

# Spirit of the Age.

RALEIGH, N. C.

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PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY BY  
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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

### TERMS:

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ADVANCE.

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It is pleasant to indulge in a little recreation from the confining duties of editorial life, and sally forth into the world, especially in these stirring times, to see something for one's self, of the stupendous defences and armaments prepared for the protection of the South against the invasion threatened by our quondam brethren of the north. But when done at the expense of body-quickening, head-splitting, bone-aching, fever-burning agonies, it renders the luxury rather expensive to be indulged in often. At least such is our experience, and opinion. We had a very pleasant trip among relatives and friends in Eastern Virginia, and amid the camps, entrenchments and fortifications of our soldiers in that region; but the afterpiece, as the theatricals say, an attack of Virginia chills, not only cut us out of a long cherished visit to the camps of the 3d and 3d regiments of our Volunteers, but sent us home a fit subject for the Doctors to operate upon. Thanks, however, to a kind Providence and Dr. McKee's calm and bell-ringing quinine, we are recting in curia again, and we shake our fists in defiance at the conquered invader of our body corporate. He has our full permission, however, to seize on every mother's son of a yankee he catches on Virginia soil, and hope he will shake him into fits.

During our trip, we saw enough to satisfy us, that an attack on Norfolk or Portsmouth, whether by land or water, will prove a disastrous business to whoever undertakes it. And as the enemy so nearly adjacent as Old Point cannot help being well acquainted with this state of defence, we have no idea any demonstration will be made there. It is thought by some, however, that they have an idea of endeavoring to effect a landing on the south side of James river, by sending an army from Newport News across to Sleepy Hole, or some other not strongly guarded point in Isle of Wight or Nansemond counties, and then march upon Portsmouth and Gosport Navy Yard. To reach this or any other point, they will have to pass several of our strongest batteries, which they will find a very hazardous undertaking. But even if they were possibly able to reach the outside walls of the Navy Yard, it would be impossible, in our judgment, to effect an entrance, so strongly, we may say impregnable is the place fortified, before the hundreds of rifled cannon pointing in-land would demolish a hundred thousand. Though, it is said, General Huger anticipated (not fears) an attack from some direction.

By the way, speaking of Gen. Huger, we had the pleasure of seeing this war-worn veteran inspect the Battalion drill of the 16th Virginia regiment. He is a plain, unpretending, amiable-looking old gentleman, but active and vigorous as a hale man of fifty. There is no "fuss and feathers" about him—indeed, from his dress you would not suspect him of having ever "set a squadron in the field." But the soldier speaks out in his manly, erect form, and his entire bearing is that of the calm, composed, dignified Commander, while his quick, piercing eye shows him capable of sweeping the field and telling at a glance the points of advantage lost or won. We would like to see him and old Wool meet, with 50,000 men on a side. His headquarters are in the Custom House at Norfolk, where a Court-martial was in session when we were there. Lt. Col. Cantwell, of the 2d N. C. Regiment was a member of the Court, and was so much engaged there, that we had not an opportunity of seeing him.

It was rumored, that the 2d N. C. Regiment was to be removed from their present pleasant place of encampment two miles below Norfolk, and sent to some of the fortifications up the river. Whether the rumor was correct or not, we did not ascertain.

Among the many pleasant places we visited, there was none with which we were more pleased than Craney Island. It is about six miles above Norfolk and sits out in the middle of the river, affording a full and beautiful view of the City. It covers an area of some eight or ten acres, we should judge, and will make, when the piping times of peace shall return to us, a most delightful summer resort—and we have little doubt it will be fitted up for such a purpose. The amount of work done on Craney Island since April last, is astonishing. We met up with an old friend there—and every body else's friend who is worthy of having a friend, and to whom every body else is a friend, for who ever heard any body say any thing else but a word of kindness and friendship for James H. Biggs—who told us he had been there from the first, assisted in all the works of defence, had never been sick a day, or slept off the Island a night in the whole time. He says he has slept all night in the open air there many a night, with no covering but his blanket and the sky, and a brick for a pillow, and never took even a cold. The embankments are very thick and level, forming a magnificent promenade, with the sides beautifully turfed and the grass growing luxuriantly. The magazines are deep, strong and well protected from explosion; and the guns, how many we do not recollect, but many are of the very best, and some of the long toms, rifled, it is believed almost capable of reaching Fortress Monroe, some five or six miles distant. We see to the luckless Lincoln craft that attempts to pass this point. Old Point, the College at Hampton (the only building remaining there) and the tents and ships of the Yankees at Newport News, are all visible from this Island. Col. Smith, of the Virginia Military Institute, is in command there. We did not ascertain the number of Companies on the Island, but we believe one-and-a-half or two regiments.

