THE WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

VOL 1. FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., 1864. NO 13.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Reported by the Press Association, 1864

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1863, by J. S. Thrasher, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Confederate States, for the Northern District of Georgia.

MOBILE, May 2d.—Mr. Wagner bearing despatches from Kirby Smith states the result of the battles of 8th and 9th on Red river as follows:

A complete defeat. The enemy's loss estimated by Gen. Taylor at 8,000 killed, wounded and missing, but, their own admission put the number at 13,000. We captured 21 pieces of artillery, 10,000 stand small arms, 1200 mules, 400 wagons and a large quantity of stores. Our loss is officially stated at 2200 killed. Gen'ls. Mouton and Greene were killed. Three Yankee Generals are reported killed. The enemy's force was 22,000—ours 18 to 20,000.

Kirby Smith conducted the operations.—Taylor commanded the centre, Walker and Mouton the wings. On Sunday the 17th the enemy attempted to cross Red river again to attack us, but was again whipped worse than before, but no particulars.

Forty steamers, of all classes, ascended the River and were all above Alexandria *with no possibility of escape.*

Ten or twelve boats already are blown up or burned to avoid capture. Mr. Wagner says that soldiers and citizens report that Price seemed to have fallen back in apparent disorder abandoning every thing, when the Yankees attacked his trains they broke ranks and scattered to plunder, Price turned and cut them to pieces, capturing 4000 prisoners 300 wagons, all their ammunition, baggage and supplies.

It is reported also that Steele has evacuated Little Rock and fallen back towards the Mississippi River. This story is corroborated by Yankee accounts on the Mississippi.

RICHMOND, May 2d.—An official telegram from Wilmington to the Secretary of the Navy states that authentic intelligence has been received from Nassau to the effect that the Florida sunk the Huntsville and another gunboat on the West India coast.

ORANGE C. H., May 2.—Scouts report the enemy as having struck their tents in Culpepper and that the Yankee army is moving No demonstrattons as yet on our front.

It is reported that the enemy were moving both flanks.

RICHMOND, May 3.—The Senate to-day was occupied in electing by ballott, Standing Committees and Chairmen of the principal Committees on Foreign affairs, Barnwell, Finance; Oldham, Commerce; Sparrow, Military Affairs; Brown, Naval; Hill, Judiciary. In the House, Chilton's resolutions for the investigation of the charge of disloyalty against Williamson R. W. Cobb, adopted, yeas sixty nine, nays six. A committee of five was appointed.

Mr. Cruikshank introduced a bill to repeal the act suspending the writ of Habeas Corpus. Various bills, and resolutions introduced and appropriately referred, including propositions to increase pay of the army hundred per cent—issue rations to officers and put five dollar bills on the same footing with new currency.

WILMINGTON, May 31.—The enemy evacuated Washington at 12 M. Sunday last, our forces occupying the place.

DEMOPOLIS, May 3d.—Twenty-nine Yankee prisoners, including a Captain, pilot and part of the crew of the gunboat Petrel captured, by Wirt Adam's command, passed through here to-day, on their way to Cahawba.

RICHMOND May, 3.—About four thousand Yankee troops landed at West Point on Sunday afternoon. A larger force landed at Gloucester Point and Yorktown. These troops constitute Peninsula army, probably under command of Gen. Smith, and will, no doubt, move in this direction in a few days.

The New York *Herald* of the 29th says, that reinforcements for Lee from South Carolina and Georgia, are rapidly reaching him, all the troops from Augusta had left for Richmond. Longstreet ascertained to be at Charlottsville.

An arrival from New Orleans, says Red river advices of the 19th, states that Steele is reported to have captured Shreveport. A portion of the Union army had left Grand Ecore to attack Rebel's position. The Eastport is still on the bar.

Union loss in the several battles thirty-four hundred. (Oh what a rubber!—ED. CAR.) Quantrell reported moving on Kansas.

The Senate concurred in House, resolutions increasing duties 50 per cent. in sixty days, except on printing paper. Tax bill passed the House 102 to 33. Whiskey taxed 50 cents on the gallon. Gold closed on the 28th 79¼.

