

# ABINGDON VIRGINIAN.

VOLUME 24.

ABINGDON, FRIDAY FEBRUARY 19, 1864.

No. 45.

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From the Petersburg Express.

## The Yankee Navy and Yankee Commerce.

The fact is undeniable and indisputable that all of Lincoln's successes in this war have been won entirely by the co-operation of gunboats with his land forces. Not one of his victories, save that at Fishing Creek, in Kentucky, gained over the lamented Zollicoffer by dint of overwhelming superiority of numbers, can be pointed to as an exception to our remark. We do not call the results of the battles of Antietam (or Sharpsburg) and Gettysburg victories on their side, although so claimed by them. Nor is the success at Corinth outside of the gunboat margin, for to his flotilla in the Tennessee was the enemy wholly indebted for the facilities of supplying his army in Northern Mississippi with the means of rendering it efficient and thereby enabling it to maintain its position at Corinth when so rashly attacked by Van Dorn. Hatteras, Hilton Head, Roanoke Island, Forts Henry and Donelson, New Orleans, Vicksburg and Port Hudson—these are his great and only important successes, and all of them were gained in the way we have stated above—by the co-operation of his naval forces, and by this alone. Unfortunately the Confederate Government neglected to provide on the ocean and in its rivers in the first year of the war, when it might easily have done so, a sufficiency of armed vessels to resist and frustrate the operations of the Yankee navy, which was then far from being formidable. Lincoln quickly saw where his real strength lay, and proceeded to take advantage of the terrible Confederate blunder of which we have spoken. He applied himself diligently to the increase of his naval power. His Congress lavished millions upon the repairs of worn out vessels—the construction, alteration and purchase of others, and upon their armaments and equipments. Whilst all this busy work was going on at Lincoln's dock yards, the Confederate government was looking inertly on, dreaming away the precious opportunity in feigned security, and fondly hugging the fatal delusion of foreign intervention. The *Merrimac* was the only vessel that was completed and made available for vigorous service in the first year of hostilities, and nobly did she acquit herself. But after a brief and brilliant career she was recklessly destroyed, instead of being run up to some secure point on James River, where she would have been a terror to the Yankees, or, if overpowered, she could have been blown up at last, under circumstances infinitely more creditable to her destroyers than were those under which she met her sad and untimely fate. But enough of this.

The successful naval expeditions which were fitted out by Lincoln against our coast and in the Western rivers found nothing to oppose them but earthworks, hastily and imperfectly constructed, mounted with guns of inferior range and weight of metal, and manned, with perhaps the exception of Vicksburg, by wholly inadequate garrisons. Yet even with these vast disadvantages, our batteries would have successfully resisted the military attacks upon them, although enormously outnumbered in men, as in the case of Fort Donelson. But they could not withstand the combined assaults of huge fleets and armies, nor could this have been rationally expected from them.

But although the enemy's navy has, in the absence of opposing Confederate war craft, been enabled to 'damage us to the extent it has done, on the sea coast and in the interior'—although our Government was guilty of such extraordinary remissness in the matter of naval preparations suitable to the occasion which demanded them—we award to it all the credit it is entitled to for providing, as it did at an early day, for annoying, distressing and destroying the Commerce of the Yankees, which is their tenderest and most vulnerable point. Whilst they have pretty much been compelled to confine their operations by sea to the blockade of our coast, two or three of our armed cruisers have played havoc with their merchantmen. The *Alabama* and *Florida* have inflicted upon them losses not very far below those we have sustained from their blockade, and are still actively and triumphantly pushing on their glorious work.

It is a most remarkable fact, the like of which has been seen in no other war that was ever waged, that a couple of vessels, mounting between them not more than twenty guns, have actually driven from the ocean a commerce second in extent and richness only to that of England, backed by a boasted navy of hundreds of ships. Those two daring cruisers have carried the Confederate flag to the ends of the earth, have burnt, captured or destroyed at least a hundred Yankee "argosies," many of them laden with cargoes of the richest description, have caused the rates of insurance to advance to such figures and have inspired such general terror amongst shippers and ship owners in Yankee land, that they have been driven to the necessity of conducting their trade under foreign flags. Let any one read over the marine lists of New York, and he will observe that arrivals from all clearances for foreign countries are near-

ly all parenthesized as either British, French, Swedish or some other nominally European vessels. The "stars and stripes" have as good as disappeared from the broad highway of nations, and now wave only from the mastsheads of Blockaders and from the flag staffs of river craft. Semmes and Maffitt have wrought this wonderful change, and their names will go down in the chronicles of this war covered with glory. They have in their respective spheres done as much service to their country as the Generals who have at the head of armies met the foe in battle and won brilliant victories. How gallant must it be to Yankee pride and vanity to reflect that, with all their vaunted naval superiority, they have been unable to save from annihilation a commerce which three years ago whittened every sea! That they have been utterly powerless against the *Alabama* and *Florida*, two small cruisers that are ranging the ocean at their pleasure, in defiance of Yankee power and threats.

