

A BINGDON VIRGINIAN.

VOLUME 25.

A BINGDON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1864.

No. 35.

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North Carolina Legislature—Governor Vance's Message.

The North Carolina Legislature assembled in Raleigh, the 21st inst. The message of Governor Vance was received and read. We subjoin the closing paragraphs:

The war still drags its slow length along. Lee has been materially reinforced, and all fears of the early capture of Petersburg and Richmond are dissipated. Our people and armies, with a wonderful elasticity of spirit, have recovered from the effects of our reverses in the Valley of Virginia and in the Southwest. The campaign of 1864, the bloodiest by far of any yet fought on the continent, bode fair to close without a particle of advantage to our enemies, if not with positive advantage to our arms.

Nobody has yet starved, and with sufficient care nobody will during the coming season. But the end of this war and the return of peace seems still hid from human vision. When it shall come, how it shall be raised, and with what body it shall come, are questions it is not in power to answer. The glimmering prospects we thought we saw in the spring and early summer seem to have vanished.

It is a matter of sincere congratulation, however, that the good sense and conservatism of our people have rescued our State from the ruin of attempting to seek for it by separate action. Their unparalleled unanimity at the polls has put to rest all our apprehensions on that score, and satisfied our enemies and our friends that North Carolina will share the fate for weal or woe of her confederates. A nobler moral spectacle has seldom been exhibited than that of our army and people ratifying anew the plighted honor of their conviction, after almost four years of such suffering and bloodshed as rarely happens to the lot of nations. Suffering men and women and children at home, and wearied and blood-stained soldiers on their knees in the trenches at Petersburg, with the enemies' flag crashing through their ranks as they cast their ballots, vied with each other in the noble task of upholding the honor of their State and the independence of their country. If I have ever maintained a constant and abiding faith in our triumph, I owe that faith to that pure and unselfish patriotism which glows in the bosom of our people, more than to skilled Generals, great and gallant armies, ships of war or fortified cities. In spite of all we see of the frailties of human nature, the greed of gain, extortion and rapacity, selfishness, grinding of the poor, indifference to the agencies of our country, and all the ways of the heartless and the raven promises of the unparitric.

I have yet, in my two years of close intercourse with the people of my State, ever found a pure and undying flame of that bright and glorious love for country which can make the poorest widow or humblest boy a kinsman of the Angels. And I have said, it cannot be that God will reject all this sacrifice and count as naught all this patience and long suffering because of the wickedness of some; that the little rills of patriotic love trickling from the mountain gorge, flowing onward through the plain and receiving its tributaries of blood in every valley, must yet reach the sea, in strength and volume mighty enough to bear in triumph the ark of Southern freedom which we are struggling to launch upon its bosom. Let us continue to sustain our Government in all rightful and necessary powers, and give to that wonderful and victorious army every possible physical and moral support; let us, while watching anxiously every visible and reasonable means of peace, eschew every plausible bypath whose mile-marks point to ruin and dishonor; let us accept the simple faith of the patriot in the justice of our cause which leads to salvation, and avoid the learned skepticism of the doubter which taketh hold on hell, and the result will yet be all that the friends of good government and human freedom could desire. A nation purified by sorrow, strengthened by suffering, and wise from the bloody lessons of civil war, shall yet, I humbly trust in God, establish and perpetuate, for their fortunate children, a government rich in the traditions of liberty and civilization.

The Last Great Scare at Memphis.

The Meridian "Clarion" learns that when Forrest was lately moving on W. Tennessee, the Yankees became very much alarmed about the safety of Memphis, a feat having been made in that direction by the "Wizard of the Saddle" to cover his real movement. The Yankees commenced making all possible preparations for Forrest, by digging rifle pits and throwing up barricades at the various crossings of Gayoso bayou, taking up the bridges, and urging forward the work upon the four new forts in process of erection, lying beyond the bayou. One of these forts is now completed, and the others very nearly so. The one just completed is south of the city, and intended to prevent our troops from forcing their way in through Memphis, and thus cutting off the troops in the city from Fort Pickering, take both in detail and at an advantage. The regiments of enrolled militia were also engaged on the fortifications. All through the city the streets were barri-

caded with cotton bales, and all preparations for a vigorous defence were made. The military stores, cars, etc. at White's station, were brought to the city, a number of black regiments thrown into Fort Pickering, and outlying regiments drawn nearer the town. The militia patrolled the streets, dragging into service every man capable of carrying a gun. It was discovered that blue and white signal lights were being sent up by some parties in the city, to advise our forces, and Morgan L. Smith had all the cars east of the bayou run into Fort Pickering with the stores lying in the vicinity. After remaining in the trenches some days they heard from Forrest at Johnsonville.

The Recent Victory in the Valley.

