

Semi-Weekly Standard.

WILLIAM W. HOLDEN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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OUR NEW TERMS.

We have announced that in consequence of the excessive price of all articles of living, and the cost of publishing the Standard, our rates of charges will be as follows:

For Single Copies a Year,	\$5.00 in advance.
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The Situation—The News.

At Fredericksburg the situation is unchanged, and Hooker, instead of "changing his base," is preparing again to advance, is quietly awaiting it, seems, the time now rapidly approaching, which will relieve him of at least one-third of his army. The term of enlistment of a large number of his men will determine about the middle of May, and it is certain but few of these will remain any longer in service. The object of Lincoln's late visit to Hooker's camp, was to secure if possible, the re-enlistment of those whose time of bondage is about to expire. In this he totally failed, though during his visit unbounded license was suffered to prevail, and liquor was supplied *ad libitum*. It is true the liquor was consumed with genuine Yankee rapacity, but his speeches, profuse of promises "to speed the rebellion" in the ninety days previously assigned for that purpose, were received with apathetic indifference, for they knew full well that previous predictions of analogous purport had successfully heralded bloody and disastrous defeats. The President returned to Washington, it is said, a sadder if not a wiser man.

From Suffolk.

Advices from Suffolk up to Sunday at twelve o'clock, state that a general engagement was momentarily expected. Skirmishing was going on between the two armies, and had been for several days, with pretty considerable loss. The Yankees had taken to the rear a number of their killed and wounded, and the fire had grown quite sharp between the opposing forces. On Sunday there was an incessant cannonading, which continued up to 12 o'clock at night, and the opinion prevailed that the skirmishing, which was gradually increasing, would bring on a general action the next day.

A portion of our forces are said to have certainly crossed the Nansemond river. The object of this is to cut off the enemy's communication. During some days last week the enemy's communication was cut off with Newport News, but whether the Yankees have forced a passage, is not known. It is now certain, however, that in attempting to come up the river one of their gunboats (the Louisiana) was sunk and two others seriously disabled. The fire of our artillery had been so effective, that the whole flotilla had been driven back.

The Yankees are said to be receiving heavy reinforcements. There was the greatest alarm of the capture of Suffolk and the advance of our army, and trains of powder and combustibles have been laid under all the bridges leading from Suffolk, so that they may be destroyed in an instant, if the necessity should arise. The greatest fears were felt for the fate of Suffolk.

Major General Dix had arrived at Suffolk, and it was reported he would assume command there.

From Port Royal.

The Savannah News states that there were on Thursday at Port Royal 2 steam frigates, 8 gunboats, 5 iron clads, 3 ships, 4 barks, 3 brigs, 7 ocean steamers, 6 river steamers, 3 tugs and 36 schooners. On Friday morning four additional iron-clads and 15 schooners arrived, making a total of 118 (including 9 iron-clads) now at Port Royal.

All quiet at Charleston.

There is no prospect of an early engagement in Tennessee, and we have heard of no material changes in the relative positions of the armies of Bragg and of Rosecrans.

Gen. Wheeler with his command, swam the Cumberland river near Nashville, captured a wagon train and killed and captured forty Yankees, on the 18th inst.

Scouts from the Tennessee river report the landing of twenty-four transports at Eastport, eight miles from Luka, with twenty thousand Federals, chiefly cavalry.

The Progress has the following dispatch, confirming the capture of the "Queen of the West."

PORT HURON, April 21.—New Orleans dates of the 16th confirm the report of the destruction of the *Queen of the West* and *Diana*. The former got aground in Grand Lake. As the Yankee fleet approached a fierce bombardment ensued.