While we were at Craney Island, a steamer bearing a flag of truce, stopped off shore and was communicated with by the Confederate Steamer Wm. Seiden. She came to deliver some Southern ladies who had been permitted to return to their homes in the south, and who accordingly disembarked from the Yankee

craft and took passage on the Selden, and were sent on to Norfolk. One of the ladies, we understood, had been held a prisoner in Washington, for alleged suspicion of correspondence with Southern men in arms against the U. S. We were told they shed tears of joy and gave way to expressions of heart-felt gratitude, that they were once more in a land of liberty and among gentlemen, and freed from the soil of oppression, and the association of men who had no respect for the innocence of women or the helplessness of childhood. One of them reported 100,000 of the Federal army to be on the southern side of the Potomac.

The visit of this federal steamer gave us an opportunity of seeing a once-honored and revered old friend, but now so degraded and disgraced that we looked upon it with loathing and contempt. It was the once-proud Ensign of American liberty and glory—the "flag of the free and the brave"—the once-glorious "stars and stripes." We remembered how often we had proudly gazed on that time-honored Ensign—how often we had seen it gallantly floating in the breeze, and hailed it as the flag of the freest, the happiest, the most prosperous nation on earth. But to our eyes, all its glory had departed. It hung a dirty, faded rag around the flag-staff, the poor piece of bunting itself being ashamed to spread its desecrated folds to the breeze in the presence of southern freemen, notwithstanding there was a strong wind blowing at the time, which caused our glorious substitute for freedom's ensign to float proudly and defiantly from the mast-head of the Seiden. We felt sorry for the poor, disgraced bunting, and turned away ruminating upon the Poet's line—

"To what base uses may we come at last!"

We might extend our remarks much farther as to what we saw and heard; but our limits forbid. We must therefore close with the remark, that every where we went, where North Carolina soldiers had been, their praises were upon every tongue. Their perfection in drill, completeness of equipments, gentlemanly bearing and orderly conduct, were every where and by every one spoken of, and by all admired. We were sorry to hear that this was in striking contrast with the conduct of the troops from some other States. So far as our observation extended, however, sobriety and good discipline prevailed among all the troops, and we visited those from several States.

**THE GRAND DIVISION.**—Two weeks from the date of this paper, is the day appointed for the meeting of the Grand Division, at Concord, in Cabarrus county—beginning at 9 o'clock, A. M.—Are the members making their arrangements to attend? It is an important meeting to the interests of the Order—one at which much must be done towards setting our Divisions actively at work again. The exigencies of the times demand that the benign influences of the Order should be again felt in community. Many of us are witnesses as to the disastrous effects upon society which its temporary suspension, in some places, have occasioned. We must regain our lost positions—we must build up our waste places—we must devise steps and means to accomplish these ends. Where can we do so so unitedly and effectively as at the meeting of the Grand Division? Here can we meet together, consult as to the wants of the Order and the best means for providing for them, and perfect plans for effecting desired ends; besides enjoying the pleasures of social fraternal intercourse, which alone is worth the trouble and expense of repairing to the place of meeting.

The town of Concord is situated immediately on the North Carolina Railroad, and it is therefore easily accessible, and at nearly a central portion of the State. We have good reason to hope, with these advantages, and the many high considerations which should impel every member of the Grand Division to be present, that we shall have a large and profitable meeting of the Grand Division.

