

WINNSBORO.

SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 15, 1865.

Religious Service.

We have been requested to state that the Rev. C. H. PRITCHARD, Presiding elder of this District, will preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church, in this town, on Sunday next, D. V. Services at the usual hours.

Episcopal Service.

The festival of Easter will be celebrated on Sunday 16th inst. The services for the congregation, whose House of worship was destroyed by SHERMAN'S incendiary mercenaries, will be held in the Court House.

Reports.

We have heard, in the past few days, many reports and rumors that would be hard even for the reliable gentlemen who believes in every sensational rumor, to swallow. Some say that so-and-so has been done, that this or that is the case and in fact, mentioning the most absurd things that is said by somebody to have happened.

We do not believe in any of these sensational stories. They are got up for the purpose of "benefit" to the party propagating them; they are for his own aggrandizement, and we caution every one to receive rumors or reports with many grains of allowance.

This was the case on Wednesday night last, to which we briefly alluded in our last issue. A report was brought into our town that the enemy were at Poplar Springs—every one in the community, knowing where our Poplar Spring was located—about 9 miles from Winnsboro,—came to the conclusion that the enemy were again upon us. But it turns out now, after a time for reflection, and the reports of worthy persons having been received, that the enemy were at Poplar Springs, but, the Poplar Springs in the neighborhood of Sumter, S. C.

Thus it is. A report is heard of one thing, and in order to give as much self-importance to its second retailer as is possible, it receives a thorough coating over to make it more reliable. When will these many rumors cease? All should receive everything they hear, that is the least sensational, with doubt, and frown down upon every one found giving publicity to such reports. They mean no good to the South, and none to the community in which they reside.

The Old Town Well.

"If when 'twere done, 'twere well,
'Twere well, 'twere quickly done!"
The old obsolete and uncovered well of the Baptist Church lot should be filled up or guarded soon. We make the suggestion for the health of all concerned and especially for the children who find near it a playground tempting and otherwise safe. The old well has served its day and generation as well as any well recorded, and years ago children, playworn and thirsty, were gladdened when they saw the bucket coming with water fresh from "Major ELLIOTT'S well." Let it not remain in its present state, an eyesore, or a pitfall, or a nuisance, but in consideration of its long service and use, let it be covered and marked.

Let the water-doctors and all water-wise persons also note and explore the causes of the decay and abandonment of the well, and draw thence a lesson for all who have good wells and wish to leave them for all coming after. Well done old well! Let its epitaph be written in or on some suitable structure or covering which may mark the site, without waiting for a local incident to be furnished for the News by the falling in of a child.

Exempts.

The whole number of persons between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, exempted in the Confederate States from physical disability, officers of the State and Confederate governments and other causes, is 65,586. Of these 26,595 are exempted on account of physical disability, 17,887 as State officers, and 437 as mail contractors. The total number of editors exempt is 123, and of employees, including printers, 682.

The Right Point.

From the *Caddo Gazette*, published at Shreveport, La., (and for which we are indebted to a friend,) we take the following sentence, which concludes an editorial reviewing the campaign of Gen. Hood. It breathes the true spirit, and we are pleased to give it a place in our columns:

"When our forces are concentrated, and we have fewer fortified cities to defend, the tide of battle will turn in our favor. The Yankees can never subjugate the Southern people, for we will fight them more successfully when we have lost all our property, and have nothing left but the right to be freemen and the unconquerable determination to maintain that right."

Situation at Goldsboro.

We learn from an entirely reliable party who left Goldsboro on Wednesday last, that Sherman and Schofield are quietly resting at that place. They claim to have 130,000 men, but intelligent persons who have come out think they have about 100,000. As soon as the Federals entered Goldsboro, guards were stationed and order maintained; and up to Wednesday last the citizens had not been molested in person or property. No property had been burnt in the town, and only one citizen, Mr. Richard Washington, had been requested to give up his residence. Mr. W.'s house was used as headquarters and both hotels as hospitals.

The poor had been furnished with rations and some of the better classes had been furnished with coffee, sugar, tea, &c. But few persons had left the town and those who remained were quietly attending to their business. One man, a secessionist, had gone forward to take the oath of allegiance, but they would not let him do it. The oath had not been required of any one.

Within a very short time after entering Goldsboro, the Federals had erected three lines of works around the town and now the place is strongly fortified. They are running cars to Newbern and Wilmington and getting supplies in immense quantities.