From the Wytheville Dispatch.

## How to end the War.

When the war commenced it was predicted that it would be of short duration, but contrary to all expectation it has lasted nearly three years, and to all appearances the end is not near. Much of the South has been desolated and many of her noble sons have surrendered their lives in defence of the right. It appears mysterious that such a calamity should be visited upon a people who have never asked anything but simple justice at the hands of those who now oppress them, and who were willing to surrender much that rightfully belonged to them for the poor boon of being let alone.

Looking at the matter from a mere human point of view, it is full of mystery, but when we remember that God's ways are not man's, we begin to see in the sins of our people a cause for the prolonging of the curse. We were a better people at the commencement of the war than now, and hence our successes, as we verily believe. We relied upon our God, trusted in Him and called upon Him, and most signally were our enemies rebuked. Witness Bethel, Bull Run, Manassas, and other places that could be named. But how stands the matter now? We have grown proud and self-reliant, and have taken our cause out of the hands of the Lord. The Christian hero who invariably commenced his dispatches from the battle field by acknowledging that the victory belonged to God, was removed by the dispensation of an all-wise providence, and his mantle seems not to have fallen upon any one. For a time we mourned him and were humbled, but it was not long before the spirit of boasting took possession of us, and it was proclaimed that many Jacks-sons remained. Alas! for the truth. Courage and skill were indeed left to us, but the candlestick of piety had been removed, and since his death we have grown more wicked and now where shall we look for men on high places who trust in the Lord? We wicked men say what they may, God will be enquired after and will sooner or later punish wickedness.

The careful reader of history, both sacred and profane, cannot but observe that many of the chastenings of the Almighty were not received as such by the nations so chastened, but were attributed to the cruelty of kings and ambition of rulers.

So in after years will future generations understand that our sins, if they did not bring on the war, prolonged it, and what we now regard as the cruelty and injustice of the North was in part a chastening for our transgressions. We must repent in sackcloth and ashes, and confess our utter helplessness without the aid of the Almighty. It belongs to our churches to take the lead in the matter, and by concentrated action to call the nation to prayer. A day of fasting and prayer will not suffice to repent us of our sins, but a week of humiliation should be set aside wherein the people may cease to think of the war and speculation, and bow themselves and humbly beg for pardon. It is a favorable time now, as our armies have gone into winter quarters, and the soldier will have better opportunities of joining with the citizen in imploring forgiveness for the sins of the nation.

If we rely upon our Congress to bring the war to an end, we shall be disappointed. If we look to our armies for peace, the scourge of war will remain; but if we put our trust in God the efforts of our armies will be successful, and ere long the blessings of peace shall be ours. There has been much talk about foreign intervention, but in our opinion the interposition of Heaven is the only intervention there is likely to be, and is certainly all that we need. To gain this we must cease to do evil and learn to do well—must quit lying, cheating and getting drunk—must cut off the right arm and pluck out the right eye of sin.

God demands, and patriotism requires, and the cause of humanity is calling loudly for a change. It will be well for us if we heed the united call!

## Central Lunatic Asylum—Interesting Statistics.

The Board of Directors of the Central Lunatic Asylum, at Staunton, Va., have made a report for the two years, ending September 30th, 1863, which reveals some interesting facts connected with the various causes for which the inmates were confined, &c.

The number of patients admitted into the Asylum during the two years, from October 1st, 1861, is 464; of whom 279 were males, and 185 females. The number remaining at the end of the two years was 331; of whom 195 are males, and 136 females. Of the civil condition of the patients, the larger proportion were single, nearly in the proportion of two to one. The ages at which insanity is supposed to have commenced, ranges from less than 5 to 70 years. The most frequent causes of insanity with those who have been in the Asylum, are blow on the head, domestic trouble and affliction, epilepsy, fevers, ill health, intemperance, mental fatigue,

pecuniary troubles and religious feelings.—We notice one case ascribed to dysentery, one to dissipation, two to exposure to cold, one to inhaling tobacco fumes, three to indolent habits, six to mental fatigue, two to overtaxed energies, fourteen to pecuniary troubles, one to political excitement, two to sedentary habits, and seventeen to the war.—*Richmond Waig.*

From the Lexington Gazette.