MERIDAN, May 2.—The Mississippi is rising, Red, Onachita and other rivers falling. Gen. Mouton had five bulletts through his breast. Greene was killed by a stray shell from a gun-boat two days after the battle of the 7th. The expedition was planned by Franklin. The Yankees expect to make Shreveport their base, where from to move on Texas, through the north eastern counties. Banks was sure of finding Steele in possession of Shreveport, intensely enagrined when informed he was not. A courier from Banks to Steele was intercepted at Shreveport carrying orders for Steele to fall back as rapidly as possible, that Banks was advancing on Shreveport, expecting to find six thousand, but had met ninety thousand.

Natchez and Baton Rouge are crowded to excess with wounded. The extent of our victory on Red River cannot be exaggerated.

Prince Polignac was promoted on the field. His clothes were riddled with balls. He succeeds Mouton and Wharton succeeds Greene.

MOBILE, May 3.—The Louisianians at this station fired a salute of 13 guns to-day, in honor of Taylor's victory.

DALTON, May 3.—As far as known the enemy is making no movements in this direction. Everything is perfectly quiet inside our lines.

Kilpatrick left a note at Tunnel Hill on yesterday for General Wheeler, saying: "I came out to meet you on Friday, with 500 men, which you declined—to-day, with 1,000, and next time I come, with my whole command, and annihilate you and your minions. [Whew!]—Your Classmate,

W. L. KILPATRICK."

Shanghai fowls how tall they grow,
In a few days!

DALTON MAY, 2.—Northern dates to the 28th received, and Louisville to the 27th. It is believed Lee would not venture on offensive movements.

Special dispatch to the New York *Tribune* says, the 9th army corps is now 40,000 strong. It is said in high quarters that the President intends sending Sickles to relieve Banks.

Admiral Wilkes has been dismissed from the service! Gen. Foster is appointed to a command in the field, he will probably be assigned to Burnside's corps.

Liverpool dates to the 13th have been received; Cotton advanced one fourth to half penny. Consuls 91¾.

The enemy advanced in heavy force on Tunnel Hill this morning, gradually driving our Cavalry back until they reached a point near Tunnel Hill, which they shelled furiously, and then withdrew in the direction of Ringgold. Our loss twelve killed, and wounded, including one general officer.

MERIDIAN, May 3d.—Lieut. W. R. Wren, of Wirt Adams' cavalry, went within six miles of Vicksburg recently, capturing and killing a number of Yankees, bringing away equipments. He destroyed two Government plantations and brought off negroes and stock.

The armament of the gunboat, Petrel, captured by Wirt Adams, has reached Brandon.

Trans-Mississippi advices state that the enemy are blowing up gunboats and transports about the rapids, on Red River, to prevent their falling into our hands.

Advices beyond our lines confirm the report of Price whipping and routing Steele, in Arkansas.

The commander of the Petrel and 25 other Yankees, captured by Wirt Adams, arrived here to-day.

MOBILE, May 3d.—Shreveport news of the 15th containing Taylor's congratulatory address upon the victory of the 8th and 9th ult., at Mansfield. He claims a complete victory. Also, an order relative to the death of Gen'ls Mouton and Greene in which Taylor claims victory at Mansfield and Pleasant Hill. Gen. Greene was killed at Blair's Landing.

RICHMOND May 3.—Burnside's corps crossed the Rappahannock, Monday, with the exception of a negro Brigade, left at Manassas.

A special dispatch to the *Examiner*, from Hamilton's Crossing, says Northern papers of the 30th, report Grant returned to Washington to demand the services of McClellan, and refuses to move with his army, until the demand is complied with. Also urges that Fremont be assigned to duty on the Peninsula. Troops whose terms expire in May, have notified the Government that they will not obey orders recently issued, continuing them in service till the 1st of July.

Last accounts from Red river represent the Confederates marching on Grand Ecore. The Yankees admit a loss of 4,000.

A rupture in Lincoln's cabinet is reported and that Chase has resigned.

Gold 189.

RICHMOND, May 4.—Information has been received this forenoon, that a force of Yankee cavalry crossed Ely's ford last night and advanced on the Plank road within five miles of Fredericksburg. It is probably a reconnoitering expedition.