The people of the county of Wayne, outside of Goldsboro, have fared badly at the hands of the Federals and in many instances are in a very destitute condition. The houses of J. W. Collier and W. K. Lane are said to have been burnt.

We learn from other sources that Sherman is supplying all who apply with food, and that many persons who live ten and twelve miles this side of Goldsboro go there for rations.

Sherman is recruiting and reorganizing his army and it is thought he will move, most probably in the direction of Raleigh, very soon.—*Raleigh Progress, 8th.*

THE NEWS.—A private telegram was received yesterday stating that Gen. Fitzhugh Lee's command had encountered a cavalry force of the enemy near Rives' Station, on the Southside railroad and defeated them, capturing eleven or twelve hundred prisoners. Passengers who arrived on the train at 8 p. m., corroborate the report, saying that it was generally credited about Keyesville. Some of them put the loss of the enemy in the engagement at one hundred and fifty wounded in addition to the prisoners.

It was believed that there were no Yankees south of the Junction yesterday.—*Danville Register, 8th.*

THOMAS' MOVEMENTS.—From the statement of persons who left Lynchburg a few days ago, and who came across the country to this place, we conclude that Thomas is advancing very slowly from East Tennessee, if indeed he be moving at all.—*Ibid.*

FROM VIRGINIA.—The Clarksville (Va.) *Tobacco Plant* of Friday says:

At 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon intelligence reached Clarksville, direct from Clover Depot, on the Danville railroad, that on Monday there was a general engagement between the armies under Lee and Grant, in which our forces were victorious, and in which the slaughter of the enemy was unprecedented. It is understood that Gen. Lee occupies the South bank and Grant the North bank of the Appomattox. The Danville cars are running to Meherrin Depot ten miles South of Burkeville.

THE RAID ON WELDON.—We are gratified to learn that the raiders on Weldon have been successfully driven back; about fifty prisoners of this party reached here yesterday. General Baker commands at Weldon, and we are informed that the work on the raiding party was accomplished, mainly, by Captain James W. Strange's cavalry company.

[*Raleigh Confederate.*]

[From the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle & Sentinel April 5]

From Savannah.

A gentleman from below gives us the annexed news:

Our scouts have become very strict. But little, if any cotton or tobacco can now be run into Savannah.

The country people are allowed by the scouts of both sides to go into the city to trade and get supplies. They are not allowed to bring out things by the whole sale—only enough for family use.

A large quantity of goods are being re-shipped from the city North, on account of no market.

Confederate money is selling in Savannah twenty-five for one. It is said to be quite scarce even at these rates.

Our scouts have become very troublesome to the Yankees, and their picket lines do not now extend more than three miles from the city. Several of the Yankee pickets have been killed.

Our picket lines are about twenty miles from Savannah. Our scouts are said to be very active.

The ground between the two picket lines is occupied by stray scouts of both sides—watching for some one to send on "their long journey, from whence no traveler returns."

Large numbers of runaway negroes are either captured or killed by our scouts daily. There is but little if any chance for them now to get into Savannah.

The Yankee force in the city is said to be about twenty-five hundred—two-thirds negroes.

There are no guards now in the streets except around buildings in which are commissary stores.

The citizens are not now required to carry passes in the streets.

It is stated that the Federals took from Mr. Lamar his Confederate money and securities, and then paid him for the cotton they took from him with the same.

The property of Hiram Roberts, President of the Bank of Commerce, and George W. Anderson, President of the Planters Bank, have been confiscated on account of Northern liabilities.

There is a fatal epidemic prevailing among the negroes in the city. Some days as many as thirty are buried.

Capt. H. W. C. Mills, an old citizen of Savannah, formerly a citizen of this place, died a few days since.

The Yankee Commander has had the city thoroughly cleaned.

The Yankees have erected a new line of fortifications within our old lines running them through the Catholic cemetery. In many instances relations have not been allowed to remove the remains of departed friends.

The free negroes of Savannah had a parade on St. Patrick's day—winding up with a ball and supper at St. Andrew's Hall. It is stated that a large number of white Yankee officers were present.

Gen. Grover still continues to command at Savannah. It is said he will soon be relieved by Gen. Webster.

Col. Hannon commands our forces on our picket lines.

