms. On the 10th day of February there is to be an election held among Kentuckians for members from their own State to the Confederate Congress. Since arriving here, I see that the friends of Colonel Thomas Johnson intend running him as the candidate to represent the 10th district. I have served with Col. Johnson as a soldier for the past 15 months, and a more worthy man could not be selected to fill the position. Col. Johnson is beyond the age that our law makes soldiers of men, and in the present crisis, I believe in carrying out the antique proverb, "Old men for counsel—young men for war." Col. Johnson left a comfortable home in Kentucky, among the very first of sons, to strike hands with those who were struggling for Southern Independence, and I know that no man has contributed more to Kentucky soldiery in proportion to his means than he. As a tribute to his past services, and as a mark of our appreciation of his good conduct, we should all unite and elect him to the office, in an opinion of a

KENTUCKIAN

for the Virginian.

GREENVILLE, E. C., Jan. 17th, 1864.

Messrs. Editors—Thinking my friends of Lee, Scott and Washington counties are this, have learned that Hoge's Brigade of Cavalry were ordered to report at Abingdon, Va., as soon as practicable, anxious to learn the time of their arrival, you will please give publication in your paper that we as thus far on our exposed and painful trip, and will perhaps reach Abingdon on or about the 15th February next. Our Virginia boys are fully clad—some without shoes, with rags wrapped around their feet, all in fine spirits, singing, carry me back to old Virginia shore. All hail to the ladies and gentlemen of the little Palmetto State for the hospitality shown us whilst passing through their patriotic country. The remainder of our trip through these large North Carolina mountains will be severe, no doubt at this season. Nevertheless, we hope the God of battles will be with us, and preserve us from freezing, that we may reach our old North State, and help to defend her.

Respectfully, &c.,

Capt. THOS. S. GIBSON.

For the Virginian.

Messrs. Editors—Permit me through your columns to suggest to the good citizens of Abingdon and vicinity that they give to the members of the Washington Mounted Rifles an entertainment of some kind. When the first hard frosts of war were sented in this Southern land of ours, these heroic young men were among the first to buckle in their armor and go forth from our midst to battle for our rights and liberty. During the whole of this prolonged and bloody contest, they have manfully endured the privations, hardships and dangers of the soldier's life without ever flinching one iota from the discharge of their whole duty. They have rendered themselves illustrious, and crowned their brows with countless, fearless laurels upon many a hard fought battle field. Hundreds of the foe have been brought low, and given a resting place among the dead during the gallant charges made by these men of valor.

We, as a people and as fellow-citizens, owe them a debt of gratitude which can never be paid—and now that they are permitted to rest for a short time, to turn away from the bloody and heart-rending scenes in which they have been engaged for so long a time, and to return to their homes to recover strength for a more deadly conflict in coming spring, it is nothing but right, nothing but our duty, and it ought to be our pleasure, to show to them the appreciation we have of their noble deeds of daring, by giving them an entertainment worthy of the occasion.

The Military Despotism of the North.

The Chicago Times says, in reference to the proceedings of Congress:

Mr. Edgerton of Indiana, is much complimented by the conservative members of Congress of both Houses, for the noble tone, as well as the comprehensiveness and point of his resolutions. The resolutions arraign the President, as he deserves, for his bad faith and for the violation of his inaugural oath; throw in his teeth the various solemn promises which he has disregarded; and denounce the whole military policy of the administration in fitting terms. The resolutions, of course, were voted down; but the fact that they received sixty-six votes in the House of Representatives caused a very uneasy feeling to pervade the radical side of the House.

The resolution of Mr. Harrington, of Indiana, offered on the same day, in relation to the habeas corpus and the usurpation of the President, are similar in tone and spirit, and are equally commendable. They met of course with the same fate.

It is a little curious to note the different kinds of quarters built by the troops from different localities. The Tennesseean is not content until he has his shanty constructed of logs, with a huge chimney and fireplace, while a Louisianian rests easy in his frail structure of boards, shivering, relying on the hope that it will turn warmer soon.

Correspondence between his Excellency President Davis, and his Holiness Pope Pius IX.

We publish the following correspondence between the President of the Confederate States and His Holiness Pope Pius IX., dated in October, 1862, to the Catholic Archbishops at New York and New Orleans, enjoining them to employ their prayers and influence for the restoration of peace:

President Davis to his Holiness Pope Pius IX.

Richmond, September 23, 1863.