A shell from the *Canopus* exploded on the *Queen's* deck, igniting a quantity of powder, which communicated with her magazine and caused an explosion. The *Diana* is reported to have been burnt by the rebels. One hundred and thirty-three prisoners, including seven commissioned officers, three surgeons and eight of the crew of the *Queen of the West* arrived at New Orleans on the 15th. Among them is Capt. Turner, commanding the fleet, who was slightly wounded in the ankle. He is now at St. James' hospital a prisoner. Forty-five of the crew are reported missing, and supposed to be drowned or killed. A dispatch from Berwick's Bay on the 15th reports the Federals beyond Franklin. Their forces are landing and marching on.

From Eastern North-Carolina.

We have no intelligence of interest from the East. We are looking with interest to that quarter.

A skirmish occurred at Core Creek on the 20th, in which we had three men killed and some taken prisoners.

Confederate Congress.

Richmond, April 21.—In the Senate to-day a resolution was adopted fixing the first of May as the time for the adjournment of Congress. The House amendment to the bill authorizing newspapers to be sent to soldiers free of postage, was concurred in. House bill for the assessment and collection of taxes was amended and passed.

The House passed Senate bill abolishing supernumerary officers in the quartermaster and commissary departments.

From the United States.

The tone of the Northern press indicates a final abandonment of active demonstrations by the government for the reduction of Charleston; and a purpose to avoid as far as possible decisive engagements during the summer campaign. Impending famine at the South, they say, will soon disperse our armies and crush the rebellion. The *Herald* of the 18th inst. says that the latest news from Suffolk to the 10th inst. states that the attempt of Longstreet to cross the Nansemond river with the aid of pontoons was defeated by artillery. Its other news items are unimportant.

The Confederate Tax Law.

We publish to-day from the Richmond *Sentinel*, a synopsis of the law recently passed by Congress, and which has no doubt been approved by the President.

This law will bear very heavily on all classes of our people. The income tax, for example, is to be ascertained in this way, that is, if we can form any definite idea from the synopsis before us: The gross income is to be ascertained by estimating "the annual value of property of every description, occupied, or not hired by the owner," and to this is to be added the gross income or profits of the owner. From this is to be deducted "all the actual costs, expenses in carrying on the business, the repairs of houses, machinery and the like," and this will leave the net annual income; and on this is to be levied the amounts set out in the law. If the income is five thousand dollars, the tax is six hundred and twenty-five dollars; if ten thousand, twelve hundred and fifty dollars; if twelve thousand, eighteen hundred dollars, and so on in proportion. But no such tax is imposed on those who pay tax in kind. This income tax will not, therefore, fall on the planters and farmers; but, after reserving a certain quantity of articles produced, they are required to render to the government one-tenth of what remains. For example, a small farmer who makes forty barrels of corn, will be entitled to reserve twenty, and then of the other twenty he will render two barrels to the government, which, at fifteen dollars per barrel, would be thirty dollars tax! And the same as to everything else he produces, with some reservations; and besides, one-tenth of all the pork raised is to be rendered. Many of our small farmers occupy and work rented land, and pay to the owner one-fourth of the whole crop; and after paying this fourth, they are required—reserving the quantities mentioned in the law—to render one-tenth to the government.

The synopsis from the *Sentinel* is not clear as to the income tax. Section 9th, it seems, provides for settling disputes as to annual income. When we see that, we will know more about it.

It is a noticeable fact that no specific tax is levied on slave property by this law, and that no tax at all is levied on slaves or land owned and occupied by planters and farmers. It is true, "the annual value of property of every description, occupied or not hired by the owner, is to be counted as a part of his income;" but this, if intended to include the value of slaves and land, does not apply to planters and farmers, because they are to pay their tax in produce. While labor on the farms, and capital invested in slaves on the farms, are thus placed on the same footing. The owner of fifty slaves, after reserving the quantities of produce mentioned, will render his one-tenth on the remainder to the government; and so will the small farmer along side of him who works no slaves, but relies on his own labor to support his family. It is true, the owner of the fifty slaves will render his just proportion of tithes to the government, as well as the small farmer; but it will be, not of his own manual labor, but of the capital he has invested in his slaves.