FIGHT IN FLORIDA.—A severe fight occurred on the 6th, twelve miles from Tallahassee, with the Yankee force that advanced from St. Marks. The enemy numbered twenty-two hundred men, and were driven by the Confederates, under Maj. Gen. Sam'l Jones. They left forty dead negroes on the field. Our loss was six killed and twenty-five wounded. Among the killed was Captain Simmons, of Apalachicola. Col. Williams was dangerously wounded. Our forces were pursuing. The enemy destroyed the salt works at St. Marks. For this, and to prevent the blockade running at St. Marks, it is supposed the expedition was made, with the end of capturing Tallahassee, if it could be done.—*Augusta Constitutionalist.*

We learn from a gentleman who has just returned from a visit to Southwestern Georgia, that farmers in that section are very hopeful of a successful wheat crop this year, and say that unless the present spell of wet weather continues to a damaging extent, they expect an abundance to be made, as a larger portion of land is devoted to the culture than usual.—*Macon Telegraph.*

REPORTED DEATH OF GEN. HINDMAN.—The New Orleans *Picayune*, of the 13th, says:

It is reported that the rebel Gen. Hindman, while en route to Mexico, was shot by persons unknown, but supposed to be Confederates, between Oak Hill and the Rio Grande. He had a number of wagons and ambulances freighted with tobacco, and, it is supposed, in addition, a considerable quantity of plate and coin. When killed he was in advance of the train.—*Ibid.*

The skin of a boiled egg applied to a boil will draw off the matter and relieve the soreness in a few hours.

[From the Camden Journal and Confederate]

A Villainous Yankee Letter.

We publish the following letter from a Yankee to his wife in Boston, which was found near this place after the Yankees had left. It is undoubtedly genuine, and will serve greatly to dispel the last lingering belief still remaining in some deluded minds that the plundering and thieving of the Yankee army, was, if winked at, certainly not shared in by those in authority. We see from this letter that from Sherman himself down to the lowest drummer in his army, the plundering is conducted on system, and the booty shared upon established principles. We do not think that anything is necessary to produce a correct conviction of the Yankee character in this community, where it is everywhere written in characters so plain that he who runs may read, but as one of the curiosities of the times we thought it not unworthy of insertion.

CAMP NEAR CAMDEN, S. C.,
February 26th, 1865.

My Dear Wife: I have no time for particulars. We have had a glorious time in this State. Unrestricted license to burn and plunder was the order of the day. The chivalry have been stripped of most of their valuables. Gold watches, silver pitchers, cups, spoons, forks, &c., &c., are as common in camp as blackberries. The terms of plunder are as follows: The valuables procured are estimated by companies. Each company is required to exhibit the results of its operations at any given place—one-fifth and first choice falls to the share of the Commander-in-Chief and Staff; one-fifth to the corps commanders and staff; one-fifth to field officers of regiment, and two-fifths to the company. Officers are not allowed to join in these expeditions without disguising themselves as privates. One of our corps commanders borrowed a suit of rough clothes from one of our men and was very successful at this place. He got a large quantity of silver (among other things an old time silver milk pitcher) and a very fine gold watch from a Mr. DeSaussure at this place. DeSaussure is one of the F. F. V.'s of South Carolina, and was made to fork out liberally. Officers over the rank of captain are not made to put their plunder in the estimate for general distribution. This is very unfair, and for that reason, in order to protect themselves, subordinate officers and privates keep back everything that they can carry about their persons—such as rings, earrings, breast pins, &c., &c., of which, if I live to get home, I have about a quart. I am not joking—I have not least a quart of jewelry for you and all the girls—and some No. 1 diamond rings and puts among them. Gen. Sherman has silver and gold enough to start a bank. His share in gold watches and chains alone, at Columbia, was two hundred and seventy-five (275.)

But I said I could not go into particulars. All the general officers, and many besides, have valuables of every description down to embroidered ladies pocket handkerchiefs. (I have my share of the same too.) We took gold and silver enough from the d-d rebels to have redeemed their infernal currency twice over. This (the currency) whenever we came across it, we burned, as we considered it utterly worthless.

I wish all the jewelry this army has could be carried to the "Old Bay State." It would deck her out in glorious style; but alas it will be scattered all over the north and middle States. The damned niggers, as a general rule, preferred to stay at home—particularly after they found out that we only wanted the able-bodied men (and to tell you the truth, the youngest and best looking women) Sometimes we took off whole families and plantations of niggers, by way of repaying some influential secessionist. But the useless part of these we soon managed to lose—sometimes in crossing rivers—sometimes in other ways.

I shall write to you again from Wilmington, Goldsboro or some other place in North Carolina. The order to march has arrived and I must close hurriedly. Love to grandmother and aunt Charlotte. Take care of yourself and the children. Don't show this letter out of the family.

