

How the Boys of the 18th N. C. Spent Christmas, Messrs. Editors:

Although it was not our privilege to enjoy the festivities of this happy season as we should have done, we still when we look back upon the day, now it is passed, and see how, even in the midst of the hardships of the soldier's life, amusement and pleasure may be the boon of all, when the least exertion is made for them, we conclude that on Christmas we were as highly favored with the presence of that universally adored idol, Fun, as any of those who walk the streets of cities and towns in hours. Allow me to attempt a description of our diversions.

First in order was a mimic "Dress Parade," in which most of the men performed some part. The field and staff officers, together with the Captains and Lieutenants of the different companies were selected from among the non-commissioned officers and privates. The parade was in some instances, in order to complete the parade a few of the regular commissioned officers exchanged their swords for muskets and fell into the ranks. The names of the gentlemen who were thus suddenly promoted from the obscurity of the ranks to all the glory and publicity of "field and staff," I take the liberty to enumerate below: D. L. Lippitt, Colonel; F. H. Blanner, Lt. Colonel; H. G. Flannell, Major; Edward Staunton, Surgeon; J. D. Barry, Adjutant.

By accident, or perhaps intentionally, the election of Quartermaster and Commissary was overlooked, perhaps from the consideration that during the time this regiment was in the service there would be no need whatever of these officers. The soldiers, accordingly, elected for Dress Parade, and immediately the 1st sergeant of each company formed the men upon their respective streets, when they were marched under command of their Captains, to their places in the line of the battalion. Every individual, from Colonel to private, discharged the duties of his office with accuracy and attention. The dress parade was a grand and stirring affair, and the contentions and actions of all that unparted of genuine merriment and drollery to the whole proceeding. With due importance did the Adjutant dress the battalion, and with a pomposity of manner, indicating that these gentlemen were born only to rule, each Captain gave to his company the command—"Parade!" At the word, the men came to gaze upon and not feel a sensation of awe, mingled, however, with admiration, the Drum Major stepped off on his march down the line, followed by six drummers, whose music, the reader who has seen these six gentlemen upon this occasion taking their first lesson in that department of the sciences, can easily and correctly imagine. The Adjutant, looking straight forward, unmindful of everything and every-day save the duty before him and the six drummers behind, and moving up and down in unison with his step a simple pole fifteen feet in length, which served as a time-keeper for the six men, that didn't look any time at all, and who, notwithstanding the fact that he was surrounded by a crowd of spectators, and that he was the center of all eyes, might be termed his "baton of authority." As he retraced his steps at a quicker pace up the line his gravity was in no wise diminished, no, even though the drummers did beat louder and faster, creating thereby a more horrid discord than before. After this the ranks were opened and the battalion ordered to present arms, which was done by the Adjutant, and the drummers, who were then ordered to march forward, and to proceed to drill them in the manual of arms. Exhibiting well that dignity and sternness becoming the highest officer of a regiment, none discharging his duty more admirably—Colonel Lippitt having returned his sword to its sheath, forward steps the Adjutant, from his position and commands attention to each order, and in a few minutes in one dozen pages of closely written foolscap paper. That something may be formed of the wisdom and foresight which ever marked the rules and regulations of this Regiment, especially in reference to the health of its men, I will transcribe one of them:

What England thinks of Yankee Bravado.