This law provides for "estimating the crops and delivering and receiving the government's one-tenth at some depot, not more than eight miles from the place of production." This, for example, will require at least five depots in the County of Wake; and it will require the services of at least two persons at each depot to receive, store, and keep an account of these crops. Thus we shall have ten Confederate office-holders in this County alone, to receive and take care of produce. The number in this State will not be less than one thousand.

Judging the future by the past, they will nearly all be the partisans and creatures of the administration at Richmond. The old Union men or Conservatives are very well suited to fight battles and raise produce, but they are not fit, it seems, to hold office. These office-holders will swarm through the country like the locusts of Egypt, gathering the tithes. As many teams will be required, when the crops are gathered, to haul the government produce to the various depots as will be needed by our planters and farmers to haul their share to their cribs and barns. The administration at Richmond will not only pervade with its tithes gathers every neighborhood in the Confederate States, but it will become a mammoth engrosser and monopolizer of produce. Holding the purse and the sword, as it does now, and holding hereafter one-tenth of nearly all the produce of the country, it will indeed be a power in whose shadow the State governments will repose as little things. We fear it will be the reverse of death.

Every good citizen is not only ready but anxious to contribute his full share to support the government and sustain our armies. Money is abundant, and we had thought it was the policy of the government to collect all the taxes in money, and thus diminish the volume in circulation. A tax in kind, as it is called, or of one-tenth of all the produce, is a new thing in this country. The system is of foreign origin, and is as old as the Jewish government. It is the favorite system by which the kingly government of England wrings from a portion of her subjects the means of supporting her splendid Church establishment. It belongs to an era when there was no currency but gold and silver, and that in small quantities, and when barter or swapping prevailed instead of enlightened commerce, based on currency representing property. Such a system is odious to our people. It was agreed upon in secret session, and the people, therefore, had no opportunity to instruct their representatives against it. Not one in ten thousand of the people of this State expected such a law would be passed, or even knew it was under discussion. They looked for a law, and were anxious for a law which would tax them, and tax them even heavily if necessary, to sustain the government; and they were ready to pay their taxes in such currency as the government had provided; but they were not prepared for the tithing system, with the inconveniences and evils which, in all countries where it prevails, necessarily attend it. We do not refer to the constitutional power of the Congress to adopt such a system, though such a power, it seems to us, may well be questioned. We will publish the law in full as soon as it is received.

QUARTERMASTERS' AND COMMISSARIES' CLERKS IN THE RANKS.—Congress has passed the following law, turning out of office all the clerks in the Quartermaster and Commissary departments, who are capable of shouldering a musket, and authorizing a detail of disabled soldiers to take their places:

The Congress, etc., do enact, That the act entitled "An act to provide for an increase of the Quartermaster and Commissary Departments," approved February 15th, 1862, be, and the same is hereby amended by striking out the proviso at the end of the same, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Provided, That no Quartermaster, Assistant Quartermaster, Commissary or Assistant Commissary be authorized to employ as a clerk any one liable to military service. And the commanding officer of Quartermasters, Assistant Quartermasters, Commissaries or Assistant Commissaries, may detail from the ranks under his command, such persons or persons as may be necessary for service in the offices of said Quartermasters, Assistant Quartermasters, Commissaries and Assistant Commissaries; Provided, That only disabled soldiers shall be so detailed, while one can be found for such service.

Public Meetings.

A public meeting was held in Charlotte on the 17th inst., with a view to securing supplies for the army, and relieving the wants of families of indigent soldiers. The meeting was organized by the appointment of Hon. J. W. Osborne Chairman, and Messrs. Britton and Yates Secretaries.

Effective speeches were made by Maj. Carrington, C. S. A., John A. Young and Wm. Johnston, Esqs., after which resolutions were adopted appointing district committees to canvass the County and ascertain and collect what provisions and forage they may be able to gather for the army, and report to a Central Committee of three, also to be appointed by the Chair.