And we trust the members of the Subordinate Divisions in Concord and Cabarrus county, will make the usual and necessary preparations for the reception of the members of the Grand Division, and for holding the sessions of that body.

Very few of the Subordinate Divisions have as yet forwarded the Returns and Dues to the G. D. It is all-important they should do so forthwith, so that the Grand Scribe and other officers may be able to have their reports ready by the meeting on the 13th of November. To those Divisions that have sent up Returns, the Pass-words have been forwarded; and they will be sent to others as soon as the Grand Scribe is in receipt of the same from them. Please do not delay the promptest attention to this matter.

Members to the Grand Division will go and return upon the Railroads at one fare, as usual.

The "Herald of Truth" is the title of a new religious Journal, about to be established at Newton, N. C., by Rev. R. L. Abernethy. It is to be devoted to the interests of the Church of Christ in general, with out respect to denominations.

We know Rev. Mr. A., the Editor, well, and also know that he wields a vigorous, ready pen, and can therefore say his patrons may expect a well-edited and interesting paper. He shows himself to be a man of pluck, to attempt a new enterprise of this kind, when so many papers have given up the ghost for the want of support. We extend the right hand of fellowship to Bro. A., and wish him more of the "filthy lucre" than usually falls to the lot of the craft.

**DEAD.**—Hon. R. M. Dick, one of our Superior Court Judges, died in Hertford, recently, while on his circuit. He was in the 70th year of his age, and had been on the Bench 29 years.

We hope to be able to issue the next No. of the Age upon a larger sheet. We will do the best we can. Our readers need not fear a suspension of the paper; but in these days of scarcity of paper, we have to take what we can get, whether large or small. We expect to be able to procure paper of some size to keep up our regular weekly issues.

## EDITORIAL ITEMS.

**APPOINTMENTS.**—Spier Whitaker of Halifax, Aide-Camp to Gov. Clark, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. L. O. B. Branch, Colonel of a Regiment of State Troops. The companies are daily arriving and the Regiment will be formed in a short time.

**THREATENING.**—The State Journal of Wednesday last, announces in a Postscript, that Gov. Clark has received official information that a large fleet had sailed from New York, for the purpose of attacking Beaufort and Newbern. We shall probably hear more of this before going to press. [Nothing further received.]

**VIKING.**—Col. John H. Wheeler is out in the papers, with a letter vindicating himself from allegations against his loyalty to the South. The card is too lengthy for our columns, but no one, we think, after perusing the same, can hesitate in saying that Col. W. not only fully establishes his innocence, but proves himself to be, and to have been from the first, one of the truest of the true, to the honor and safety of North Carolina, and of the independence of the Southern States.

**COOKS.**—We are glad to see it announced among the General Orders, that each company of Volunteers in the service of North Carolina, is entitled to two servants. Of these, at least one out of the three ought to be a good cook—one who especially knows how to make good bread. In our visits among the camps recently, we could not but notice the wretched stuff our brave soldiers have to swallow, or rather gulp down—for to chew it was almost impossible, under the misnomer of bread. This article is said to be the 'staff of life'; but such is made up by inexperienced hands in the camps, may be more properly termed the patent for disease and death. A good baker in each Company would save more to the Commissary Department, in the waste which inexperienced cooks occasion, than would pay for their services, besides contributing greatly to the health and comfort of the soldiers.

**THE N. C. HOSPITAL.**—At Petersburg, is now ready for the reception of inmates, a description of which is given in the Petersburg Express, and that paper says it is the most convenient institution of the kind in the South. The Hospital will be under the general management and supervision of the Governor of North Carolina, and the Surgeon General of the State, Dr. Chas. E. Johnson. The immediate attendants are—Peter E. Hines, Principal Surgeon; Harvey Hines, and F. M. Henderson, Assistant Surgeons. Mrs. C. G. Kennedy has been appointed Matron, to be aided by two assistants.