## On Short Rations.

It is painful to read of that gallant Army of heroes in Northern Virginia having to submit even temporarily to a "reduction of rations." Some of our papers have tried to cover up the truth on this subject, else have spoken without knowledge. The following "General Order" from their distinguished chief leaves no room for doubt that our men have been and are probably still on short rations. How long they are to be so we cannot tell. Nor do we know the "circumstances beyond the control of those charged with its support," that have brought about this sad state of affairs. One thing, however, we do know. We know that there is not the usual supply of meat in Virginia, and that this limited stock is now being rapidly consumed.

We have been credibly informed that there are farms in the good old County of Rockbridge, on which meat is regularly eaten three times a day. Is this right?—is it consistent with true patriotism? Are not those who remain at home, bound both by duty and honor, to deny themselves and their families a part of the usual allowance of animal food, at a critical period like the present, when the fate of our cause stands in jeopardy for want of supplies for the army?

No one is asked to give, but all are earnestly entreated to save every possible pound to sell to the Government. Don't be afraid of not getting the market price—"market price" will be a poor consideration for the loss of our liberties.

Hear what the noble Lee says:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY NORTHERN VA.,  
January 22, 1864.  
GENERAL ORDERS,  
No. 7.

The commanding General considers it due to the Army to state that the temporary reduction of rations has been caused by circumstances beyond the control of those charged with its support. Its welfare and comfort are the objects of his constant and earnest solicitude; and no effort has been spared to provide for its wants. It is hoped that the exertions now being made will render the necessity but of short duration, but the history of the army has shown that the country can require no sacrifices too great for its patriotic devotion!

Soldiers! you tread with no unequal steps the road by which your fathers marched through suffering, privation and blood to independence! Continue to emulate in the future, as you have in the past, their valor in arms, their patient endurance of hardships, their high resolve to be free, which no trial could shake, no bribe seduce, no danger appal, and be assured that the just God will crown their efforts with success, will, in His own good time, send down his blessings upon yours.—  
(Signed) R. E. LEE, Gen'l.

Washington correspondence of the New York Daily News.

## Latest from Charleston.

A gentleman who left Charleston on January 20th, furnishes some interesting though not important intelligence. The siege progresses slowly, and the Federals, he says, have less chance to capture that city than at any previous time. Indeed, its defenses are regarded as almost impregnable; the spirits of the people of the beleaguered city have risen with its superb defence by Beauregard; they are confident that under his command Charleston may laugh.

It might be supposed that skill and labour had long since done all that was necessary for the safety of Charleston. Still, to make assurance doubly sure, Beauregard labours with untiring zeal to perfect its defenses. Five thousand slaves are employed in the construction of works defending the approach to the city by land, and these works are of the most formidable character. The number of troops in this department at present is not large, but they can be readily obtained when their services are required.

Fort Sumter, if not as once it was, is grim and defiant as ever. In the dim distance it looks like the perfection of ruin, but military men declare that it cannot be taken except by assault; the terrible though ineffectual bombardment thus far, would seem to verify this opinion. Communication is had with the shore at night by boats, which transfer thousands of bags of sand, to use in repairing the damage which may be inflicted by the enemy. Beauregard's motto is up with the sand and down with the Yankees.

The tenderest solitude is evinced for the defenders of Sumter by the citizens, who look upon them as the noblest heroes of the war. A land attack is apprehended, but not immediately as it is thought Mobile is threatened. Reinforcements have been sent to that point.

## Gen. Lee's Pardon.

The Richmond correspondent of the Columbus Sun says that Gen. Lee pardoned the other day, just as the sentence was about to be executed, a deserter, condemned to be shot. His reason for so doing was to encourage the wives of all soldiers to act as the wife of this man had done.—When the officers came in search of him she promptly delivered him up, saying it was her duty in spite of her love for him and suffering and hardships she endured, in consequence of his absence, to send him back to the army that so much needed him in this hour of the country's tribulation. For her sake Gen. Lee spared him.  
Let other wives take note.