During the day they retired several miles. At two o'clock, when the train left Hamilton crossing, a reporter deemed reliable, stated that the Yankees were again advancing in force.

The only news from the Peninsula is, that the Yankees still occupy West Point and are repairing the wharf. Their pickets are thrown out six miles.

RICHMOND, May 4.—In the Senate a resolution introduced, fixing the day of adjournment on the sixteenth inst, laid over. A joint resolution of thanks to Gen. Hoke, Commander Cooke, officers and men, for the brilliant victory at Plymouth, was unanimously agreed to, also a resolution of thanks to Gen. Finegan, officers and men, for the victory at Olustee. Various propositions were introduced and referred.

In the House personal explanations were made by the Messrs. Leach, defining their respective position on the question of peace, and the Habeas Corpus act. Resolutions declaring it inexpedient to put five dollar notes on a par with new issue, adopted—yeas sixty seven, nays eight.

DALTON, May 4.—Fourteen privates belonging to the fifty eighth (58) and 63d N. C. Regts., were shot to-day for desertion, two were also shot for the same offence in Stuarts Division. The enemy have missed a large portion of their army at Red Clay.

Skirmishing has been going on near Ringgold on the Cleaveland road, between our cavalry and the enemy's all day. Our forces gradually retiring on the latter road. A general engagement will probably commence tomorrow.

ORANGE C. H., April 4th.—A body of the enemy's cavalry crossed Ely's and Germanna fords last night, and are reported this morning to be moving to Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg. The whole Yankee Army is moving from Culpeper C. H. towards Ely's and Germanna fords, over which they have thrown pontoon bridges, across which their infantry are reported to have been passing all day.

Some slight skirmishing to-day with small arms is reported to be going on at these fords.

The enemy withdrew their pickets on our rout at the upper fords last night. Ample preparations are going on to meet the enemy. This week can hardly close without a desperate general engagement. Our troops are eager and confident. Grant is reported to have a very large force.

MOBILE, May 4.—Tangipahoa Operator reports a fight at Olive Branch yesterday, between fifteen hundred Federals and Scott's cavalry, eight hundred strong. The fight lasted eight hours. The enemy were driven across Thompson's creek. No loss.

It is reported that Confederates are reinforcing. The fight will probably be resumed to-day.

RICHMOND, May 5.—A flag of truce boat has arrived at City Point with northern papers to the 3d. A telegram from the mouth of Red river, dated the 24th, says Bank's army had fallen back to Alexandria without fighting.

Steele is reported at Camden, Ark., in a strongly fortified position.

Gold on the 2d, 77¼.

RICHMOND, May 5.—European advices to the 22d have been received:

The Prussians, on the 18th, assaulted and captured the Danish works at Duppell—loss heavy on both sides. The Danes retreated to the Island of Alsen.

The Conference in regard to the Danish and German war was to meet on the 20th.

Maximillian was at Rome on the 18th, from whence he would embark for Mexico.

It was reported that Garibaldi would leave England immediately, at the instance of the government.

Cotton advanced a quarter of a penny; breadstuffs dull.

ORANGE C. H., April 5.—Our scouts went into Culpeper C. H. this morning, capturing about a dozen stragglers. These scouts report the country about Culpeper C. H. covered with debris of the enemy's camp, including clothing and blankets. [illegible] are reported still to hold out at Brandy Station, in Culpeper county. Their infantry and artillery all crossed at the lower fords last night, and spread this morning from Chancellorsville up to Perkins' Store, a point about 20 miles below here. It is reported that they are moving this morning out from Chancellorsville towards the Central Railway. Some slight cavalry skirmishing has been going on about 20 miles below, near Perkins' Store, this morning. Grant's force is variously estimated at between 100 and 180,000 men.—The first figures are most probably correct.

From the fact that Grant only took four days rations in leaving Culpeper, it is not improbable he will decline acting offensively and will fall back to the heights of Fredericksburg.

No cannonading heard here up to 1 o'clock to-day.