**PRESBYTERIAN.**—The Synod of North Carolina convenes in this city on the 30th inst. The first Old School General Assembly, composed of the Churches in the Confederate States, is to be held in the City of Augusta, Ga., on the 4th day of December next. The Rev. Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans, is to preach the opening sermon, and to preside in the organization of the Assembly, and the Rev. Dr. Wilson of Augusta, to be his alternate.

**COMMON SCHOOLS.**—The Charlotte Democrat, whose Editor is a member of the Literary Board, says—The President and Directors of the Literary Fund of North Carolina, held a meeting in Raleigh on Friday last, the 18th. The sum of \$90,452 was ordered to be distributed among the different counties of the State, PAYABLE ON THE FIRST DAY OF APRIL NEXT. In consequence of the heavy demands upon the State Treasury for war purposes at this time, it was found impossible to furnish the chairmen of the different counties with the money immediately after the declaration of the distribution. It is hoped and believed that the schools will be continued with the assurance that the expenses will be met in April. It was impossible for the Literary Board to make a better arrangement, and the course they adopted was deemed better than to make no distribution at all. We suppose a table, showing the amounts each county is entitled to, will be published in a few days.

**SOUTHERN SCHOOL BOOKS.**—We learn that Rev. R. L. Abernethy, Principal of Rutherford Male and Female Academies—prosperous institutions, of which he is the founder—in Burke County, N. C., has nearly completed the MSS. copies of three new School Books, which he designs putting to press as soon as completed, viz: A Mental Arithmetic; a work on Chemistry; and an Epitome of Roman History.

Rev. Mr. A. has had an experience of more than twenty years in "teaching the young idea how to shoot," and is therefore well qualified to prepare School Books adapted to the youthful mind. We wish him, and all others engaged in preparing books for Southern Schools, the greatest success.

The hog-killing season is close at hand, and it should be remembered that hog-bristles are in great demand, at high prices. The Salisbury Banner says a shoe manufacturer of that town had to send to Petersburg for this article, where he was made to pay the moderate sum of nine dollars a pound for northern hog bristles. Really, this is too bad. Thousands of pounds of hog bristles are wasted every butchering season in any one Southern State. Our people have actually preferred to buy them from the North rather than be at the trouble of jerking them out of the backs of their hogs. Will not our farmers see, hereafter, that there is no lack of hog bristles. Select the largest, and pull them before the hog is scalded.

Col. George Bower, an aged and distinguished citizen of North Carolina, was drowned in Yadkin River, near Wilkesboro', on Monday, the 7th, while attempting to ford the stream in his carriage.

**TREACHERY REWARDED.**—We see it stated that Judge Catron has received a reward for his treachery to Tennessee, Lincoln having conferred upon him the appointment of United States Commissioner.

**ALL TAKEN.**—The Secretary of the Treasury has notified the Commissioners for the Confederate Fifteen Million Loan, that all of it has been taken, and that future subscriptions must be taken under the loan authorized by the act of Congress, approved August 19th, 1861. The Commissioners would do well to bear the above facts in mind.

**N. C. BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.**—The thirty-second Anniversary of this Body will be held with the Baptist church in Raleigh, and will commence at 10 o'clock A. M. on Wednesday preceding the 3rd Sabbath in November.

The Introductory Sermon will be preached at 7 o'clock P. M., by Elder J. Mitchell of Hillsboro', Alternate, Elder N. W. Wilson of Chapel Hill.

The Missionary Sermon will be preached at 10 o'clock A. M., on Sabbath, by Elder A. McDowell of Murfreesboro' Female College. Alternate, Elder B. F. Marable of Clinton.

## The News.

We give in another column an account of another great victory to our arms at Leesburg, near the Potomac line. Our forces there evacuated the place on Sunday and retired a short distance, where they lay in ambush awaiting the federals to march into the town. This they did, on Monday, where our forces attacked them, 3,000 against 10,000, notwithstanding the great disparity of numbers, we had only about 300 killed and wounded, while the enemy lost between 1,000 and 1,200 killed and wounded, and about 300 drowned in attempting to recross the river. We also captured 600 prisoners and 1200 stand of arms. The fighting is said to have been terrible on both sides, and continued for several hours. The rout and panic are described by eye witnesses, as far exceeding that which occurred at Manassas Plains on the 21st of July.

