

THE CAMDEN WEEKLY CONFEDERATE.

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND THE PRESS IS THE ROYAL THRONE UPON WHICH SHE SITS, AN ENTHRONED MONARCH."

Vol. III

CAMDEN, S. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, JULY 6, 1864.

[No. 14]

The Confederate

IS PUBLISHED AT CAMDEN,
EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING,

BY
J. T. HERSHMAN.

Terms of subscription—Five Dollars per annum.

Rates of Advertising—Two Dollars, per square of twelve lines, for first insertion, and One Dollar and Fifty Cents for each subsequent one.

Communications calculated to advance the interest of our District and State, published free of charge.

LATEST ARMY NEWS.

From North Georgia.

Near Marietta, Ga., June 30—6 p. m. The enemy, at 11 o'clock this morning, made a demonstration to attack before Cleburne's line, who anticipated a night attack. Polk's brigade opened fire, which extended along Cheatam's line. When at an angle of our lines on the left centre, the enemy's works are within 40 yards of ours. There has been heavy musketry firing on both sides, which continued for an hour, producing the impression of a general attack, but the enemy soon withdrew. Their attempted surprise, if such was contemplated, proved a failure. We lost a few wounded, principally by our own fire. Col. Jones, of the 33d Tenn., was killed by a chance Minnie ball this morning.

Lieut. Gen. Stewart assumes command of the late Gen. Polk's corps to-morrow.

From North Carolina.

Goldsboro', N. C., July 1.—A despatch from Weldon, dated yesterday, says: "The Yankee raiders struck the Petersburg and Weldon Railroad to-day near Bellfield."

A later despatch, direct from Bellfield, states that much of the enemy's artillery, together with his wagon train, had been captured, and that the greater part of the raiders would probably be captured also.

A fight is reported to have occurred to-day near Ream's Station. The raiders had gone from Morgantown, through Watauga, burning the Railroad Depot and passenger train. Our troops are after them.

Latest News from the Virginia Papers.

We copy from the Richmond Enquirer of Monday last the following despatches, showing the state of affairs in Virginia on Saturday and Sunday. A synopsis of these despatches has already appeared in our telegraphic columns:

The following are the latest published despatches from General Lee:

HQ: ARMY NORTHERN VA.,
June 25, 1864.

Honorable Secretary of War:

SIR: General W. H. F. Lee pursued the enemy's cavalry which advanced along the Southside railroad. He had a skirmish on the 22d near Dinwiddie C. H., and the next day struck their column in flank, near Blacks and White's, cutting it in two, and getting possession of the road by which they were moving towards Nottoway Court House.

The road was held after an engagement which continued from 12 M. until dark, the enemy making repeated attempts to break through and regain his advance. He withdrew from General Lee's front at daylight on the 24th, leaving his dead and wounded on the field, taking the road to Hungartown and Keysville. General Lee is still following them.

Very respectfully, &c., R. E. Lee, General.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, June 25, 1864—9, P. M.

Hon. Secretary of War:

SIR: Our entire loss yesterday morning was ninety-seven killed and wounded and two hundred and nine missing.

Nothing of moment has occurred to-day on the lines in front of Bermuda Hundred and around Petersburg.

General Hampton reports that the enemy's cavalry advanced yesterday to Nance's Shop and entrenched themselves there. He attacked them and drove them from their works, pursuing them until 9, p. m., to within two miles of Charles City Court House.

They left their dead and wounded on the field and along the route. Great credit is due to General Hampton and his command for their handsome success.

Very respectfully,
R. E. Lee, General.

There would appear to have been little or no fighting near Petersburg on Saturday or Sunday. The Petersburg Express gives the following account of the fight, which took place on Thursday evening, 23d instant, near the Weldon Railroad, in the vicinity of the Six Mile House:

Gen. Mahone was speedily despatched, at the head of a body of troops, to drive the rebels off. Upon approaching the spot about one hundred-fifty of Grant's horsemen were discovered displacing rails and removing sills. They fled precipitately upon the appearance of our forces; but it was soon ascertained that there was a heavy body of infantry in the woods, east of the track, massed for the purpose of supporting the cavalry.