Most Venerable Chief of the Holy See and Sovereign Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church:

The letters which your Holiness addressed to the Venerable Chiefs of the Catholic clergy in New Orleans and New York have been brought to my attention, and I have read with emotion the terms in which you are pleased to express the deep sorrow with which you regard the slaughter, ruin and devastation consequent on the war now waged by the Government of the United States against the States and people over which I have been chosen to preside, and in which you direct them, and the clergy under their authority, to exhort the people and the rulers to the exercise of mutual charity and the love of peace. I am deeply sensible of the Christian charity and sympathy with which your Holiness has twice appealed to the venerable clergy of your church, urging them to use and apply all study and exertion for the restoration of peace and tranquility.

I therefore, deem it my duty to offer to your Holiness in my own name and in that of the people of the Confederate States, the expression of our sincere and cordial appreciation of the Christian charity and love by which your Holiness is actuated, and to assure you that this people, as whose hearthstones the enemy is now pressing with threats of dire oppression and merciless carnage, are now and ever have been earnestly desirous that this wicked war shall cease; that we have offered at the footstool of Our Father who sits in Heaven prayers, inspired by the same feelings which animate your Holiness; that we desire no evil to our enemies, nor do we covet any of their possessions; but are only struggling to the end that they shall cease to devastate our land and inflict useless and cruel slaughter upon our people, and that we be permitted to live at peace with all mankind, under our own laws and institutions, which protect every man in the enjoyment not only of his temporal rights, but of the freedom of worshipping God according to his own faith.

I, therefore, pray your Holiness to accept from me and from the people of these Confederate States the assurance of our sincere thanks for your effort to aid the cause of peace, and of our earnest wishes that your life may be prolonged, and that God may have you in His holy keeping.

(Signed) JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Confederate States of America.

[TRANSLATION.]

To the Illustrious and Honorable Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, Richmond, Va.

Pius P. P. IX.

Illustrious and Honorable Sir, greeting: We have lately received with all kindness as was meet, the gentleman sent by your Excellency to present to us your letter dated on the 23d of last September. We have received certainly no small pleasure in learning, both from your letter the feelings of gratification and of very warm appreciation with which you, Illustrious and Honorable Sir, were moved when you first had knowledge of our letters written in October of the preceding year to the Venerable Brethren, John, Archbishop of New Orleans, and John, Archbishop of New Orleans, in which we again and again urged and exhorted those Venerable Brethren that because of their exemplary piety and episcopal zeal they should employ their most earnest efforts in our name, also in order that the fatal civil war which had arisen in the States should end, and that the people of America might again enjoy mutual peace and concord, and love each other with mutual charity. And it has been very gratifying to us, to recognize, Illustrious and Honorable Sir, that you and your people are animated by the same desire for peace and tranquility which we had so earnestly inculcated in our aforesaid letters to the Venerable Brethren above named. Oh, that the other people also of the States and their rulers, considering seriously how deplorable is this intestine war, would receive and embrace the counsels of peace and tranquility. We indeed shall not cease with most fervent prayer to beseech God, the Best and Highest, and to implore Him to pour out the spirit of Christian love and peace upon all the people of America, and to rescue them from the great calamities with which they are afflicted. And we also pray the same most merciful Lord that he will illumine Your Excellency with the light of His divine grace and unite you with ourselves in perfect charity.

Given at Rome, St. Peter's, on the 3d December, 1863, in the Eighteenth year of our Pontificate.

Pius P. P. IX.

A Yankee Negro Camp.

A Vicksburg correspondent writes: Any one who looks at a large map of the Mississippi river, can notice just below Vicksburg, an immense bend, enclosing a space of the shape of a horse-shoe, with the heels pointed close together. Government has taken possession of the property, and is to establish a camp for the collection and employment of negroes. At the neck of the peninsula, less than half a mile across, an entrenchment will be thrown up, and a suitable guard of negro troops will be kept to defend the place against guerrillas.

Another Draft of Slaves.

The Enquirer says Gov. Smith will in a short time issue a call for 5,000 able bodied male slaves to work on the batteries. The amount must be drawn from 50 counties. The number required from each county will soon be sent around to the respective courts whose duty it will be to apportion the number of slaves required for each citizen. The call for this force has been made by the President under a resolution of Congress.

Gen. Johnston's Army.

The Atlanta Register informs us that officers and men from the army encamped near Dalton, state that the condition and spirit of our troops were never better than at present. They seem to regard the *contretemps* at Missionary Ridge as the result of rivalries and dissensions among the general officers, now remedied by the appointment of Gen. Johnston to the chief command. This is not all—men made liable to military service are selecting their companies and regiments, and the ranks are being rapidly filled up. Many of these recruits have seen much service and such is the spirit now prevalent and spreading through the army, that it is believed that the whole will revolute for the war.