The *Democrat* says editorially of Maj. Carrington's remarks:

"We wish every farmer in the State could hear him. He stated that the army had consumed all the food it was possible to procure for 70 miles around the point where it is now stationed, and that unless more corn and meat was furnished from North Carolina, it might have to fall back into North Carolina. It is important that the farmers of all the surrounding counties should remember this. It would be much better that each man should now sell to the government one-half or two-thirds of what he has in the way of provisions, than to have the army fall back into this State. If the army is compelled from more want to retire from Virginia, it will be disastrous to nearly every man in North Carolina, for he will not only then be compelled to part with his provisions, but his fields may become the battle-ground for the contending forces. It is a serious matter, and we want to impress it on the minds of all."

A like meeting was held in Salisbury on the 18th inst., Hon. Burton Craige presiding. This meeting was also addressed by Maj. Carrington, and committees were appointed to canvass the county for provisions and forage.

On the 14th instant, the Justices of the Peace of Anson County, held a meeting to deprecate the cultivation of cotton, and urge an increased culture of grain. Among the resolutions adopted are the following. They have the ring of the true metal:

Resolved, That it is our deliberate conviction that he, who, regardless of the wants of our government and army, shall attempt the cultivation of the usual amount of cotton, does a greater injury to our cause than the invasion of our immediate country.

Resolved, That we, as citizens, forego the cultivation of cotton as an article for market, during this year, and recommend to the citizens of Anson County to adopt the same course.

At a public meeting held in the same County composed chiefly of agriculturists, resolutions were adopted not to plant more than half an acre of cotton to the hand, and use every effort to promote the growth of breadstuffs in larger quantities.

In Hillsboro', on the 18th instant, a public meeting was held pursuant to notice, and Andrew C. Murdoch, Esq., was called to the chair. At the Chairman's request, the objects of the meeting were explained by Hon. Wm. A. Graham.

A full and free interchange of views then took place, in which Gov. Graham, S. H. Umsted, H. K. Nash, Nelson P. Hall, Josiah Turner, Jr., P. C. Cameron, John W. Norwood, Wm. J. Bingham and the Chairman participated; and all necessary information was elicited from the several sections of the County as to the destitution of the families of soldiers and other persons, and also of the means at the command of the County to aid all who need assistance. In the course of the discussion all violence and disorderly conduct on the part of females or other persons was strongly condemned; and as the sense of this meeting, the following resolutions offered by Gov. Graham were unanimously passed:

Resolved, That sufficient means have been provided by the appropriations of the Legislature and the County Court to relieve the families of soldiers and other needy persons in Orange County; and that it is the duty of the proper agent of the County to receive the share of said county of the State appropriation; and also of the corn commissioners appointed by the County Court to apply the funds at their command to the purchase of corn; and that the whole may be distributed according to the intention of said appropriations.

Resolved, That in order to insure greater efficiency, that four persons be appointed by the Chairman, and recommended to the corn commissioners to co-operate with them.

AN APPOINTMENT NOT FIT TO HAVE BEEN MADE.

We observe, in the Richmond *Enquirer*, that the Secretary of War has appointed Mr. Henry K. Burgwyn on the part of the Confederate States as a commissioner to impress property in this State.

We are at a loss to know on what ground this appointment was made, except on that of partisan politics. Mr. Burgwyn is not remarkably gifted in any respect, and he is certainly deficient in judgment and common sense. He has but little if any sympathy with the great body of our people; and his manners are not such, even if he were to condescend to make the effort, to render him popular, or for popular rights. The only recommendation which he could have had for the place was the fact that he was an original secessionist, and has joined in all the unfounded and injurious imputations which have been cast by the Democrats generally on the Conservatives of this State. He was conspicuous, in November, 1860, when the Legislature was assembling, in button-holing members and endeavoring to induce them to make the plunge of disunion. From that day to this he has talked, and we believe, has sported for a time a nominal commission; but we have never heard of his getting within even Whitworth range of the Yankees.