Gen. Mahone threw forward a heavy line of skirmishers, engaged the attention of the blue coats, and then put into execution one of those flanking movements for which he has become somewhat noted during this campaign. About twilight

Perry's brigade, now commanded by Gen. Finnegan, succeeded in swinging around, and brought up in rear of the enemy. A volley or two in the rear put the enemy to thinking, and another volley or two brought about a very lively double-quick on their part. We succeeded in securing only four hundred and eighty-three of the invaders, the remainder running so swiftly that it was found impossible to overtake them.

The prisoners were marched into the city yesterday forenoon, about 10 o'clock, and turned over to Major Bridgeford, General Lee's Provost Marshal. There was ten commissioned officers among the number, but none higher than the rank of Colonel. These prisoners, in point of appearance or morals, are no improvement upon former instalments. They seem to have been collected from every quarter of the globe, both civilized and uncivilized; and elicited from a spectator in our vicinity the remark "That Grant had scraped all creation with a fine tooth comb for men to reinforce his depleted ranks."

From Raleigh, No. Ca.

The Confederate publishes an extra to-day—from Gaston July 1—saying, I reached here to-day after two and a half days' journey from Petersburg. I don't think the road will be repaired for a month to Petersburg.

Fighting has been going on for several days past on the railroad near Bean's station. There was heavy fighting there yesterday. The advantage was on our side. Our men are confident of our ability to hold Petersburg. The Yankees continue to shell the city every day. Part of it has been badly damaged, though few persons were killed.

The Yankees loss since the fight commenced is thought to be 20,000. Our loss 1500.

Chambliss met the Yankee raiders under Wilson and Spears and killed, wounded and captured 3000. He captured 1500 head of horses, all their artillery (15 pieces), all their wagon trains, baggage and ammunition. This happened on Wednesday, near Stony Creek. Four hundred negroes were also captured. It is said to be the most complete route we have ever seen.

Nothing of importance from the Georgia Front. Everything quiet there.

From Gen. Johnston's Lines.

MARIETTA, Ga., July 2.—Nothing new but the usual skirmishing to-day. A sergeant and two privates came in this morning from the Yankee lines. Their terms had expired, but they were not allowed to leave. They represent Sherman's army as much dispirited and averse to prolonging hostilities. Many men whose terms expire in July and August have determined not to fight.

MARIETTA, July 2, P. M.—By a kind of tacit agreement there has been but little musketry firing during the last two days. Yesterday evening the enemy attempted to take a battery from General Cleburne's line, but failed.

Late Cincinnati papers say that during the late skirmishing, from the 15th to the 18th insts., they lost 4500 men, as shown by the official medical records.

The Chattanooga Gazette, of the 29th, contains a despatch from Sherman to Dix, dated the 28th, saying that "on yesterday we made an unsuccessful attack on the enemy's position, losing between 200 and 300 men. The loss was particularly heavy amongst officers. Gen. Parker was mortally wounded. Col. D. McCook, commanding a brigade, were seriously wounded. Col. Crankin, of the 40th, and Augustin, of the 33d Illinois, were killed. We took a few prisoners, but don't suppose that we inflicted heavy loss, as the enemy kept under cover."

From the United States.

ATLANTA, July 2.—The Louisville Journal of the 26th ult. has been received.

Guerrilla operations continue in Western Kentucky. A fight had occurred near Uniontown. Another party demanded the surrender of Owensboro, but retired after occupying Cleveport and Hawesville.

The six months' men have been detained by the authorities for reasons unknown.

The Washington Star, of the 24th ult., says that Grant's works command Petersburg and the Railroad through Petersburg, they stopping all continuous communication between Richmond and the South. So long as Grant chooses he can hold the enemy in this present position, by threatening him, while at any time he may move Southward with twenty days' rations. Lee must then follow him, or risk a heavy engagement on unfortified ground.