Your affectionate husband,
THOS. J. MYERS, Lieut. &c.

P. S.—I will send this by the first flag of truce to be mailed; unless I have an opportunity of sending it to Hilton Head. Tell Sally I am saving a pearl bracelet and ear rings for her. Bob Lambert got the necklace and breastpin of the same set. I am trying to trade him out of them. These were taken from the Miss Jamisons, daughters of the president of the S. C. secession convention. We found these ladies on our trip thro' Georgia.

The Yankee troops have evacuated Fort Meyers, in Florida, and removed to Fort Delaney, on Pamlico River.

Fry's Exemption List.

The journals up North are making quite merry at the expense of Provost Marshall General Fry. Among others, the local editor of the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser, who has corresponded with the important functionary and has received an answer which he has given to the public. Here it is:

Know all men, then, and women, that, according to the opinion of General Fry, the following persons are not required to take up arms "against a sea of rebels and by opposing end them"—that they are, in point of fact, exempt!

1—Women of all ages and complexions, when of the female persuasion.

2—Very dead men, who can procure the receipt of the undertaker. Those simply "kilt" will be held to service.

3—Sound, healthy men, who have within the last week enlisted for three years and gone to the front. All one year's men will be drafted and compelled to serve double.

4—Men born blind, or furnishing a medical certificate to the effect that their sight has been growing no better fast ever since. Those having a single optic left, whether the right or not, will be compelled to "go one eye on it."

5—Men with nary leg, if they can furnish evidence satisfactory to establish the fact. Peglegged men, that is, men with a single leg, are subject to the draft. To such the Commissary General will serve out limbs of cork with their rations—the cost to be deducted from their bounty money. No soldier will be allowed to retain his cork leg after the expiration of his term of service.

6—Men born without arms, when it can be shown that they have not been engaged as teachers of penmanship or in cutting out paper likenesses with their toes. Such will be taken into service, and detailed to act as assistant editor of newspapers to be established in captured rebel cities.

7—Men over three hundred and sixty-five years of age, accompanied by their parents. Men under ten years of age will be received until the promulgation of an official bulletin, signed by the Provost Marshall General, to the effect that the various drum corps are full.

8—All persons whatsoever, will be held liable to service, and will take their chances, however slim.

THE MEXICAN EMPIRE AND THE CONFEDERACY.—The *Houston Telegraph*, of February 8th, prints the correspondence which lately passed between Col. Pryon, commanding at San Antonio, and General Florentino Lopez, commanding Maximilian's troops on the border of the Rio Grande. The former assures Gen. Lopez that it is the desire of his Government to cherish the most amicable relations with the Imperial Government of Mexico, and further, that the entente cordiale existing shall not be disturbed. The Colonel also thanks the General for protecting the interest of the Confederates. The reply of Gen. Lopez is subjoined:

MEXIA DIA, MEXICAN EMPIRE.

Lopez Brigade, Com-in-Chief.
Colonel: I feel gratified at the high consideration you extend to me, and guided always by sentiments of heartfelt justice, I confess my sympathy for the noble cause of the South and frankly extend my sincere friendship.

Being placed in command of this military line under his majesty Emperor Maximilian, the sons of the Confederacy can rely on full security of their persons and interests and the hospitalities which this land affords.

The Confederacy may rest assured that the representatives of the Empire of Mexico along the "Bravo" frankly offer their friendship, as also a full security that no raid will be permitted to organize on Mexican soil for the invasion of your territory. With the assurance that our relations will continue friendly, I have the honor to offer you my distinguished considerations. God and order.

FLORENTINO LOPEZ, Brig. Gen.
Piedras Negras, Jan. 10, 1865.

TO THE FRIENDS OF SOLDIERS IN GENERAL J. E. JOHNSTON'S ARMY.—A regular Post Master having been appointed to serve in this army the better to facilitate the delivery of mails, parties writing to officers or soldiers of this command will be particular to give as address, the Company, Regiment, Brigade or staff on which they may be serving and say "Johnston's Army" as destination.—*Raleigh Conservative.*

SURGEON-GENERAL.—We regret to learn that Dr. R. W. Gibbs has, some weeks since, resigned from the office of Surgeon-General of the State, which he has so long filled with credit, to himself and benefit to the country. Gov. Magrath has appointed to succeed him Dr. B. W. Lawton, a distinguished surgeon of Barnwell District, and at present a Senator in the Legislature of the State.

[*Columbia Phoenix.*]