In entering our objections to this appointment we are satisfied we speak for a vast majority of our people. If the appointment had been submitted to the people at the polls, Mr. Burgwyn would not have received five thousand votes. We learn that other gentlemen applied for the place, or were recommended by their friends, who were well qualified for it, and whose appointment would have given general satisfaction, and one of them, we are informed, had the endorsement of the entire delegation in Congress from this State; but the appointing power paid no attention to these recommendations, or the claims of others, and appointed Mr. Burgwyn.

Punishment in the Army.

We are glad to see that the Congress has prohibited the whipping of soldiers in the army. We make the following extract from a recent general order by Adjutant General Cooper:

"The following acts having been duly approved by the President, are published for the information of all concerned:

"An act to prohibit the punishment of soldiers by whipping.

The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That from and after the passage of this act it shall not be lawful for any court martial or military court to cause any soldier in the service of the Confederate States to be punished by whipping or the infliction of stripes upon his person; and that all laws and orders contravening the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Sec. 2. The Article 20 of the Articles of War be so amended as to read as follows: All officers and soldiers who have received pay, or have been duly enlisted in the service of the Confederate States, and shall be convicted of having, desert or the same, shall suffer death or imprisonment in a Penitentiary, with or without hard labor, for a period not less than one year, or more than five, or such other punishment not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, as the court martial or military court may determine. Approved April 13, 1862.

Notice to Subscribers.

We continue to receive complaints from various points that the *Standard* fails to reach them to whom it is sent. We assure our subscribers that our paper is carefully packed up and punctually mailed, and if packages or numbers are missing, the fault is not ours. We fear that some whose duty it is to see that our papers are duly conveyed and delivered, are not doing our subscribers and ourselves justice. Postmasters who entertain prejudices against the *Standard*, should remember that they are bound by a solemn oath to deal by us as they do by others. We trust there are few, if any, who permit their prejudices, or their opposition to us, to influence them to withhold our paper from our subscribers.

Our losses by mail have recently been considerable. We are satisfied there are rogues somewhere in this State, who open letters and purloin money. We charge no one with it, because we have no clue to the criminal or criminals; all we know is, that we receive letters almost every day, informing us that money had been previously mailed to us which had never been received. We do not believe there is any dishonesty in the Raleigh postoffice; but we are sure there is dishonesty somewhere, for money mailed to our address has failed, in a number of instances, to reach us. These losses are so serious, and the cost of publishing a paper so great at this time, that we are compelled to give notice that after the first day of next month, all money mailed for the *Standard* will be at the risk of the persons mailing it. This is the rule of many of the newspaper establishments of the country, and under the circumstances, it is a just rule. The Editor cannot be justly expected to send the paper until or unless he is paid for it, and he is not paid for it, if the money is stolen on its way to him. Besides, the loss will be slight to persons sending money, and losing it; whereas, when the loss of all which is sent and fails to be received falls on the Editor, as it has been recently falling on us, it amounts to a serious diminution of profits.

Corn meal is selling in Raleigh at the shops at six dollars per bushel, and very scarce. We learn that many of the poor are buying it by the gallon and peck. Resolutions by farmers who have cribs full of corn do very well, but they do not supply our inhabitants with meal. Persons whose means are small must suffer unless meal is brought in.

On the 22d instant the door was closed on fundable Confederate notes at eight per cent; but our readers should bear in mind that the same class of notes will be fundable until the 1st of August, in seven per cent bonds. We learn that over a million and a half were funded at this depository.

We advise the people to fund at seven per cent, as these notes may depreciate in value. The State of Virginia has virtually repudiated former issues by providing that only the issues after the first of this month shall be received for taxes in that State.

From the Rappahannock.