Secretary Dana, who had just arrived from Grant's headquarters, says that his entire loss before Petersburg is over ten thousand.

The correspondent of the Chattanooga Rebel says that a force of Confederates has cut the Railroad above Tilton, and captured and burned two Yankee trains, heavily laden with supplies. Travel on the trains was very demoralizing in consequence of the frequent ambushes of the Confederates.

The rebel General Archer has been transferred from Johnson's Island to Washington. He will be sent to Gen. Foster, to be placed under rebel fire in Charleston.

A debate took place in the Yankee House of Representatives on 25th ult., on the repeal of the commutation clause of the draft law. Schenck, of Ohio, sup-

ported the repeal. He said that the rebellion must be put down; if not now, hereafter; if not in ten years, then in twenty years. If peace could be made to-day, every sensible man knows that it could not last sixty days. If we recognize the Southern Confederacy, as a distinct nation, with borders stretching from the Potomac to the Gulf of Mexico, we may expect war, murder and everything else. Dale of New York, opposed the repeal of the commutation clause. Garfield said that if the commutation clause were repealed, the armies would not be adequate, nor would the rebellion be put down, during his term of Congress, nor under this administration—Mallory, of Kentucky, said that conscription was the worst policy that the Government could possibly adopt.

In New York on the 28th ult., gold opened at 215, but declined to 214, and then again advanced, closing at 221.4. On that day it was reported that \$1,000,000 in sterling had changed hands for 238 in currency.

Raid on Morganton and Camp Vance.

Our citizens were startled yesterday evening about 6 o'clock, to learn that two or three hundred deserters, Tories and Yankees, had made a raid on Morganton and Camp Vance, in Burke county, taking possession of them and capturing one passenger train on the Western N. C. Road. Maj. Wilson, Chief Engineer, came down on the train which went up in the morning, having been met and stopped by a young man from Camp Vance who made his escape from there after the enemy had entered. He reported them to consist of four companies. There is no further account as to their movements.

Force was immediately detached from the C. S. Prison in this place, and set forward about 9 o'clock, on the train, to meet the enemy, if he will remain long enough to be seen; and another train of volunteer troops was got off about 4 o'clock. If the enemy shall linger on the road, it will not be long until he will have something to do.

[Salisbury Watchman, 29th]

Another Horrible Outrage by the Enemy.

Recently, while Sheridan's thieves were crossing King Olliam, Dr. Downer, one of the oldest and most respected residents of his section, and well known in Richmond, sent his horses off in order to save them from capture. The Yankees came and learning from some negroes that Dr. Downer had sent his horses away, demanded of him that he should tell them whether he had sent them. This Dr. Downer refused to do, whereupon they threatened to hang him, and put a rope around his neck drawing it so tight that the blood spirted out of his ears and nose. Refusing still to impart the coveted information, the demonic devils threw the rope over the limb of a tree and drew the doctor up, letting him hang until life was nearly gone and he could scarcely speak. Still refusing to divulge the whereabouts of his property the wretches drew him up to a height of twenty or thirty feet, and letting go the rope, caused him to fall heavily and insensible upon the ground. They went off, after robbing the house, leaving their victim for dead, with none near but his disinterested wife to render any relief. At last account Dr. Downer was slowly dying. Our pen sickens in the frequent repetition of such hell deserving outrages as this we have chronicled.

Cleburne Plays the Yankees a Trick.

The army correspondent of the Grif-Fel writing from the front under date of 21st ult., says:

Last night, very suddenly, Gen. Cleburne withdrew his videttes and skirmishers in such a manner as to leave the impression that he had evacuated his works. On finding this the Yankee skirmish line moved rapidly up to the works with a yell, each one trying to be the first to enter the rebel entrenchment. "But Lindon saw another sight."