A correspondent furnishes us with the following detailed and highly interesting account of the recent battle in the Shenandoah Valley. It is the only full account which has been published:

You have doubtless been informed by telegraph, ere this, of a collision yesterday between a portion of General Early's army and the enemy's cavalry. Thinking that the accounts sent may have been meagre, I purpose writing a brief report of the affair. About midnight of the 21st, the commanding officer of the pickets on the Valley turnpike, ascertained that a division of Yankee cavalry had gone into camp this side of Woodstock. Accordingly, such preparations were made to receive this reconnoitering force as were deemed proper. By half past ten A.M., our pickets having been driven in, General Torbert, at the head of two divisions, instead of one, numbering over five thousand men, advanced above Mount Jackson. A large force was soon formed in battle array on the extensive low grounds of the Meem farm, where another heavy column advanced up the railroad, west of and parallel with the turnpike. A portion of Wickham's cavalry brigade occupied Rude's hill, quietly watching the enemy in the flat below. The remainder of this brigade formed a line of battle across the railroad. An infantry force having moved down and formed behind our cavalry on Rude's Hill, the ball opened a few minutes before 11 A.M. with the dull, heavy booming of the artillery. The enemy in the flats couldn't quietly stand this. With a shout and flourish of trumpets, they dashed forward to the charge. Reaching the base of the hill, they were most gallantly met by the 1st Virginia cavalry, Major Irving commanding, whilst the infantry skirmishers opened upon them a pretty warm fire. Driven back twice his numbers, Irving pressed boldly forward into the low grounds and became very hotly engaged. Repeated efforts were made by Yankee officers to urge their overwhelming numbers forward to another charge, but with poor success. The 1st regiment nobly held its ground under its brave leader, and cheered by the manly bearing of Major General Rouser, who was "there in the midst of them." An infantry skirmish line moved steadily forward to the support of our cavalry, and the contest on the right was no longer doubtful issue. Meanwhile Col. Munford, our brigade commander, was not idle on the left. With his fine regiment (the 2d) in advance, he pressed rapidly forward, and besides attacking the force in his front, began to operate with effect upon the forces engaging our right. After advancing about one mile, he encountered about a brigade strongly posted in a wood. His regiment supported by parts of the 2d and 4th was formed for a charge, and, under his gallant leadership, did their work quickly and well, clearing the wood in a few minutes.

The 3d and 4th regiments having been out on an extended picket line, were only partially represented on the field. It now became their turn. We were in sight of Mt. Jackson, a large force of the enemy were drawn up outside of the town, ready to meet us. Only about two regiments of infantry were now with us, the others having halted. Capitan Field, commanding the 3d Va. Cav., with a skirmish line of the 4th in front, advanced at a walk under fire till he reached the town, when he ordered a charge. The enemy waited not to receive us, but fled precipitately for a quarter of a mile. Charging right upon their main body, the 3d regiment awaited support; when we all pushed forward and drove the foe six miles from Rude's hill without allowing him a "breathing spell." The infantry force which acted with us belonged, I think, to Battles' brigade—so fine a body of men as ever fired a gun. Our brigade lost from fifty to seventy five men altogether, and about one hundred horses. The enemy's loss was quite severe. They gave us no opportunity to capture artillery, and but a few prisoners, as they stood our charges very poorly. Col. Munford's gallantry and skill were remarked on by all, and we hope the report is true that the government has determined to mete out to him the just reward of his faithful services, and commission him a brigadier. If the wishes of Wickham's brigade are consulted, I am sure he will be made its permanent commander. Gen. Rouser did not deem it necessary to bring any other cavalry brigades into action than ours, preferring that we, with the small infantry force co-operating, should have the whole honor of driving Sheridan's boastful cavalry in confusion and disgrace entirely off the field. It is but just to the brave infantry soldiers who "forded" the Shenandoah on so cold a day, "just to have a hand in it," that I should state that they gave us a hearty and efficient support, contributing their full share to the defeat of Torbert's "immortal" troopers.

You will see grand accounts in Northern papers of this "reconnoissance in force," but be assured this body of men felt mean enough when they went galloping back towards Winchester in disorder and disgrace, hearing, as they passed along, the derisive laughter and bitter chidings of our heroic, suffering citizens. We hope to send you a good account from the Valley whenever another general engagement comes off.

SOLDIER.

Casualties in Morgan's Brigade.

From the Knoxville Register.

IN Qr's MORGAN'S BRIGADE,
New Market, Nov. 23, 1864.

Messrs. Editors:—I send you for publication a list of the killed and wounded of this brigade, in the recent operations against the enemy in East Tennessee.