We make the following extract from a letter from an intelligent printer soldier, belonging to the 12th N. C. troops, dated Iverson's Brigade, near Guinea Station, April 14, 1863:

"There is no news of importance in this section, but we anticipate stirring times before the lapse of many days. It is reported that 'Lighting Joe' Hooker has sent off 40,000 of his army in the direction of Culpeper, but I think it is a ruse of his to induce General Lee to weaken our army here, and thus give the Yankees an opportunity of crossing over. The Yankees troops say they are heartily tired of the war, and say that if they had a chance they would quit the field for home. Our men send over tobacco on a piece of plank, which the Yankees receive as pay for sugar and coffee. The recent Confederate victory at Charleston has proved almost conclusively to us that our long peace will be made, and all who are spared return to their homes in a happy mood; but to those whose friends return in the morning and find them dead, or who have lost dear friends, to see their places vacant when the companies return home in triumph?

Two years will have elapsed on the 18th instant since this company was called into the field. The first twelve months we were stationed at Norfolk. At the expiration of that time, in May last our regiment was sent to Rappahannock Station, on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad. We then belonged to the brigade of Brig. Gen. Mahone, but were temporarily attached to that of Gen. L. O. Branch, and were in the light near Hanover Court House, under his command. We were then taken to Richmond and placed in the brigade of Gen. S. Garland, under whom a better man never lived. He led us on to victory at Cold Harbor, Malvern Hill, and at Buzzards Gap, where, in advance of his brigade, cheering them on, he received his death wound. This brigade misses him as much as a child misses his parent. He was one of nature's own noblemen. After his death we were engaged at South Mountain, Sharpsburg, and Fredericksburg, and are now ready to meet the Yankee horde again wherever they may be, as we have confidence in our commander, Gen. Alfred Iverson."

A Weldon friend, who recently made a trip to the Rappahannock to see his son, has furnished us with some notes of his trip which we give below. Having been detained in Richmond for the want of a passport, he witnessed the women's riot of which so much has been said. He says:

"As you have the particulars of this riot in the Richmond papers, I shall not attempt to give them to you—but such a scene I never witnessed before. It was a promiscuous assemblage, old and young, crying for bread. I saw poverty and distress depicted on many a countenance."

There can be no doubt that there was suffering for bread in Richmond at the time, and the observations of our correspondent confirm the fact. This could not be otherwise, with meal at \$10 per bushel, and bacon at \$1 50 per pound.

Our correspondent gives a brief sketch of the custom of searching travelers on the Fredericksburg Railroad. He says:

"For the first time in my life I had my carpet bag searched by the insinuating fingers of an insolent traveling police officer, who said it was his business to search all the baggage to see if they contained liquor. I think he was searching more for his own gratification than anything else, for a friend who sat just behind me told the fellow that he had some spirits, and asked him to take a drink, which he readily did, and passed on to try his hand on some one else."

Our correspondent speaks in severe terms of the manner in which sick soldiers are treated on the upper Rappahannock, about twenty miles above Fredericksburg. He says Gen. Mahone will not let them be sent to Richmond, where they can have good accommodations and every attention, while the sick at and around Fredericksburg are sent by special trains to Richmond. He concludes as follows:

"Hearing that the 24th N. C. regiment was near by, I repaired thither, and found two of my young friends, G. W. Fulgham and A. Powell, in tolerably comfortable quarters, with whom I spent the night. The men of the regiment look pale and haggard. Nothing but the Rappahannock now divides the belligerents. It was a melancholy sight to see a people once so firmly bound together in the bonds of national fraternity, now in deadly conflict with each other."

GENERAL ITEMS.

The New-York *Herald* of the 14th inst. says of the defeat at Charleston: "The repulse of iron clads from the gateway of Charleston is a triumph almost bloodless in its results, may be classed among our most discouraging military disasters." The *Baltimore American* is indignant over what it calls the "shameful abandonment of the siege."