Their surprise may be very easily imagined when they reached the works and were ordered to surrender, which they very quietly did, with out the fire of a gun. Their main line advanced, before they saw the trick, far enough for Cleburne to pay his respects to them in the way of a roll ey into their ranks, which sent them howling to the hiding places. The net proceeds of this trick were forty live Yankees.

From Petersburg.

PETERSBURG, June 28. At 7 o'clock matters unchanged. There has been the usual cannonading and picket firing. The lines of the two armies at some points are not over 200 yards apart. Our troops are in excellent spirits and much refreshed by the rain and cool weather, which is also favorable to the wounded.

It is reported that Burnside's corps has gone to Washington.

A Yankee Lieutenant captured on Tuesday, says Grant is going to tear Petersburg to pieces with shot and shell, in a day or two.

Gold was quoted in New York on the 25th, at 243.

A private letter from Petersburg says that the enemy continue to shell the city.

J. T. HERSHMAN—Editor.

Camden, Wednesday, July 6.

Rains.

Throughout the greater portion of our district we have been blessed with refreshing rains during the past few days. They were welcomed heartily, by farmer and planter.

Central Bureau, Columbia.

Cars will be despatched for Lee's and Beauregard's armies July 15; for Johnston's army, July 19. Address M. LaBorde, Chairman, Columbia, S. C.

Another Success of Hampton's Cavalry.

A private dispatch, dated July 1st, from Stony Creek, says Gen. Hampton fought the enemy under Wilson, all night, and completely defeated them. Stony Creek is twenty-one miles from Petersburg, on the Weldon Road.

General Gardner, captured near Port Hudson, says the Yankee papers, has been sent from Fort Lafayette to General Foster, in front of Charleston.

We are authorized to say that Capt. W. L. DEPASS is a candidate for election to the Legislature of South Carolina, and will serve, if it is the will of the people of the District that he should occupy the position. It is not his intention to leave the service, on the event of his election, but to remain in the service of his country as long as there may be an enemy confronting us.

The President of "The Rest" in behalf of the passing soldiers desires to thank the Ladies of Camden for their kind attention in refreshing them with comfortable food and lodging on their way to their homes; also, to those who have so kindly sent provisions to be prepared for them at night and other times, when it would be inconvenient for the President to notify them of their arrival.

Time of Service Expiring.

We learn from reliable authority that the time of service of 8000 of Sherman's troops expired on Saturday the 25th. The time of at least 5000 of the miscreants expired between Resaca and Dalton, the azure-stomachs receiving a final discharge by reason of rebel bullets. This is the best way for their time of service to expire, to benefit us.

The first number of the Camden Daily Journal made its appearance on Friday morning last. From the talent engaged in the editorial department, the correctness of its typography, clear print, and the absolute want of such a paper in our district, we cannot see why it should fail to be appreciated, and receive a liberal support from the citizens of Kershaw and adjoining districts. The enterprise is deserving of encouragement, and will be of invaluable service, as a medium for advertising and receiving the latest war intelligence—at least twelve hours in advance of any of the city dailies.

There appears to be a question of vacancy up between Gens. Burbridge and Morgan, concerning the losses of the latter in Kentucky. Burbridge telegraphed that Morgan lost 300 killed, 300 wounded, 400 prisoners, making an aggregate loss of 1000. Morgan says that he has lost 170 men from his command. The presumption is, therefore, that Gen. Burbridge told a lie. Though Burbridge represented that Morgan's force was wholly demoralized and dispersing through the country, he seems to have been unable to follow him, for, according to the latest Yankee accounts, Morgan was in Flemingsburg on the 14th, with 3000 men, declaring that he would not leave Kentucky. We conclude that he is not baldy hurt yet.

[FOR THE CAMDEN CONFEDERATE.]

To the Citizens of Camden and its Vicinity

Your assistance is required by the Ladies Aid Association to send on a box of hospital stores to the Way-side Home, in Richmond.

Contributions in money, provisions, rags, or anything suitable for that purpose, will be received by Mr. BONNEY, Mr. KENNEDY or the ladies at their hall—as any time before the 1st Thursday in July.

