

Envelopes! Envelopes!!

A small quantity of extra fine envelopes on hand, and may be had by making application at this office.

The Gun-boat Subscription.

The ladies of Camden and vicinity are engaged in making a fund for the building of the gunboat "Palmetto State." The cause is a good one. May success crown their efforts.

A New Company Being Organized.

We understand that Messrs. T. J. H. JONES, C. SHIVER, D. G. ROBINSON and S. C. CLYBURN, are engaged in organizing a Company of volunteers for the war. We hope they may succeed. Either of the above named gentlemen may be seen in Camden, or at their respective homes, by any who are disposed to enlist with them. A Bounty of Fifty Dollars paid.

The Hour of Trial.

As has been truly remarked, the day of trial has come. The gathered hosts of the usurper and despot are moving forward from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. Our first real offensive attack was made on the 8th inst., with what success all our readers have already heard. And now, since we have inaugurated that which might have been adopted long since—an offensive warfare—we may expect startling events from the seat of war in quick succession. Nothing but the special interposition of the Almighty can avert the horrible consequences of great battles fought. The boom of cannon will pass from hill-top to hill-top along the vast line of military operations; and the rattle of musketry, the clash of bayonets, the shrieks of the wounded, the groans of the dying, the shouts of the victors, the curses of the vanquished, and high above all, the wail of the widows and the cry of orphans, will fill the intervening valleys; and be the result what it may, the land will be clothed in gloom, covered with desolate homes and filled with suffering.

This is the day of trial. If the grand armies now being pressed forward by the enemy be beaten, the war may shortly be at an end—another like effort to crush out the South would not be made. But let not ourselves be deceived. Place no under-estimate on the prowess and endurance of the vandals with whom we are contending for all that is cherished and held most dear by civilized mankind—our liberty and independence—but rather prepare to meet a barbarous inhuman foe, from whose hands we may expect no quarters.

Napoleon the first in all his grand military career, or since, was never charged with permitting outrages on innocent women and children, neither impoverishing helpless and unarmed families, but inflicted the most severe punishment on the perpetrator of any outrage, either on person or property. His mission was to fight regularly organized armies, and subdue governments in the manner prescribed for warfare with all civilized nations.

If one or more of their attempts prove successful, the contest will be renewed with redoubled fury everywhere; new life will be given to the war, and new scenes of blood will burst upon our startled vision. The disaster at Fort Donelson and the capture of Roanoke admonish us that the conflict must be bloody and desperate, that at many places it will be doubtful, and that we should be prepared for reverses and at least partial defeats.

The strategic positions occupied by the Confederate Generals can never be taken by the enemy. There are several points of vast importance in the Confederacy we believe can defy the numbers, skill and resources of the North, now and forever. But there are intervening ones, important, but not vital, where our defences are weak, and our means of resistance inadequate; and at these, the Yankees may achieve such successes as will give encouragement to the people of their section, sustain the Administration for a time, and stimulate their generals to renewed efforts to bind upon their brows the laurels of victory.

There is bloody work to be done. We say, again, let none under-estimate its importance or its difficulties. Let every heart be steeled and every muscle set; for the danger is at hand, the day of trial is upon us, and we must be worthy of the cause we have espoused, or pay the penalty in the horrors of a prolonged contest brought nearer to our homes.

Explanatory.

We have been interrogated by many of our citizens, if the recruits now being taken for companies already in service, will be included in the number to be furnished by Kershaw District for the additional five regiments of infantry. We have the best authority for stating that they are included, and that the officers so recruiting in the District will be expected to return the number they each receive, with the name of the recruit and number of the Boat to which they respectively belong, by the 20th inst., to the Colonel of the 22d Regiment.

State Advertisements.

We have been compelled to appropriate a large portion of our paper, this week, in State advertising—so many new orders of importance having been issued within the past few days.

In our paper of last week, the Governor's proclamation, calling for five additional regiments of Infantry, read as prohibiting recruiting for companies now in service, until the requisition was filled. We are pleased to state that the error occurred in the paper we copied from, but was corrected in their next number, and now reads, "No man liable to do duty will be allowed to enter any other company now in service for any term less than the war, until this requisition for five Infantry Regiments be complied with."

Valuation of the Confederate War Tax of Kershaw District.