1st Battalion.—Field and Staff, Col. W. W. Ward, slightly wounded. Co. A, Capt. Geo. M. Telford, private Geo. McElroy, severely wounded. Co. B, Corp'l G. Cawley, private W. C. Wright, killed; serg't T. W. Cosby, wounded, severely; privates J. B. Malone, R. D. Moss, T. Crum, severely. Co. C, privates Chas. Taylor, L. True, J. J. Roberts, A. B. Hault, slightly wounded.

2d Battalion, Col. R. C. Morgan commanding.—Private Jones, killed.

3d Battalion, Lieut. Col. T. Napier, commanding.—Co. A, private Wm. Samuel, slightly wounded. D. H. Lockett, missing.—Co. B, private Archer Hatchett, severely wounded. Co. C, Capt. Gus Magee, killed; Lieut. Chas. Tracy, serg't Wm. Rickett, severely wounded. Co. D, serg't D. O. Beauchamp, slightly wounded.

4th Battalion, Maj. Thos. Webber, commanding.—Co. B, private Ben. Jones, killed. Co. C, serg't Jos. Singleton, corporal O. N. White, killed; serg't Wm. Rowland, corp'l William Chalmers, severely wounded, privates M. Lockhart, Jas. Hawkins, J. T. McDaniel, J. L. Sale, Chas. M. Asa, Wado Royal, slightly wounded.

Dismounted Battalion, commanded by Col. R. A. Alston.—Killed, privates Jno. Arnold, Ed. O'Brien, Chas. Gregory, Jas. B. Hall, Jas. Cardwell, private Jack Dumas, Gordon Voorhies, mortally wounded, since dead; severely wounded, corp'l Backler, privates—Cherry, Evans R. S. Hill, Henry Goodhue, and D. Cotton; slightly wounded, W. B. Young, James Brown, Jas. Wright, Charles Collins, missing, W. Harp, W. G. Watson.

Charging Company, Captain W. R. Messick, commanding.—Killed, privates Thos. Adams, and — Brown; wounded, Jno. Fontaine.

Geo. W. HUNT, A. A. Gen'l.

Richmond papers please copy.

The Plot to Burn New York.

Father Decapitated—Gen. Dix Issues a Sanitary "Order."

The Chicago contains the following despatches in reference to the "rebel incendiarism" in New York:

New York, Nov. 26.—This morning an attempt had been made to fire the building, on opening door No. 204, an immense volume of smoke poured into the hall. Fire had been smouldering during the night, and the floor was buried to a cinder. The bedding was saturated with kerosene. The chairs were placed near the bed, and bedclothes thrown over them. The rooms had been occupied by only one person since the 20th inst. His crest, it is believed, will soon be made. The damage amounts to about \$600.

LATER.

A person in a lieutenant's uniform, named Alison, who occupied one of the rooms which was fired, was arrested this morning. Arrangements have been made to day for prosecution against a repetition of the incendiarism.

Gen. Dix's order, requiring Southerners to register their names, which has proved almost a dead letter, will now be strictly enforced.

NEW YORK, Nov. 26.—Gen. Dix has issued the following order:

"A nefarious attempt was made last night to set fire to the principal hotels and other places of public resort in this city. If this attempt had succeeded, it would have resulted in a fearful sacrifice of property and life. The evidence of extensive combustion, and other facts disclosed to-day, show it to have been the work of rebel emissaries and agents. All such persons engaged in secret acts of hostility here can only be regarded as spies, subject to martial law, and to the penalty of death. If they are detected, they will be immediately brought before a court-martial or military commission, and if convicted, will be executed without the delay of a single day."

NOTICE TO PEOPLE FROM REBEL STATES.

New York, Nov. 26.—General Dix has issued an order renewing the notice to all persons from insurgent States to register their names at headquarters. Persons failing to comply with the notice will be treated as spies.

Forrest's great success at Johnsonville.

A letter from Forrest's command gives us a brief account of his successful affair at Johnsonville. It says:

"Upon arriving in the vicinity of the town he was surprised to find four gunboats at anchor in the river and acting as convoy to transports. Not in the least daunted, however, by their presence, he put himself at the head of his command and dashed into the town. The small garrison surrendered. So quick were his actions that the transports did not have time to get up steam and away before his men boarded them and took possession. The gunboats quickly succumbed to their inevitable fate. Thus, within the short space of forty minutes, four gunboats, carrying eight line guns each; fourteen splendid steamboats and seventeen large barges—boats and barges heavily laden with subsistence and clothing for Sherman's army—fell into our hands almost without the loss of a life to the gallant command that made the capture. Gen. Forrest was not prepared to bring away supplies. Sheer necessity compelled him to destroy, after supplying his command, (both the inner and outer man,) this immense quantity of supplies.