Gold in New York.

A gentleman, who left New York three weeks ago, inform us that no reliance can be placed on the gold quotations of the New York papers. At the time when gold was quoted at 190, he had to pay 230 for the sum requisite to defray his expenses to the Confederate States.

[FOR THE CAMDEN CONFEDERATE.]

Acknowledgement.

Received from Miss Emily Perry, President Flat Rock Aid Society, for "Soldiers Rest," at Camden, \$5.80.

The President of "The Rest" most gratefully acknowledges the above. Donations from our country friends in the way of Provisions will be very acceptable, as we have from three to a dozen or more Soldiers at our Rest every night—passing on their way to their homes to the different Districts—and from time to time stopping a few days to recover from their wounds and diseases.

Donations in money will be thankfully received in Aid of "The Soldier's Rest," as we have our nurse to remunerate, besides other little expenses incident to the comfort and welfare of our brave defenders.

E. R. LEE,

Treasurer Soldiers Rest

Siege Matters—Three Hundred and Sixty First Day—The Enemy Upon James Island—A Barge Attack Upon Fort Johnson—Its Successful Repulse, &c.

Since our last report events of considerable interest have taken place within the circle of hostilities, which Charleston is the centre.

During Friday night the enemy crossed over from the upper end of Dixon's Island to Legare's Point, and at daylight on Saturday morning advanced on Rivers' causeway. Here they were met in gallant style by Lieutenant Depass, in charge of a section of Blake's Light Battery, 1st S. C. (Regular) Artillery, then on picket duty. With his two guns he promptly opened a brisk fire, delivering fifty two rounds with good effect, driving back a portion of the enemy's force in some confusion. The enemy soon rallied, however, and again advanced. Our batteries stood to their position nobly, and, as it proved, longer than it was prudent, for, being entirely without adequate infantry supports at hand, they were compelled to retire, and through the desertion of one of their drivers (originally a deserter from the Yankees,) they found it impossible to remove their pieces in time, their assailants being but forty yards distant, and both guns fell into the hands of the enemy. The caissons, however, were both saved. The musketry fire lasted three-quarters of an hour. Our batteries opened heavily on the enemy's advance and checked them at the causeway. It was reported Saturday evening that a gunboat and barges were in the Stono, but no further development took place before nightfall.

The enemy's force in this affair is estimated to have numbered 1500 under command of Colonel Heines, of the 103d New York Regiment. From deserters afterwards taken, we learn that the Yankee loss in the advance was 93 killed and wounded. During the remainder of Saturday no more fighting took place. On Saturday night the enemy's lines seemed quiet, stretching from Griumball's along the causeway. Their force at that time was believed to be about 3000. General Taliaferro commands our forces on James Island.

Simultaneously with this movement a column of the enemy was reported advancing up the Stono on John's Island, in the district commanded by our General Robertson.

All this, however, seems to have been mainly designed to divert our attention from the real point of attack.

THE ASSAULT ON FORT JOHNSON.

Early yesterday morning despatches were received by General Jones, announcing that the enemy had made a determined assault upon Fort Johnsons, in forty-eight barges, but were handsomely repulsed by the garrison of that post, under Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A. Yates 1st S. C. Artillery. We captured in the affair 140 prisoners, 115 stand of small arms and 5 barges. Only 11 out of the 48 barges which made the attack were seen to return to Battery Gregg.

Try It.

A Gentleman informs us that a few years ago there was a freshet in North Carolina which overflowed the wheat fields in the low lands just about the time the wheat was ready for cutting and destroyed it. One gentleman who did not allow his hogs to run on his wheat had the satisfaction the following August or September of harvesting an exceedingly heavy crop. Would it not be a good idea for those having wheat on low lands, that has been destroyed by the recent rains, to try this experiment? It might be best to plow it in, since it has not been washed down, as in the instance cited above.—Columbus Enquirer.

Who is Grant?