There has been a serious riot between the white and negro laborers in New York City. The whites undertook to drive the negroes away from a ship which they were loading.

GEORGIA STATE TROOPS.—The Charleston papers highly compliment the promptitude and zeal of the Georgia State troops who hurried to the defence of Charleston under Brig. Gen. W. H. Walker. No "conflict" in this case with the Confederate government.

IRON PAICES.—Field hands, girls and boys, sold in Atlanta, Ga., a week ago, at from \$2,100 to \$4,200. They are worth nearly as much in this State, and yet we learn that certain speculators of property have put down the highest value of any one slave at \$1,000. The average will be about \$800 in this State. This, in ordinary times, with reduction of currency, would be about \$100! This is shameful. There are certain persons who are not willing either to pay or fight.

DRINKING.—Some parties from Union County were brought before Judge Osborn last week on the charge of distilling spirituous liquors in violation of the law. We learn they were bound over. The Grand Jury of Mecklenburg County, last week, made some presentations for the same offence.

A GOOD BEVERAGE.—The seeds of the sorghum (Chinese sugar cane), perched quickly, pounded in a mortar or ground, and then thoroughly boiled for fifteen minutes, creamed and sweetened with the boiled juice of its own stalk, makes a good and palatable drink. We hope some of our planters who are now cultivating the sorghum will try it and report.

CORN.—This indispensable cereal is selling freely near Macon, Ga., at \$1.20 per bushel, and there is an abundance of it to be had.

ANOTHER REPLY.—The steamer *Southerner*, supposed for Confederate service, has been gotten ready for sea in England.

LIBERAL.—A merchant of Charlotte, who is at home from the army on furlough, has placed five hundred dollars in the hands of the editor of the *Standard* to buy corn and bacon for the destitute families of soldiers in this State.

RICHMOND MARKET, APRIL 21.—Corn meal \$12 to \$14 per bushel; flour \$5 to \$7.50; bacon \$1.40 to \$1.50. Confederate bonds, one hundred million issue, 104 to 110; 50-cent million issue, 104. North-Carolina bonds, old issues, 105. Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee bank notes, 60 to 65 premium.

DIVIDEND.—The bank of Cape Fear has declared a semi-annual dividend of 5 per cent. The Wilmington and Weldon Railroad 10 per cent.

Foreign Consuls.

The following just and cogent observations are extracted from a London newspaper of the 13th of March:

"We trust that in the debate which may be expected to ensue to-night in the House of Lords, on Lord Campbell's motion, attention will be directed to one consideration of the subject of recognition, which has heretofore been almost entirely overlooked. We refer to the fact that during the present anomalous condition of the relations of our country with the Confederate States, the large number of British subjects resident in those States, and the immense amount of British property located there, are dependent for protection at this time, when protection is most needed, upon the forbearance and the open eyes of the Confederate government. The appointed protectors of the rights and property of their fellow-countrymen in foreign countries are the Consuls, of whose office this is the most important duty. The British Consuls who discharge this duty in the Confederate States are accredited to, and receive the permission to exercise their functions from, a government with which the Confederate States are at open war. For two years they have continued at their posts solely by the toleration of the Confederate government, a toleration, be it remarked, quite inconsistent with the strict theoretical construction of absolute *de facto* independence. Suppose the Confederate government, weary of this inconsistency, weary of retaining this only remaining link of recognized authority, should decide any longer to recognize the official position of its functionaries whose *accreditation* and presence are a contradiction of its rights and powers. A proposition to this effect, viz: to dismiss all foreign Consuls not accredited to the Confederate government on the first of May next is actually before the Confederate Congress. The number of British subjects and the value of British property thus placed without consular protection in a country engaged in one of the fiercest wars on record, must be reckoned by tens of thousands of persons and scores of millions of money. We do not mean to imply that the Confederate authorities would seize this occasion to wantonly insult and injure the persons and property of British subjects. On the contrary, they would assuredly take every care to be taken to mitigate the evil and to relieve individuals from the inconveniences caused by a public necessity. But if Consuls are deemed necessary to the protection of personal and property interests abroad in time of profound peace, and of uninterrupted and rapid international communication, they can scarcely be dispensed with at a time and in a country where general conscription laws convert the whole population into armies, when military confiscations complete or anticipate the work of retreating or advancing hosts, when death, in many shapes, stalks over the land, and when, in fact, every part of the social and political fabric is strained in an agony of desperation. It is a sad time and in such a place, general conscription most needs the advice and assistance of his country's representatives, and these alone can prevent or relieve much grievous individual loss and suffering."