The Marietta Belle also gives us cheering accounts from the same quarter. All the reports from the Army of Tennessee, says that paper, assure us that the troops are a unit in their admiration and love of their new commander. Their confidence in him is unbounded, and they have the most implicit faith in his great abilities. They believe that if the foe shall attempt to advance, his sagacity and promptness, combined with his consummate skill, will prove sufficient for their defeat and overthrow. It is a pleasant and gratifying condition for this army to be in. We candidly believe that we have, in the future prospect, everything to encourage us to hopefulness and exultation, and not the slightest reason to despond. Grant is near Atlanta as he will ever get, unless he comes as a prisoner of war, which is by no means unlikely, if he attempts an advance. Meade will never see the spires of Richmond, or Gilmore the inside of Charleston. The Yankees may annoy and injure us by unexpected raids, but any considerable advance into our territories, with large armies, is an impossibility, so long as Lee, Johnston, and Beauregard stand Wardens at the portals of the Republic.

The Atlanta Confederacy also says cheerfully: "Every indication which reaches us from the army is cheering. It is not so much that the troops are comparatively comfortable in their rude huts, nor yet that a single universal sentiment of confidence exists in favor of Gen. Johnston. The chief feature that arrests our attention and our pleasure is that the troops are recruiting. This noble example was set by the Tennesseans. These poor exiles have held meetings among themselves, and have resolved never to go home except with muskets upon their shoulders. The Kentuckians followed suit, and the whole army is now readily subscribing to a new term of service. With the new letters which will be poured in after the 15th of February, we shall be able to meet and repel Grant's advances in the Spring. If every one in the rear will put his shoulder to the wheel and contribute whatever he can to the proper equipment of the army, especially in the way of blankets, there would be no more suffering."

Diabolical attempt to burn the Presidential Mansion.

Between the hours of ten and eleven o'clock on Tuesday night, a most diabolical attempt was made by an incendiary, to destroy the house of President Davis. At the time mentioned, the attention of some members of the President's family having been attracted by a smell of smoke, which seemed to proceed from the basement, instant alarm was given and a search made which disclosed the fact that the premises were on fire in the east basement room, which was used as a wood and coal house. A large quantity of shavings and a bundle of faggots, placed by the incendiary against a pile of wood, were in a blaze, and but for the timely discovery, would soon have communicated by the wood and resulted in the destruction of the building, and perhaps, in loss of life. The fire was soon extinguished, when it appeared that an entrance into the house had been effected through the wood house window, and that the incendiary, before applying the torch, had broken into the store-room, also into the basement, and stolen a large quantity of butter, lard and other groceries. Had this attempt to burn the building have been made an hour or two later in the night, there is every probability that it would have been successful.

No clue has been obtained as to who were the perpetrators of this robbery and outrage; but the general impression among citizens is, that it was the work of some of the five or six hundred Yankee prisoners who have been turned loose in this city. We, however, think it quite as likely that the President's household servants knew something of the matter.

The Situation in East Tennessee.

The Times in an article on the military situation in Tennessee says:

The official reports that have been received here lately do not coincide with the statements that have been published in the administration organ, in relation to the state of affairs at Chattanooga and Knoxville. In the first place, General Longstreet is not retreating to Virginia. He is firmly established at Rogersville, thirty-five miles southeast of Cumberland Gap, where he is awaiting reinforcements from General Lee's army, which are on the way to him. Joined by them it is expected that he will either make a second attempt to take Knoxville, or else that he will rejoin General Hardee at Ringgold. In the second place, it appears that the Confederates are really endeavoring to carry out the programme stated in my letters of November 25th, and December 2d, namely, to make Chattanooga untenable by General Grant by getting possession of the Sequatchie Valley roads.

The Siege of Charleston.

The Courier of Thursday says: "We learn that a private of the 'Gist Guard,' Captain Chester's Company, First S. C. Artillery, was instantly killed last evening by the explosion of a Minnie rifle shell. This is the first instance of a white person having been killed outright by a shell since the bombardment of the city. The name of the man was not ascertained at the time of writing our report. A negro was also reported severely wounded on Thursday."

Corn Abundant.

Within a scope of fifteen miles around this village, says the Edgefield (S. C.) Advertiser, there are twenty-five thousand bushels of corn over and above the requirements of the producers and the titles of the government. This calculation is based upon safe data, and may be considered reliable.