During the night the town was fired and every house burned, with but few exceptions. It is roughly estimated that the value of the property that fell into our hands from this brilliant affair will amount to \$5,000,000."

A Romance in Real Life.

An Abducted Daughter Discovered After an Interval of Twenty-seven Years—An Heiress.

The Taunton (Mass.) "Republican" is responsible for the following story:

A romance in real life has just come to light, and is at present the chief gossip of this city. The facts, as related by an intimate acquaintance of the fortunate family, are as follows:

It appears that about twenty-seven years ago, as Captain Brown, whose family resided in Mattapoisett, was the overseer of the estate of Mr. Henry E. Clifton, a wealthy gentleman of Richmond, Va. From some cause, which still remains a secret, a difficulty arose between Capt. Brown and Mr. Clifton, wherein the former considered himself the aggrieved party. To revenge himself for the supposed wrong, he stole Mr. Clifton's infant daughter, then but six weeks old, on the day she was christened. The child was brought to Mattapoisett and secretly adopted by Brown and his wife as their own. She was named Julia, and grew to be a woman. When only sixteen years old she married Mr. Isaac O. Pierce, a printer, who learned his trade in Fall River. Several years ago they moved to Taunton, living for a while at East Taunton, but more recently at the Green. Two children have been born to them, one of whom is now living.

During this long period Mrs. Pierce has lived in blissful ignorance of her high parentage, and Mr. Pierce, who took her for better or worse, had never imagined himself the husband of an heiress. He abandoned the printer's trade shortly after learning it, and for several years has earned his daily bread by the sweat of his brow at Mr. Mason's works in this city. This is their history until within a very short time. Now comes the denouement.

Last summer while Rev. Mr. Talbot, of this city, was at Saratoga, he became acquainted with Mr. Clifton and wife, who, it appears, at the breaking out of the rebellion, converted their Richmond property into cash and moved to Baltimore. In the course of conversation with them Mr. Talbot remarked upon the striking resemblance of Mrs. Clifton to a lady parishioner of his in Taunton. Nothing particular was thought of it at first, but on his repeating the remark, Mrs. Clifton inquired the age of the lady. On being informed that she was about twenty-seven, Mrs. Clifton immediately said to her husband "why, that would be just the age of our daughter that was stolen."

"The matter then received their serious attention. Mr. Talbot was taken into their confidence, and inquiry instituted as to the reputed parents of the young lady. He returned to Taunton; had a conversation with Mrs. Pierce in regard to her parentage; informed her of the Saratoga conversation, which led her to ask Mrs. Brown, who she had never doubted, was her own mother, if she really was such, at the same time telling her the reason of the inquiry. Mrs. Brown, who had kept the secret of the child's parentage for twenty-seven years, was so overcome by the question and the development of facts, that she immediately became ill and died of the heart disease. Before her death, however, she acknowledged that Mrs. Pierce was not her own daughter. Capt. Brown died a number of years ago.

"Within a few weeks the affair has developed itself rapidly. Mr. and Mrs. Clifton and Mrs. Pierce have met each other, and the old colored woman, who nursed the abducted infant, has recognized Mrs. Pierce as their real child by a mole on her shoulder. The identity of their long lost daughter having been fully established, Mrs. Pierce and her husband have been invited to live with the Cliftons and share in their wealth; and this they are preparing to do, having broken up housekeeping and disposed of their furniture.

"The cream of the affair is that Mrs. Pierce is an only child, and therefore sole heiress to an estate said to be worth hundreds of thousands, if not millions of dollars; or, as an old lady friend of Mrs. Pierce expresses it, "a trifle less than two millions." It having been rumored that Mrs. Pierce had applied for a divorce from her husband, she has published a card indignantly denying the slander."

McClellan.

Burling, the New York correspondent of the Boston Journal, writes:

Since the election Gen. McClellan has passed most of his time at Orange. He is seldom in the city and is seen but by few persons. He maintains the same quiet and reserved manners that marked his conduct in months past. He considered the Presidential question virtually settled in the October elections. His friends say that he felt that he was greatly wronged and put in a false position by the proceedings at Chicago. He has to his possession every telegraph and order that passed between him, the President, the War Department and officers of the army—while in command—even those light and unimportant messages that the President was wont to send over the wires when he was in confidential communication with Gen. McClellan at the head of the army. It is said that these will all come to light soon. While an officer in the army he could not use them. He can, now, and it is said they will go far toward vindicating him from much censure thrown upon him.

A pedestrian in Maine has just walked four consecutive days and nights, with but twenty minutes rest each day. He performed the feat lacking some twenty minutes, though at last he was delirious.

The mansion in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, occupied by Daniel Webster during the first years of his practice, is now an oyster saloon.

The Western papers say that John C. Fremont is to be Minister to France and Salmon P. Chase Minister to England.