It is this humane consideration which has induced the Confederate government to forbear where forbearance from any other motive would have been refused. It is its right to dismiss such persons from within its jurisdiction all consuls exercising their functions by virtue of an *accreditation* from the Washington government is unquestioned. It is undeniable, also, that were it to-day to enforce this right, no one could justly accuse it of a lack of moderation in the enforcement. It has given notice of its intention to the world, and in so doing has given other governments of the world a warning, or, conversely, an establishing with it the usual relations which obtain among governments. If, after two years' consideration, the other governments conclude such relations to be improper, inexpedient and inconvenient, we could not well blame the Confederate government for the conclusion to final, and refusing in their turn that convenience of relations which is referred to them. As matters now stand, the forbearance of the Confederate government affords to foreign nations all the essential advantages resulting from recognition, without reciprocity. The dismissal of the foreign consuls, although not step which we are prepared to take, would simply place all parties on the same footing. Sooner or later, if recognition is indefinitely delayed, the Confederate government will be forced to this measure.

A contemporary, in a very able article upon recognition, on which we commented in our last impression, states in substance that the chief reason why the Confederate States have not been admitted into the family of nations is that their non-admission has not been based on a serious inconvenience. "If, for instance," says our contemporary, by way of illustration, "the Alabama or Florida should accidentally or willfully destroy a British merchant ship, our government would be obliged, as affairs now stand, to apply for compensation to the government of the United States; and in the event of its being refused, which it very probably would be, make reprisals on the Federal marine, and declare war on the United States. On the other hand, if the Confederacy were acknowledged as an independent State, then the demand for compensation would be made to its government, and under the circumstances, supposed it would be immediately acquiesced in."

It would be most ungracious perverseness to regard this passage as a friendly hint to Captains Semmes and Mallat, but if the position of the *Morning Star* be well taken, as we believe it to be, it may soon force itself upon the serious consideration of the Confederate government, whether sound policy does not require that it should avail itself of all honorable and legitimate means to make other nations feel the same inconveniences which, through no fault of its own, it is made by them to experience.

Foreign Intervention.

In a recent debate in the British Parliament on American affairs, Lord John Russell said:

"Depend upon it, my Lords, if the war in America is to cease, it is far better it should cease with the conviction, both on the part of the North and the South, that they can never live again happily as one community and one republic, and that the termination of hostilities can never be brought about by the advice, the mediation, or the interference of any European power. (Cheers.) I repeat I have spoken only of the duty of the government at the present time, and I trust now there will be no further debate on this subject. (Loud cheers.)"

In a recent speech delivered by Lord Palmerston before the workmen of Glasgow, he said:

"It will be our anxious desire to pursue a course calculated to preserve the peace and welfare of the country, and we have done so in regard to those lamentable events now passing among our kinsmen on the North American continent, in spite of invitations from each of the two parties to take a more active part in the contest than we thought it our duty and for the national interest that we should. (Cheers.) There are in the United Kingdom, as there are in America, Federal and Confederate advocates; there are some who wish success to the North; there are others who desire separation from the South. It is not fitting or becoming that the British nation, as a nation, should take part in that contest. (Cheers.)"

That war has, indeed, inflicted deep suffering and privation upon large portions of the working classes of this country—