We have been kindly furnished the following valuation of the Confederate war tax for the district, by our esteemed fellow townsman, Mr. A. M. KENNEDY, who has been assiduously engaged, for the past few weeks, in receiving the returns:

Real estate, - - - - -	\$1,636,336
9371 slaves, - - - - -	4,552,110
Merchandise, - - - - -	129,425
Bank Stock, - - - - -	450,000
Bridge Stock, - - - - -	10,000
Money at Interest, - - - - -	1,567,864
Cash on hand, - - - - -	32,147
Horses, - - - - -	585
250 Gold Watches, - - - - -	21,100
Gold and Silver Plate, - - - - -	27,295
91 Pianos, - - - - -	17,465
322 Carriages, - - - - -	31,558
Corporation Stock, - - - - -	6,670
Total amount, - - - - -	\$8,482,555
Per centage, - - - - -	\$42,412.77

THE JAMES RIVER BLOCKADE OPENED.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE GREAT NAVAL VICTORY—DESTRUCTION OF THE CUMBERLAND, CONGRESS, AND OTHER VESSELS—THE STEAM FRIGATES MINNESOTA AND ST. LAWRENCE AGROUND AND DISABLED—THE ERICSSON BATTERY DRIVEN BACK—DESCRIPTIONS OF THE MERRIMAC AND ERICSSON, ETC., ETC.

NORFOLK, Sunday Morning, March 9.—*Eleven o'clock.*—A messenger's boat has just come up. The Merrimac and Jamestown have been fighting the enemy's iron battery ever since 9 a. m. The battery being of light draft and rapid motion, will not permit the Merrimac to get at close quarters. This Ericsson battery proved a far more formidable opponent to the Merrimac than all the other vessels of the enemy combined. The Minnesota is still aground. Capt. Buchanan's wound compelled him to land. Catesby Jones is in charge of the Merrimac. A gunboat of the enemy was sunk yesterday. The Congress blew up at 12:30 last night, and many of her crew have arrived here. The enemy disabled the bow gun of the Merrimac yesterday and killed four of her crew. Her Capt. (Buchanan) was slightly wounded. Another of our steamers lost four men. There was great slaughter on board the Cumberland; the most of her crew were either slain or drowned.

It is ascertained that Gen. Magruder has thus far made no land attack on Newport News. The fight in the Roads, however, is still furiously going on.

(Second Despatch.)

The firing ceased at 12 m., and the Ericsson battery retreated to Fortress Monroe. At 1 1-2 o'clock to-day our whole fleet came into our harbor and went up to the Navy Yard. The Merrimac is leaking and is just now going into dock. She is otherwise but slightly injured. Our other ships sustained but slight injury.

An officer from the Merrimac reports that her iron prow was broken off when colliding with the Cumberland. She ran into the Ericsson battery once to-day, but having lost her prow and not striking fairly, did not injure the battery much. She is not leaking badly, and until examined to-morrow in the dock, we cannot say how long before she goes down again—it is now thought in a few days.

Captain Buchanan and Lieutenant Minor were wounded through the treachery of the enemy, who fired on the Merrimac with musketry, as the Merrimac approached to take possession, after the white flag was hoisted. Captain Buchanan was shot in the thigh with a minie ball.—He stood on top of the Merrimac, outside, during the whole action.

The enemy are now busy lightning the Minnesota, and it is feared they will get her off to-night. We have nothing yet from Magruder.

(Third Despatch.)

NORFOLK, Monday Morning, March 10.—*The Day Book* of this morning says that the Virginia sunk the Cumberland after fifteen minute's fighting. She ran within point blank range, fired her bow gun several times, and then struck the Cumberland with her iron prow, causing her to reel, carcen and sink. The officers and crew of the sinking vessel escaped in their boats, but many were captured by our small steamers. There were numbers, also, drowned. Three of the enemy's wounded went down aboard the Cumberland.

The Congress was next attacked and made a gallant resistance, but was forced to run ashore and hoist the white flag. Her crew was taken off by the Confederate gunboats. The Yankees fired with their Minie muskets while lending assistance to the Congress. One of our shots dismantled two guns, killing sixteen men and tore the Congress to pieces. While the Virginia was engaging the battery at Newport News, the Minnesota came up and engaged our batteries at Sewel's Point, where she got aground. She was then fiercely attacked by the Jamestown and the Patrick Henry, and was much damaged in the melee. The U. S. steam frigate St. Lawrence then came up to the rescue of the Minnesota; but the St. Lawrence also got aground. The Congress was set on fire by our vessels a little before midnight, on Saturday. The explosions of her magazines was terrific. Several of the enemy's smaller tugs and steamers went to the assistance of the Minnesota and St. Lawrence, but could not succeed in hauling them off the bar.

The enemy's loss in killed and wounded is very great; ours is nine killed and twelve wounded. There were twenty-three prisoners brought up to Norfolk on Saturday night. The Virginia had two men killed and five wounded. A small Yankee schooner was captured and sent to Norfolk. Two others were also captured.—The Ericsson engaged the Virginia at the distance of from thirty to forty yards. The Virginia having run aground, the Ericsson, taking advantage of her "fix," poured shot after shot into her without the least effect. After getting off, the Virginia ran into the Ericsson with her prow, and the latter took to her heels. Many of the enemy's gunboats were disabled. The Minnesota is completely riddled, and the St. Lawrence disabled. The enemy's loss on both days is variously estimated at from 600 to 1200. Out of 500 on board the Cumberland, about 100 only escaped. All the batteries at Newport News except one, were silenced.—*Charleston Mercury.*

Evacuation of Newport News.