When the horror-stricken Yankees took to the river for safety, hotly pursued by our forces, their heads appeared above the water as thick as swarming black birds. It was impossible to describe the scene, or estimate the number drowned. Hundreds and hundreds were shot while swimming and struggling in the water. In the great death struggle, many were seen to seize each other, and thus locked in one another's embrace, each striving to free himself, they sank to rise no more. The shrieks of the panic-stricken and dying creatures were truly heart-piercing, and were heard a great distance.

The following despatches contain later advices about the fight at Leesburg, than the one under our news head:

**RICHMOND, Oct. 23, P. M.**—Further details from the Leesburg battle have been obtained.

The Yankees commenced crossing the Potomac early Sunday night, and continued to cross until morning. The fighting was terrible on both sides. The Yankees were well protected during the most of the fight by a heavy forest. They were routed three different times at the point of the bayonet, and reinforced each time.

The Eighth Virginia Regiment, Col. Eppa Hutton, charged upon the Yankees with great vigor, and captured a splendid brass battery, putting the enemy to flight.

The Yankees were finally driven to the river, where they made a desperate stand, but were slaughtered in terrible style, until panic-stricken and dismayed, they attempted to cross the stream, when hundreds met a watery grave, struggling with one another as they went down.

The entire battle field was strewn thickly with the Yankee killed and wounded.

Col. Burt, of the Eighteenth Mississippi Regiment, was badly wounded.

The Confederate troops fought under great disadvantages. They endured a heavy march Sunday on two meals, and slept under arms in the open air Sunday night.

They had breakfast only on Monday, and fought all day without nourishment or reinforcements.

**PRESIDENT DAVIS:**  
In addition, concerning Evans' victory, I have to report the capture of 600 prisoners and 1,200 stand of arms. The killed and wounded of the enemy are between 1,800 and 1,000. The rout was total. It was an infantry fight. The 8th Virginia and the 17th and 18th Mississippi regiments were engaged. The 13th Mississippi was held as a reserve. No artillery was fired by us. THOS. JORDAN, A. G. G.

**THE CAPTURE OF THE FANNY.**—Col. Wright's official report of the capture of the Federal steamer Fanny, has been published. The details given vary very little from those heretofore published, though the account adds many incidents to the statements of the rout and pursuit of the enemy, and constitutes, in part, one of the most graphic chapters of the war. The report confirms the account of the cowardly running of the Indians, and the capture of guns, blankets, &c. It says—"If Col. Shaw (N. C. Vols.) could have effected a landing, the whole force of the enemy would have been captured. Many efforts to get to the shore were made by Col. Shaw's men, wading in the water for a mile or more up to their arm-pits, when they found a deep channel and were forced to return.

Col. Wright puts the enemy's loss at 7 killed, a number wounded, and 32 taken prisoners; but it appears from the northern account they suffered more than this. See the following:

"Col. Brown, of the Twentieth Indiana, states his loss in killed, wounded, &c., at not less than seventy. In retreating the enemy captured the military stores and considerable number of arms, knapsacks and tents. The regiment had no other weapons than muskets. The rebel rendezvous is Roanoke Island, about twelve miles from the scene of action, and well fortified. It has been determined at Fortress Monroe to use all exertions to augment the strength of our forces on the North Carolina coast."

As we took 32 prisoners, there must have been 38 killed and wounded. Our loss, it will be recollected, was one man who died of exhaustion in the pursuit.

## LETTERS FROM OUR ARMY.

CAMP DAVIS, Oct. 18th, 1861.

**EDITOR SPIRIT OF THE AGE:** Since I wrote you last, the boys have, sure enough, seen some "Yankee Ships." Federal vessels have, for some days past, been floating about in our regions and have several times been seen from our camp, and its vicinity. Only this afternoon while at drill we very distinctly saw a vessel about six or eight miles off the coast, apparently watching our movements. What their intentions are I know not, but certain if they are trying to frighten us, they've come to the wrong place.