(From the London Post Government organ, December 4.) The members of the "fourth estate" on the Federal side, who probably wield greater influence at the present moment in determining the course of the civil contest than the President, the Senators and the popular Representatives of the Northern Provinces, all taken together, have as learned by the intelligence brought by the Persia, already expressed their opinions on the nature of the act committed by Capt. Wilkes, and indulged in extremely characteristic speculations on the probable action of this country. There would not appear to be, it is only fair to state, in the organs of the New York press, judging from their comments on the affair, anything like the same astounding magnanimity in justifying the proceedings of Captain Wilkes which has been shown by the whole English press in pronouncing their condemnation. We are told that some of the New York journals allude to the probable necessity of their Government being compelled to tender an apology, and to offer reparation, and even to surrender the persons of the Southern Commissioners; and the fact that such glooms of common sense and common justice should be visible in any portion of the Federal press ought to be duly chronicled. But the general tone of Federal journalism is precisely what might have been expected; a long course of impunity in insolence of action, and still greater insolence of language, appears to have created in the organs of the Federal press a feeling of just estimate of their own superiority, and a disbelief in the possibility of their insolence being ever curbed, not dissimilar to that entertained by the Emperor Nicholas on the eve of the Crimean war. The parallel which the great master of political science in antiquity has drawn between the single despotic ruler and the many-headed monster, is the latest and most striking confirmation in the fact that on the crowded mart of New York, as in the imperial halls of St. Petersburg, the parasites to the vanity and panders to the pride of the Democratic tyrant, have succeeded in warping his judgment and perverting his intellect as completely as was the case with the late Autocrat of all the Russias. The opinion running through most of the New York journals, that England will, on learning the outrage committed against her flag, speak only those words of sound and fury which, like an idiot's tale, signify nothing—that after hectoring and ranting like a Bombastes Furioso she will quietly pocket the insult which she has just sustained, reveals a bally mad, and displays a bally logic. They who write these things are ignorant of the plain teachings of common sense as they are of the English character. We have not the slightest wish to quarrel with any human being, or about any political question, if we can avoid doing so. But the most pacific man knows right well that, if he tamely allows his head to be punched once by a common street rascal, he will pass over the matter without once thinking of having his head punched again.

It is right that there should not be room for the slightest misapprehension or mistake in this part of the business on the other side of the Atlantic. There is no sane Englishman who will not rejoice with exceeding great joy should the Federal Government, wishing to restore peace, and to bring about a settlement of the Northern press, perform a simple act of duty in expressing its regret at the seizure of the Southern Commissioners, and surrendering them into our hands. But if the Federal Government shall not perform the duty, there is no sane man in England who will blind his eyes to the alternative that England must then do her duty—our rights as the first maritime power in the world cannot be disserved from our duties; and never have been so completely blended as in the present case, where we are called upon to vindicate, in the name of English interests and honor, a right which we profess to hold and exercise not for ourselves alone, but for the vanquished, the oppressed, or, it may be, only for the suffering and struggling, in every country of the world.

From the Norfolk Daily Book.

A Brilliant Confederate Naval Achievement.

We have the satisfaction of spreading before our readers to day, some of the particulars of a spirited and dashing achievement on the part of Commodore Lynch of the Confederate Navy, on board of his flag ship the Sea Bird, which gallant little steamer mounts a 32-pounder forward and a 12 pounder aft. Commodore Lynch was sent down to Sewell's Point on Saturday night and took a position under the guns of our battery at that place, where she remained all night until Sunday morning, when she espied the federal steamer Express making out from Newport's News, with a transport schooner in tow. She got round the point of Newport's News with her charge when our gallant Commodore put to sea after them, and ran them toward Old Point.

The Sea Bird opened fire on the Express, and after one or two discharges the latter cut loose from her tow and ran. The position of the schooner where the Express left her was well over in the enemy's lines, but even that consideration did not deter the victor from securing his prize. He dashed down to the schooner, and having taken her, he was back eight gunboats and an armed transport put out for him from Old Point and Newport's News, with the purpose of cutting him off. But it appears they were just five or six minutes too late, and in chasing her she kept up a continual fire upon them, turning round every time to give them a little more of her forward fire. The sport became so intensely interesting to the Yankees that they waded in a little beyond their depth, and woke up the boys on Sewell's Point, who opened fire on them. They finding further pursuit of the Commodore vain, turned their attention on the batteries that were peppering them so numerously. And now the matter began to grow somewhat unpleasant to the Yankees, as though the boys were going to work even allowing it was Sunday morning, and going on to church time. The batteries continued to fire at the federal vessels which done their best towards silencing them; but the job was somewhat too extensive for them, and withal so warm that they speedily determined to give Sewell's Point a little more of her forward fire. They got within a range of one shot as soon as they could, but not until three of them had got a dose which took the starch out of them. The gun boats fairly rained the shot and shell at the Sewell's Point battery, while they did have the courage to continue the engagement, which altogether, including the chase after her, they were at it for an hour and a half. Several hundred shot and shell were fired at our battery and not a single person received even a scratch.

An old rooster, however, which happened to get in the way was made into a roaster for his pains, as we are informed by a communication from a friend who was on the Commodore's staff.

SEWELL'S POINT, Sunday, Dec. 29, 1861. Mr. Editor—Eight gun boats and an armed transport attacked a little Confederate gun boat this morning, and engaged this battery about two hours. We answered with some of the guns from our battery. No body hurt, but one fine rooster who was killed. The Express was very cool. The rooster was daly prepared, roasted and eaten by some of the boys. A rare treat for Christmas times.