RICHMOND, May 5—Additional Foreign items:—The English Government retains possession of the gunboat Alexandria, but was ready to deliver her to the owners on application. Alexandria correspondent of the London Times says it quite certain that the Viceroy of Egypt, gave the Lairds an order for the construction in the Mersey, of the rams.

The steamer Bavaria from Hamburg, for New York, was captured on the 17th, by a Danish frigate.

The London Times attributes the rally of the Confederate loan, and the reaction in the Paris Bourse, to the action of the Yankee House of Representatives on the Mexican question.

DEMOPOLIS, May 5.—Special to the *Clarion, Meridian*, from Tangepahoa, on the 4th, says: Advices from Olive Branch, just received, states that after eight hours desperate fighting, our forces repulsed and drove the enemy across Thompson's creek, the enemy numbered fifteen thousand, our forces eight hundred. Reinforcements are being rapidly sent forward to Col. Powers. To the same from Clinton, on the 3d, via Summit on the 4th, states that Col. John. S. Scott, commanding [illegible] of 400 men, engaged five thousand Yankees from Baton Rouge and Port Hudson, under Gen. Andrews, and after several hours fighting in which Col. Powers and Major Ogden and Lieut. Powers, behaved with distinguished gallantry, he repulsed them with heavy loss, including Col. Teabooderman, of the 4th Wisconsin cavalry, killed and a large number wounded. Our loss five wounded. The fight took place at Olive Branch Creek; the enemy are in full retreat towards Baton Rouge, and Maj. Fred. Ogden commanding Mayfield's cavalry, pursuing.

RICHMOND, May 5.—The flag of truce boat brought 50 officers, and 235 privates for exchange.

Chase has not resigned. He has been induced to remain at his post for the present. A correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, mentions a rumor that Banks will be superseded by Augur.

[SECOND DISPATCH.]

RICHMOND, May 5.—Nothing of importance occurred in either branch of Congress to-day. The Senate was chiefly occupied in debates on the passport system. A bill securing special passports to members of Congress was passed.

[THIRD DISPATCH.]

RICHMOND May, 5.—Information received at the War Department reports 4 monitors and 5 gunboats, including 2 iron clads and 50 transports, in the James river, this morning, coming up.

[Special to the Examiner.]

HAMILTON'S CROSSING, May 3.—From Northern papers of 30th, and other and higher authority, I learn the cause of the delay in the movement of the army of the Potomac. It has transpired that when Gen. Grant assumed command of the United States armies, he represented to the President that, in view of the magnitude of the trust confided to him, he felt it incumbent upon him to fortify himself by all the means in his power, and in particular he needed the moral support which the employment of Gen'ls. McClellan and Fremont, representing two great phases of public opinion, would give; he, therefore, desired permission to assign them to duty.

This was refused on a trifling pretext, as respects Fremont, but peremptory as to Gen. McClellan.

Grant then proceeded to re-organize the armies on another basis. He thought it best to bring several Western Generals to his aid, and displace many who had served under McClellan. This has not worked satisfactorily, and General Grant is understood to have admitted, while satisfied with the number and material of his army, he is uneasy respecting the *morale*. He returned to Washington on Monday, therefore, with a peremptory demand for the services of General McClellan in the forthcoming campaign, and refuses to move the army until his demands are complied with. He is also very urgent that General Fremont be assigned to duty. These facts are admitted by Lincoln's adherants.

The Pennsylvania troops in the army of the Potomac, whose terms expire in May, have formally notified the Washington Government that they will not obey the orders recently issued remanding them to service till the first July. The Pennsylvania Legislature has passed a joint resolution urging Lincoln to their discharge.

The reserve troops from the Northwestern States are pouring forward to the reinforcement of the armies in Virginia.

Grant was still in Washington on Saturday.

A great Baptist revival is progressing in Macon, Georgia. Fifty persons have been added to the church in the past few weeks.