## Diplomacy with France—A Hitch with France.

A telegram from Washington to the New York World of the 2d inst., says:

It is rumored in high official circles here that we are upon the eve of a war with France, owing to the singular diplomacy of Mr. Seward, touching the questions growing out of the building of Confederate rams in France. It will be remembered that Mr. Seward assumed a very bold tone toward the English Government after he discovered that the British Cabinet had determined to detain Laird's rams and keep the peace with this country. His high sounding dispatches were all written after the change of policy in the English Cabinet was definitely understood.—Emboldened by his bloodless victories on paper, it is understood here that he assumed a similar tone toward the French Government, touching the Florida and the escaped steamer Rappahannock, and also with regard to the rams which were known to be building in France for the rebel Government. His position was so incautiously belligerent that he has received a reply from Drouyn de Lhuys which has put the Administration in a cruel predicament. The United States must either abandon its pretensions or go to war to maintain them. This, it is stated, is the only interpretation which can be put on the reply of the French minister. Hence the panic in the gold market, the call for five hundred thousand men, and the orders which have been sent to various naval stations, to fit out the iron-clads instantly.

Another telegram says:

It is now alleged that the trouble between France and the United States relates in some way to the special embassy which Mr. Wm. M. Evarts had been sent on to that country. After his services in the ram dispute in England, it is known that he was instructed to demand of France the surrender of the belligerent rights it accorded to the Southern rebels. Whether the demand, for whatever course of action, was based in a too peremptory tone, or whatever may be the trouble, it is certain that there is some serious difficulty with the French Cabinet, so much so as to alarm all save Mr. Seward himself.

## Col. Scott, the Gallant Louisiana Cavalry Leader.

We have for a long time been ignorant of the whereabouts and what about of that distinguished Cavalry commander, Colonel Scott, who figured quite conspicuously in some of the early scenes of the war. The following extract from a recent letter from "290," the intelligent correspondent of the Knoxville (Atlanta) Register, contains the following references to him and other matters, which will be found interesting:

Col. John Scott, of the 1st Louisiana Cavalry, arrived here a few days ago from Richmond, having been bearer of dispatches from Gen. Kirby Smith. Col. Scott had previously resigned, but the President has revoked the acceptance of his resignation, and has assigned him to duty in the Mississippi Department, under Lieut. Gen. Polk. Col. Scott takes with him his favorite old 1st Louisiana Cavalry, who, on his arrival here, greeted him with the greatest enthusiasm. He will probably be put in command of the Florida Parishes of Louisiana, extending from Natchez to New Orleans, which affords a splendid field for partisan warfare. A fine opportunity is here afforded our Southern boys to enlist under the gallant Scott, who has proved himself a most competent and skillful commander. He will receive applications at Jackson and Meridian.

Col. Scott left General Kirby Smith at Shreveport. The three divisions of his army under Price, Taylor and Magruder, are well equipped and clad, and are in fine condition for the spring campaign. In regard to our contemplated military movements in the trans-Mississippi Department, it is not judicious at this time to make mention, but it is sufficient to know that everything is assuming a bright aspect and that our armies there are increasing.

Through the energy and enterprise of Gen. Kirby Smith, the towns of Shreveport, La., and Marshall, Tyler and Houston, Texas, have become large manufacturing places.—There are already three powder mills in successful operation and foundries are working the Texas iron into ammunition for ordnance, and they will soon commence making heavy guns. This department is fast becoming self-sustaining.—*Petersburg Express.*

## The Probable Movements of the Spring Campaign.

The Strength of the Two Armies.

The New York Times, in the course of a long editorial on this subject, talks as if the rebellion were not exactly "crushed out."—It says:

First and foremost let the country remember that we have still powerful armed forces of the rebellion to crush; that these armies occupy military positions of great strategic value, and that there is no lack of the supplies needed to sustain these forces in the field. The precise strength of the rebel forces actually in the field is not easy to get at; but a recent statement of the Chairman of the Military Committee of the Senate places it at two hundred and sixty thousand, while our own present effective force is set down at four hundred thousand.—If the relative proportion of the two opposing forces be as here stated, no man who realizes the import of this fact will allow himself to indulge anticipations of an easy triumph. In addition to this the rebel leaders are exerting themselves to the utmost to add to their forces in the field, and the present is one of those periods of which we have already seen several—periods of ominous silence on the part of the rebels, during which, with a singleness of purpose and a desperate energy worthy almost of admiration, they forge fresh thunderbolts to be launched suddenly forth. There is little doubt that the spring will find the armies very heavily reinforced, as the result of the

present active measures, and it is not even impossible, that the rebels may be tempted to venture on some bold enterprise for the recovery of some of the ground they have lost. The rebel leaders are not the characters we take them to be, if they do not attempt to surprise the country by some bold and unexpected move.