NORFOLK, March 10.—A messenger just from Sewel's Point reports the Minnesota at Fortress Monroe, but badly crippled. It was one of their gunboats which was burnt.

Lieutenant Taylor died of his wound this morning. He was treacherously shot yesterday by the enemy under a white flag. Captain Buchanan and Lieutenant Minor, who were both shot under a white flag, are improving.

Nothing from Magruder on Saturday.

Every gun at Newport News, except one, was silenced by the Merrimac, and the entire garrison evacuated. The excepted gun would have also been knocked over, but the Merrimac could not get aim on it. She lay for an hour within two hundred and forty yards of the fort.—*Carolinian.*

From Richmond.

RICHMOND, March 10.—Congress, to-day was discussing the operations of Gen. Albert

Sidney Johnston, in Tennessee, during which a warm and lengthy debate ensued. Mr. Adkins said that nearly every member of the Tennessee Legislature signed a petition for the removal of Johnston from the Tennessee Department. The petition has been presented to the President.

The President sent a message to Congress to-day, stating that he had suspended Generals Floyd and Pillow from their commands till they could give more satisfactory accounts of the action at Fort Donelson. The President is dissatisfied with their reports.

A Long and Obstinate Engagement.

BY LAST NIGHT'S MAIL.

MEMPHIS, March 11.—Fort Smith (Ark.) intelligence of the 9th inst., states that our troops under Gens. Van Dorn and Price engaged the enemy for three days in succession, 5th, 6th and 7th insts. The battle was fought at Pea Ridge, Benton County, Arkansas, near the Missouri line.

Our loss is heavy, including Gens. McCulloch and McIntosh, who were killed on the 7th instant. Gen. Slack was also mortally wounded. Gen. Price was wounded in the arm. Col. McRae, of Mississippi, was killed. Col. Sims was wounded in the arm. Our forces had got in the rear of the Federals and were driving them Southward. They were sanguine of success.

The bodies of Gens. McCulloch and McIntosh had been brought forward to Fort Smith for interment.—*Courier.*

MARRIED.

MARRIED, on the 4th inst., by the Rev. A. J. Cauthen, Mr. JAMES R. DELOACHE, of Barnwell, to Miss MARIA E. COBBELL, of Fairfield, S. C.

OBITUARY.

MARTHA BELTON, widow and relict of Major JOSEPH MICKLE. The venerable lady whose name is above, died on Sunday, the 16th of February, in the 85th year of her age.

She was the only surviving child of John Belton, of Camden. Her father was an eminent surveyor, who died early. Her husband was a man of great vivacity, and was remarkable for great personal activity. He was a Major in the war of 1812. When last I saw him he said to me "it seems to me I can never die." In a short time afterwards I heard of his rather sudden death. No one mourned his death more sincerely than I did.

Mrs. Mickle was the mother of six children, who lived to maturity—Mrs. Rice Dudin; Mrs. James V. Lyles, and Capt. Joseph T. Mickle, lived in Columbia, where they are known and prized; Mrs. J. J. Nelson still lives at the old homestead; Mr. Robert Mickle resides in the neighborhood, and Capt. John Belton Mickle is a well known and honored citizen of Kershaw. She was a faithful mother and a kind neighbor. She reared her children in beautiful simplicity, and trained them to be useful men and women. She lived to the great age which I have mentioned without an enemy. She died from the mere lapse of time, without any particular disease, and without a struggle, as if nature was worn out. She was a constant reader of the Bible, and when her time came, seemed fully prepared for her departure.

It might be said of her "May I die the death of the righteous, and may my latter end be like hers."

She was the descendant of the first settlers of Camden, and was a connection by blood of the Englishes, Doby's, Careton's, Jones', Goodwyn's, Kelly's and O'Neall's.

Her life will be chronicled by the remembrances of her kindred—her grave belovved by their tears.

Rest, aged saint, in everlasting peace.

Announcements.

MR. EDITOR: Please announce the following gentlemen, as most suitable, (in these trying times, when every interest should be taken in the welfare of our town) to fill the offices of Intendant and Wardens of Camden, for the ensuing twelve months:

For Intendant.—JAMES DUNLAP.

For Wardens.—C. A. McDONALD,

" " D. D. HOCOTT,

" " ROBERT KENNEDY,

" " W. D. McDOWALL,

And oblige MANY FRIENDS.

March 7

Special Notices.

IRISH POTATOES.

A FEW BUSHELS OF FINE SEED IRISH POTATOES, For sale at the POST OFFICE. March 14

COTTON WANTED.

500 Bales

GOOD COTTON

WANTED, for which the highest market price will be paid in CASH, by

MATHESON & CO.

Camden, March 10