THE SECOND ATTACK

Was made by the enemy on all of our forts surrounding the town almost simultaneously, and in every assault he was driven back with terrific slaughter. But the rebels seem determined, and renewed attacks were made and checked, each one still attended with the most dreadful carnage. From this time until half past ten o'clock on Wednesday morning the fighting was almost uninterrupted. On Tuesday orders were issued for

THE EVACUATION OF FORT WESSELLS,

Better known as the Eighty-fifth regiment redoubt situated a short distance from Mill creek. Captain Chapin, the commandant of the fort, had been killed, although the stock of ammunition on hand was growing "small by degrees and beautifully less," still the heroic little band kept up an incessant firing on the enemy, every shot telling with fearful effect. Upon the reception of the order the survivers of the garrison awaited the coming of the night, and under its protecting shade silently withdrew to the town, having first, however, disabed the guns of the fort.

THE UNION FORCES CONCENTRATED,

on the evacuation of Fort Wessells, in Forts Williams, Comfort and a redoubt facing the Roanoke river, below Mill creek, and kept up the fight incessantly. The forces of General Wessells, thus being massed and able to handle their artillery more effectively, kept up a regular, steady and galling fire on the rebels. The enemy used fairty-pounder Parrott guns and other artillery of about similar calibre.

FORT WILLIAMS STORMED.

At nine o'clock on the 20th instant, a most impetuous assault was made by the rebels on Fort Williams. Our brave boys nobly stood by their guns and repulsed every attempt of the enemy to enter the fortification. In splendid order did the rebel column advance to the assault. General Wessells allowed him time to come within easy range of his guns, and then gave the order to fire. Every discharge mowed down the rebel troops by platoons. Still the gaps were instantly filled up and the attack renewed. In this manner the enemy received several severe shocks, and, after a last and still more impetuous charge, which likewise resulted disastrously to him, he withdrew, evidently to repair damage and make ready for another attack.

GEN. WESSELLS CAPITULATED

At half-past ten on the morning of the 20th instant (Wednesday) an hour and a half after the repulse at Fort Williams. At the hour above mentioned the Union flag was hauled down on Forts Williams and Comfort as well as on the Mill creek redoubt. The rebels had been heavily reinforced during Tuesday night, and the overwhelming forces hurled against the weak and already shattered column was too much to withstand. Being out of ammunition and cut off from further supply, Gen. Wessells could do no less than surrender, or have all his command annihilated. The garrison of Fort Gray no doubt fought nobly to the last; but being cut off from the main command, without hope of deliverence, had to succumb also. We have no advices from this post; but common sense teaches us that the fort could not hold out very long.

THE REBEL COLUMN

Consisted of no less than five brigades of troops, each brigade numbering about three thousand men. These were under the chief command of Major General Hoke, assisted by Generals Ransom and Barton. The majority of these troops were from the far South, as the North Carolinians are not trusted very far while fighting on their own soil.—(Remarkable announcements.—ED. CAR.)

OUR LOSSES

Are estimated at about one hundred killed and wounded. Captain Chapin was killed at Fort Wessells, and Captain Horace J. Hodges, Depot Quartermaster, while in the act of communicating with the gunboat Miami, in a canoe which he carried in a wagon from Plymouth to Conesby creek, in order to elude the rebel iron-clad, was upset and drowned. The loss of this officer will be severely felt and regretted by all who knew him. I have been unable to learn the names of others who lost their lives in the severe battles before Plymouth.

TWO CITIZENS ESCAPED

From Plymouth after the rebels had taken possession of the town. Their names are Wm Atkinson and ——— Mitchell, loyal men, who carried on business here. They packed their trunks in a wagon, and, after getting clear of the town, they took to the swamp, and during the night they managed to obtain a rowboat, moved up to the mouth of the river, when they were picked up by one of the Union gunboats patrolling the Sound. Before leaving Plymouth these gentlemen met Captain Bowers, of a Georgia regiment, a sort of milk and water officer, who was very fierce on Union people. They conversed with him for some time, when a cry was raised that a Yankee monitor and several transports with troops were coming, whereupon the rebel captain skedaddled, and in the confusion Atkinson and Mitchell made their escape from the town.