[From the Richmond Examiner.]

The following extraordinary resolutions were, yesterday, introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. WAZOAR, of Georgia. The House went into secret session before taking any action upon them:

"Whereas, the President of the United States, in a late public communication, did declare that no propositions for peace had been made to that Government by the Confederate States, which, in truth, such propositions were prevented from being made by the President of the United States, in that he refused to hear, or even to receive, two commissioners, appointed to treat expressly of the preservation of amicable relations between the two Governments.

"Nevertheless, that the Confederate States may stand justified in the sight of the conservative men of the North of all parties, and that the world may know which of the two Governments it is that urged on a war unparalleled for the fierceness of the conflict, and intensifying into a sectional hatred unsurpassed in the annals of mankind. Therefore,

"Resolved, That the Confederate States invite the United States, through their Government at Washington, to meet them by representatives equal to their representatives and Senators in their respective Congress at —, on the — day of — next, to consider,

"First: Whether they cannot agree upon the recognition of the Confederate States of America.

"Second: In the event of such recognition, whether they cannot agree upon the formation of a new Government, founded upon the equality and sovereignty of the States; but if this cannot be done, to consider

"Third: Whether they cannot agree upon treaties, offensive, defensive and commercial.

"Resolved, In the event of the passage of these resolutions, the President be requested to communicate the same to the Government at Washington, in such manner as he shall deem most in accordance with the usages of nations; and, in the event of their acceptance by that Government, he do issue his proclamation of election of delegates, under such regulations as he may deem expedient."

## A Moral Company.

How many corporations will seek and endeavor to get letters like that given below?—Such an autograph from General Johnston would be a valuable addition to any dividend fund:

DALTON,  
Jan. 18th, 1864.  
John J. Greaham, Esq., President Mason Manufacturing Company:

Dear Sir—I learn from the reports of the Chief Commissary, that twice in the past thirty days, he has been furnished by your company with 25,000 pounds of bacon for the army \$1 per pound, the price established by the commissary being \$2.50 per pound.

In these times of speculation it is so gratifying to me to witness such a course, that I cannot refrain from expressing to you my appreciation of the patriotism exhibited by yourself and the gentlemen comprising the company you control. I can assure you, too, of the high sense of your liberality entertained by this army.

Most respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. E. JOHNSTON,  
General.

## Going to Nassau.

Gen. Whiting is determined (says the Petersburg Express) that then running the blockade to Nassau will do so under "difficulties." As an instance of the precautions taken, we give the following facts. It occurred last week:

The steamer *Fanny* was ready for sea; the cotton and tobacco were stored and steam up, when the provost guard came aboard. The officers, passengers and crew were all called up, and underwent a strict examination.—They were detained on deck while a strict search was made below, and all possible places where a surreptitious passenger might conceal himself was closely investigated. All being found correct, away the *Fanny* steamed for the "open sea," but ere she reached the mouth of the river another party of soldiers boarded her for a parting look. This party was provided with a machine in the shape of a large syringe, filled with some chemical mixture known in that locality as the "sneezing compound." This stuff was vigorously pumped into every possible and impossible place where a "Nassau" runner could be concealed.

Any man subjected to its influence in close quarters must sneeze out or "bust his biler." It is described as a villainous compound of stink and tickle, which no person can sustain and live. All parts had been fumigated except the coal bunks. On examination, they were found closely packed with bags of coal, too close apparently for the admission of a cat, much less a man. But the "sneezing compound" was thrown in freely. After a while a slight motion was noticed, then a suppressed sneeze, quickly followed by a vigorous "Cot tam." In a few minutes four anything but jolly Dutchmen, black as negroes, half smothered, and sneezing with a twenty-horse power, came forth from their coal bunk berths. They were escorted to shore, and what farther occurred we know not. At a late hour the *Fanny* also came back, not liking the appearance of the blackening feet at the entrance of the harbor. We presume she has left before this, but where the jolly Dutchmen are, or whether they have done sneezing yet, this department can't tell.