The Richmond *Whig* answers the question thus:

Ulysses S. Grant was a regimental quartermaster in the old army, in which position he was distinguished only for his love of strong drink. His first appearance in the present war, in any conspicuous capacity, was at Belmont, where, in conjunction with McClelland, he surprised a Confederate camp and might have gained a victory if Polk had not crossed the river in time to reinforce Pillow, when the two whipped him back ignominiously and disastrously to his post, by which he was glad to make his escape. The enterprise, however, exhibited boldness, and the general absence of this quality at the time among the Yankee Generals secured for him promotion, and gave him the command of some 80,000 or more men gathered in front of Sydney Johnston, at Bowling Green.

The winter floods enabled the enemy to carry the inadequate defences near the mouths of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, to land men at pleasure below Fort Donelson, and to attack it simultaneously by land and water. The garrison at this place was very small in comparison with the investing force, and the lines of fortification, in many places, weak. A heroic defence was made.—For three days the enemy was repulsed with fearful slaughter, his losses in dead alone being nearly as large as our whole garrison. The place was not carried by assault, but capitulated. Very many of the men remonstrated against the surrender, and few now doubt that, by proper management, the whole of them could have cut their way out without serious resistance. In these two fights—at Belmont and Donelson—the great Ulysses was in one instance defeated positively, and, in the next, gained a victory, of which none but a Yankee would or could boast.

Grant's next appearance was at Shiloh. In the first day's fight he was surprised and shamefully beaten; on the second day, Buell, who was Grant's superior, and had arrived with heavy reinforcements, took command, and to him is due the credit, such as it is, of attacking a disorganized army, half the size of his own, and of falling signally to make it do more than relinquish at leisure a part of the enormous spoils which it had won the day before. Here there was no victory to any one on the Yankee side, and certainly none to Grant.

After Sherman's failure at Vicksburg, Grant superseded him. With unlimited men and means at his command, he attempted no assault, but waited patiently till the naval officers had succeeded in raising both gun-boats and transports past the Confederate batteries. Marching his men rapidly down the West bank of the river, he forced them over and precipitated them upon Grand Gulf—a strong position, which, like Donelson, was incompletely fortified and feebly garrisoned. Grant's success at this point was due more to the gun-boats than to his own skill. And now occurred the only movement which entitles him to praise and evinces generalship. With a celerity unexampled in the history of Yankee warfare, he pushed forward his huge columns, upset Pemberton without the least difficulty, invested Vicksburg, established his communications with the river both above and below the city, protected his rear from Johnston by formidable works, and, after a number of unsuccessful attempts to storm the place, set down leisurely to reduce it by siege, which he at length did, without serious molestation either in front or rear.

Here he was indebted more to the Confederate Government than to his own genius for his success. He showed energy by the rapidity of his movements, and displayed skill in interposing his army between Pemberton and Johnston; but if either his courage or his skill had been extraordinary, he would have crushed his incompetent antagonist at Vicksburg as easily almost as he had done at Baker's Creek—a battle over which the Yankees made a great deal of noise, but in reality no battle at all; for we remember that one of the ablest Confederate officers engaged in it laughed at the dear of dignifying it with the name of battle.

It was not Grant's generalship so much as his opponent's utter inexperience in field fighting, and his own overwhelming numbers, which enabled him to carry everything before him at "Champion's Hill," like a whirlwind.

His next appearance was at Chattanooga, where the discord existing between the commanding general, on the Confederate side, and his subordinate officers, but more still, the detaching of Longstreet with a large body of the best troops in the army, just as Grant himself was reinforced by many thousands under Sherman, offered an easy but yet costly success. What there was in a victory so gained to entitle its winner to the extraordinary honors and adulation of which Grant is now the subject, can be apparent only to those whose triumphs are rare and whose heroes easily made. He has never gained a battle, in an open fight, with a less advantage than three or four times as many men as were opposed to him. He has not proved himself a great general, but he has shown quickness, tenacity, the power to wield brute force with effect, and aptness in taking advantage of Confederate folly.