THE REBEL LOSSES

Are, beyond the slightest doubt, immensely heavy. When it is considered that every fort around Plymouth was stormed from three to seven times, and each assault repulsed with great slaughter, besides pouring broadside after broadside into the rebel ranks from the Miama and Southfield, the casualties among the rebel troops must have been enormous. A rebel surgeon was heard to say that "the damned Yankees had killed and wounded one-third of their whole force, and he hoped that no mercy would be shown to the cursed Yankees." The gunboat Whitehead went on a reconnoissance on Wednesday a short distance above Plymouth, and the officers and crew observed that three hundred rebel troops engaged in burrying the dead. From a steeple on the town church, overlooking a large tract of land, it was found that the field of Asa Johnson (about sixty acres) was completely filled with the dead and dying rebels. The entire rebel force could not have been short of from fifteen to twent thousand men, of whom one-third are unit for future service.

THE FORT PILLOW MASSACRE RE-ENACTED.

My informant also acquainted me with the fact that all the negroes found after the surrender, were stripped of their clothing and brutally murdered in cold blood. It must be understood that General Wessels had no colored troops at Plymouth save a few recruits for North Carolina regiments, and the poor, unfortunate blacks thus butchered were merely laborers for the government. The negroes were formed into line, in a nude state, and fired at by the brutal soldiery, purporting to represent Southern chivalry. Nature revolts at these facts; and the plan apparently adopted by the rebels for the future disposition of negroes is emancipation from, and not for, life.—(What a most consummate and elegant lie.—ED. CAR.)

THE SITUATION OF PLYMOUTH

Is on the Roanoke river, which forms an angle above its mouth, from the Albemarle Sound, of 90 degrees.

The forts were built outside of the town, and at the first advance of the rebels on Sunday, the Southfield and Miami, having obtained the range, did good execution, directed by signals.

THE REBEL RAM ALBEMARLE,

Which is the name of this rebel monster, is quite a formidable craft, built on the plan of the Merrimac. Capt. James Spottiswoode Cook, late a Lieut. in the United States Navy, commands her and has a crew of sixty men. Her dimensions are as follows: Length, 152 feet; breadth of beam, 30 feet; depth of hold; 12 feet. She is built of sixteen-inch timber, and is said to have a plating of six inch iron. Others, however, assert that her coat of mail is Trail, laid and fastened crosswise. Her engine is a low pressure, English built, with two screws. She is pierced for six guns, viz: one port-hole at the stern and stem, and four on the starboard and port sides. Her armament consists of only two twenty-pounder Whitworth guns, revolving on a swivel, which can be fired out of three portholes.

THE ENEMY

Is supposed to be moving on Little Washington; and, although we are well prepared there for an attack, hot and bloody work will soon ensue. The motive of the rebels, as stated by some of their officers, for making the onslaught on Plymouth and other posts in North Carolina is to drive the Union forces out of the State, and transfer the theatre of war from Virginia to North Carolina; also to check the movements among the disaffected towards resisting the Jeff. Davis tyranny.

This, therefore, may be said to be the earnest commencement of a vigorous spring campaign.

A TALE OF HORROR.

BY "ALIQUIS."

THERE are, in the lives of all men, certain times, certain places, or certain people, which bring to mind certain disagreeable remembrances, which otherwise would have slumbered peacefully in the deep abyss of the past; but which, being aroused, haunt us for a time, then to pass away until the same incidents again recall them. There are certain sounds, certain words, which, being heard, a cold shudder creeps over me, and puts me [illegible] prospect in [illegible].

But of all the words which fill me with dread—which cause a chill, as of death, to crawl over my frame—which torment me to agony—none have so great an effect, none so quickly start me from my accustomed self-control, none make me so much wish to escape from my own thoughts, as the word—I cannot write it: I cannot speak it.

You who are learned in Biblical matters—you who "search the Scriptures"—know who it was that tempted our first mother, or rather, grandmother, of countless years ago—you know what shape he took, that he might breathe into her unsuspecting ear the soft words of the seducer—you know how, even now, he glides silently along, obedient to the mandate, "upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat, all the days of thy life"—and you know that still he watches every chance to bruise the heel of the *genus home.*

That is the name which I cannot write, and which strikes me with terror.

But why, perhaps you ask me is it so—what horrible idea is embodied in the word—what awful thoughts or pictures dose it paint upon your mind? Do you realy imagine that the Father of all Evil is wrapped up in that form, and is it because of that, that you shudder?