On Monday last our Pickets came in with the report that a vessel was near their posts, and from appearances was trying to effect a landing. Our Colonel thought he would take us down to see them and gave the order, the Regiment; forming in an almost incredible short time. The sick jumped up from their beds and shouldered their muskets—the hospital got the news and "shelled out"—all were eager for the fight should the enemy further attempt to pollute the soil of the Old North State by again entering our borders. The "25th" was fully aroused and anxious to meet Mr. Yankee.

We went down to the beach in double-quick time—a distance of two miles, and drew up in line of battle. Mr. Yankee must have thrown a shell into our midst, but "concluded not to," but after squinting at us for a while through his glass (for we could see him) he hoisted his sails and took the opposite direction leaving us in possession of the field, much to our disappointment.

Nothing else of interest has occurred since I wrote last. Our boys are doing finely; the Pishag Guards are doing well. The health of the regiment is equally as good as it was when I wrote last. The P. G.'s have but few sick. More anon.—Yours in haste, "PISGAH."

BOGUE ISLAND, near Fort Macon, Oct. 17th, 1861.

**EDITOR SPIRIT OF THE AGE:**—I suppose that you will think that I am quite negligent, by not writing sooner, but I shall, at the outset, render my excuses to you, like those men that were bidden to the great feast. The day that I had intended to have written was a very wet one, and you know in a cloth tent, a person cannot write well, especially when it leaks. The next day we had orders to strike our tents, and by these two bearers it threw me behind time, for last week's publication. So I take an early opportunity of giving you the news from Bogue Island, which I hope may be interesting to you and your many readers. There has nothing transpired of great interest since my last.

The Yankees are still hovering around us, in sight sometimes, and at others they are not. I am not apprehensive of any difficulty at present, although on last Sabbath we had orders to cook three days rations. We then expected a battle in a few hours; but that passed off, and now every thing is calm save the bustle of the camp, which would seem great to any one not accustomed or acquainted with it.

On one day last week, we heard several shots fired,—and in fact some of us saw them—by four vessels lying off from shore, some six or eight miles. We do not know whether they were shooting at a mark, or to annoy us and bring us out on the beach to ascertain our strength, or whether they were firing at an English vessel. The ground for this belief is, as I stated to you before about these English vessels at Morehead City, and the presumption of some is that one of these four was an English vessel, looking for where at Morehead City.

We have moved from where we were last week, about two miles and a half nearer Fort Macon. Our situation here is one of the most beautiful that I ever beheld: it is just large enough for the comfort of our Regiment; low and level, interspersed with Cypress and Orange bushes, thick enough to shield us from the wind, which is so cool in a place like this; also there are sand banks next to the beach, to shield us from the enemy's approach.

The health of the Regiment is improving rapidly; there being but few cases of sick in the Hospital; the mumps and the measles have about got through our Regiment. There has been two deaths in our Regiment during the last two weeks. I cannot conclude these lines without thanking the kind and affectionate ladies of old Caldwell, for their kindness to us, while here in camp, by sending us a quantity of blankets and socks, which met with a happy reception. And I must also remind those who have not donated any thing yet for their county. Recollect my friends, that while you are living in comfort and ease, that we are here exposed to all the heats and colds addicted to this climate—while you have good beds to rest yourselves on at night, we have to rest and sleep on a plank, and frequently on the ground and one blanket, and may be none at all; and perhaps it may be raining, and in this low country where it is naturally wet and marshy, we of course, cannot be comfortable; and recollect, too, that we are not here to protect ourselves alone, but also you and your families, and to protect your property as well as our own. Is it not then, and do you not feel it your duty to try to make us as comfortable as possible? For I assure you we need it. I am not guessing at it, not at all, nor could I feel justifiable in misrepresenting it. No, never! I had intended to stop writing for this time, but as I had forgotten to tell you