What glorification for Yankeeedom—our rooster killed; none wounded or missing. This brilliant affair will be heralded in capitals in the New York Herald and other truthful papers. It was preceded on her way up to the city with her prize in tow, and we learn it is the schooner Sherwood, which formerly belonged to George Booker, Esq., on Back River, and was stolen from him some time since by the Federals, and has been since used as a water transport between Newport's News and Old Point. She was then carrying a supply of water to the Hessars at Old Point. It was in the water land, that she detracts nothing from the honor of the achievement, which may justly be classed as one of the most brilliant that has taken place in the two armies since the war began.

During the engagement between the gun boats and the Sewell's Point battery, the Sawyer gun at the Rip Raps opened fire and three shell at the battery on Sewell's Point.

We learn that the gunboats three several shell or shot at the battery on Craney Island and received a prompt reply from that direction.

We are pleased to record the fact, that the boys at our batteries took deliberate aim with each gun they fired and handled their irons with a mastery skill, taking their time in each case.

Another Christmas in camp? It is not such a bugbear, though there is not one of us but what sincerely hopes a kind fortune may so favor us that our next shall be spent at home.

MILES.

Amicable Feeling of the British Government Towards the South.

We draw attention to the rational and friendly manner in which the Southern President alludes to the attitude maintained hitherto toward America by this country. The Southern Provinces, all taken together, have as learned by the intelligence brought by the Persia, already expressed their opinions on the nature of the act committed by Capt. Wilkes, and indulged in extremely characteristic speculations on the probable action of this country. There would not appear to be, it is only fair to state, in the organs of the New York press, judging from their comments on the affair, anything like the same astounding magnanimity in justifying the proceedings of Captain Wilkes which has been shown by the whole English press in pronouncing their condemnation. We are told that some of the New York journals allude to the probable necessity of their Government being compelled to tender an apology, and to offer reparation, and even to surrender the persons of the Southern Commissioners; and the fact that such glooms of common sense and common justice should be visible in any portion of the Federal press ought to be duly chronicled. But the general tone of Federal journalism is precisely what might have been expected; a long course of impunity in insolence of action, and still greater insolence of language, appears to have created in the organs of the Federal press a feeling of just estimate of their own superiority, and a disbelief in the possibility of their insolence being ever curbed, not dissimilar to that entertained by the Emperor Nicholas on the eve of the Crimean war. The parallel which the great master of political science in antiquity has drawn between the single despotic ruler and the many-headed monster, is the latest and most striking confirmation in the fact that on the crowded mart of New York, as in the imperial halls of St. Petersburg, the parasites to the vanity and panders to the pride of the Democratic tyrant, have succeeded in warping his judgment and perverting his intellect as completely as was the case with the late Autocrat of all the Russias. The opinion running through most of the New York journals, that England will, on learning the outrage committed against her flag, speak only those words of sound and fury which, like an idiot's tale, signify nothing—that after hectoring and ranting like a Bombastes Furioso she will quietly pocket the insult which she has just sustained, reveals a bally mad, and displays a bally logic. They who write these things are ignorant of the plain teachings of common sense as they are of the English character. We have not the slightest wish to quarrel with any human being, or about any political question, if we can avoid doing so. But the most pacific man knows right well that, if he tamely allows his head to be punched once by a common street rascal, he will pass over the matter without once thinking of having his head punched again.

From the London Herald, Derby Organ, Dec. 4.

An Anti-Federal View of the Seizure of Messrs. Sherman and Seward.

The news from the United States leaves us little, if any hope of avoiding war. It is quite clear that the few honest journals and respectable men in the Northern States, are shocked and disgusted at the act of Capt. Wilkes. They would not at a great time desire war with England, and they are glad that we have so long abstained in tenderness to them, from enlightening partially the ignorance of Mr. Lincoln, and chastising courageously the bragging impudence of Mr. Seward. In one word, they know as well as we how grievously we have been provoked, and how long we have refrained from vengeance. If in America, as in England, the educated classes in America are practically unfranchised, they are glad that we have so long abstained in tenderness to them, from enlightening partially the ignorance of Mr. Lincoln, and chastising courageously the bragging impudence of Mr. Seward. 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