Not a bit. I am no more afraid of the devil than the devil is afraid of me. Although he did get possession of Dr. Faustus, and of Festus, and a host of other weak-minded men, I have no fear that he will get possession of me. I defy him. I dare him to come on in any shape he chooses, and will go a thousand dollars to six and a quarter cents, that he comes off second best. Not that I wish to brag of my courage, or my virtue, or my invincibility. No none of those; for I always remember that "great men lived before Agamemnon."

I defy him, and for reasons of my own, but "good and substantial reasons all."

What, then, is there so dreadful in the word sn——. I had almost written it—three letters more, and it would have been placed in black and white before my eyes.

I will tell you why.

It was a cold, blustering November night, two years ago I was seated before my fire, deeply engaged in reading. Among the stories which I persued, was one which made me shudder and my teath chatter with horror. It was of a man who, in a distant land, awaking from a sound sleep, found creeping over him an anaconda. The writer had pictured in glowing terms, the dreadful agony of that poor man, as he lay alive to all the horrors of his position; but yet fearful to move, almost afraid to breathe, lest the monster should discover that he was living, and should put an end to his existence.

How relieved was I when I learned that he escaped death—when the awful animal sped away from him, leaving him unharmed in body, but racked in mind with the torture of a thousand deaths.

I drew a long breath, and pitching far from me the book, thanked my stars and elastics—my wife's I mean—that I had not been in so dreadful a situation. I thought upon it, until I could bear it no longer. I resolved to forget myself in that far off land, so dear to all troubled minds and weary bodies—the land of *Nod.*

I breathed a prayer for my wife, who was away upon a visit, blew out the lamp, and jumped into bed. Whew! how cold the sheets were! Didn't I pity poor forlan bachlors! Didn't I vow that if ever I allowed my wife to be absent from me again in the winter season, I might be everlastingly——

Heavens! what was that? Something in my bed! I reached out my foot—it was long, and ronnd, and smooth in one direction, but apparently covered with something rough, when I drew my foot a slight distance back.

What could it be?

A thousand thoughts rushed pell-mell through my head; but most dreadful of all, most agonizing, came the story of the anaconda. What if this should be some deadly reptile! Pashaw! said I to myself, you are a fool. How could such an animal get into your bed, especially in winter? it is all moodshine.

I put out my foot again and touched it.

It moved towards me!

It rested against my leg!

A cold sweat broke out all over me. A sensation as of death came upon me, and then, regardless of the danger of moving, thoughtless of everything but the presence of the dread object, I sprang with a loud shreck from the bed, and sunk upon the floor.

My cry alarmed the boarders; in the costume of the midnight hours, they rushed into my room. I could only point to the bed, and say nothing.

They turned down the clothes, and there in plain sight rested, not a venomous reptile but what, put there as a joke, had been to me a dread reality—what was in truth a coward *all* to them, but to me a tale of horror.

PURITAN CUNNING.—In Scripture "seven" is said to be a fortunate number, and the Yankee Government believing that the Catholic peasantry could be won by it, adopted the device of offering $77,7 as a bounty to all recruits in Ireland who would serve in the U. S. Army.

AN AMOROUS AERONAUT.

A late French journal relates the following well invented story, which, it will be seen, is French all over:

While Mons. Godard was filling an immense ballon in the Champ Mars, he amused the spectators by sending up the small figure of a man, the perfect semblance of M. Thiers without spectacles. The little man being filled with gas, rose majestically into the air, and was soon lost to the view among the clouds. His adventures, which became known the next day, were curious. Thanks to a strong and favorable gale which impelled him on his course, the little balloon man arrived in the same afternoon in sight of a fine country house in the neighborhood of Bievro. It was near the hour of dinner, and the lady of the manison, who naturally thought herself perfectly safe, was occupied in the mysteries of her toilet.

It was a warm day, and she had opened one of the windows which looked out upon the park, and was safe from any prying eyes. While tranquilly engaged, by the assistance of corset-lacing, in reducing her waist to a size and shape that would reflect credit upon her husband's taste, she was suddenly startled by a blast of wind, followed by strange noise; and immediately the casement was thrown open and our little balloon man entered her chamber unannounced. The lady utters a cry of terror and throws a shawl over her shoulders. The little man, driven by the wind, throws himself upon the unhappy woman, who—screaming louder than ever—pushes him off, and he conceals himself under the bed. Just as the wife, in a supplicating voice, says to this novel Don Juan, "Ah, Monsieur, go away, or you will ruin me!" the husband furiously rushed in, crying,

"Ah, the wretch, I have him now!" and goes in search of his sword to run him thro' the body. The wife, more dead than alive, reiterates in the midst of sobs, "Fly, O fly, Monsieur! and save me the sight of a dreadful tragedy!" The husband arrives, armed to the teeth, followed by the whole household, who seek to molify his anger. While two of his friends hold the husband, a third, stooping down, perceives our little friend—who, for good cause utters not a word—and catching him by the leg, draws him forth from his concealment—when, lo! Monsieur Balloon, no longer held down by the bedstead, raises himself erect, swells out, and rises majestically to the ceiling, to the immense amusement of the spectators; while the poor jealous husband slinks away, sword and all, heartily ashamed of his causeless wrath.

FATAL FOOLHARDY FEAT.

A Chattanooga correspondent of the Detroit Tribune gives the following:

Three days ago a young man, whose name I did not learn, a private in the 78th Pennsylvania infantry, fell from that point of Lookout mountain known as Point Lookout, a distance of some eighty feet, upon a kind of table that is formed in the mountain, about that distance from the top. Of course he was killed. The victim being a photographer, had been allowed to erect a tent while his regiment was stationed on the mountain, and practice his profession. When his regiment was ordered from the mountain he was allowed permission to remain, as he had been to some expense in getting up stock and apparatus. Sad to relate, he was given to the intoxicating cup, and was often in a state of drunkenness.

While in such a state he was foolish enough to run around the extreme edge of the rock, for the amusement of visitors to the mountains. He had done this so often while drunk, that he got so careless as to do it while sober, and on the fatal day, I am told, he was perfectly sober. In the presence of a lady and her husband, he stepped to the extreme edge and placed the palm of one of his feet on the edge and attempted to bring the other with it, when a small piece of the rock broke off. It was enough to throw him off his balance, and sway him backwards, and precipitate him down the dizzy hight. In falling he attempted to catch the skirt of the lady's dress, but, with great presence of mind, she drew back and saved herself the same fate. When the unfortunate man was found he was quite dead. His neck and brek were broken, literally snapped in two.

SCARY.—The Lincoln Government is afraid to follow up the action of the House of Representatives on the Mexican question. A late Washington dispatch says: "The Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs to-day had under consideration the House joint resolution in regard to the Mexican question.—The Committee, in accordance with the wishes of the Administration, determined to defer action for the present upon this and all other similar propositions relating to legislation on the question of our foreign relations. This kills the matter."

HANDSOME AFFAIR.—A few days ago, when a portion of the 6th N. C. Cavalry were in the Yankee lines, near Batchelor's creek, for the purpose of obtaining supplies of forage they met with a party of the enemy. The Yankees greatly outnumbering the squad of Confederates, a challenge for combat was given and promptly accepted, when the Yankees were badly whipped, suffering a loss of one killed; several wounded and prisoners, with a loss of all their stores.

WHOLESALE DESERTIONS.—A letter from a soldier in Florida, dated the 18th, says: "The Yankees are deserting and coming to us as fast as they can. Eighty-five came to us last night, and fifteen to-day. They say the whole army would come if they could get off. We expect a hundred in to-night. I do not think the Yankees will give us another fight soon. They are all at Jacksonville, under cover of their gunboats."

"Reliable" says that prior to the battle of Missionary Ridge, the President nominated D. H. Hill for Lieutenant General, but not being well pleased with Hill at this battle, ordered him to Charleston and subsequently withdrew the nomination. A quarrel or remonstrance ensued and Hill was—tabled. He is now acting as volunteer aid to Gen. Beuregard.

☞ Capt. J. C. Mitchell, son of the Irish exile, John Mitchell, is in command of Fort Sumter, during the temporary absence of Lt. Col. Stephen Elliott.