

THE CAMDEN CONFEDERATE.

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND THE PRESIS THE ROYAL THRONE UPON WHICH SHE SITS, AN ENEDTRONMONARCH"

Vol. III CAMDEN, S. C., WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30, 1864. [No. 35]

The Confederate

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BY

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A FRIGHTFUL TRAGEDY.—A frightful tragedy was enacted on Monday last near Tibbee, the particulars of which we learn from a gentleman who resides in that vicinity. The perpetrator of the foul deed was a man by the name of Robert Whitfield. For some time he has been trying to get a divorce from his wife in order to marry again, but failed; and at the time of the deed was living separate from her. On Monday last he hired a negro boy to go to his wife's house and murder her. The boy went to the house and calling Mrs. Whitfield to the door, first choked her down and then drew a knife and inflicted many frightful gashes on her head and throat after which he fled thinking her dead. The news having spread through the country—Mrs. W. having recovered sufficiently to give information—a search was made for the negro by the neighbors. During the search suspicion rested on Whitfield, his house was visited, where he was found in company with a young man who was living with him. During the conversation with the party he betrayed signs of guilt, and after their departure he remarked to the young man that he would have to kill the negro (who was then under his house) to save himself from trouble.

Accordingly he next morning took the negro out and shot him with two loads of buckshot—one through the heart and the other through the head. He was present at the inquest next morning, stated that it was the negro who had attempted the killing of his wife, and that he had caught and killed him. He was there arrested and the above facts brought forward in the trial duly conducted by the citizens; he paid the penalty of his crime on a tree near by. Whitfield has long been regarded a bad man, and has been several times implicated in deeds almost as dark and terrible as this one, but has heretofore escaped his doom. His wife, though still alive, is in a dreadful condition. But little hope is entertained of her recovery. She is represented to us as a good woman.

Columbus (Miss.) Republic.

Rail Road Accident and Loss of Life.—The Greenville train on Saturday evening, when about twenty miles from Columbia, at a point known as Wallace's Farm, encountered one of the severest and costliest accidents that has occurred in the history of the road. The rear truck of the third car from the engine jumped the track, and all which followed it—some five or six, as we are informed—met with the same fate. Three passenger cars were smashed. Among the passengers was the company of Capt. Townsend, from Union. Of these, a young man named Crawford was killed outright, and another named Mitchell sustained a compound comminuted fracture of the right leg and right arm. It is thought that he will not survive. Two or three others were injured, but not seriously. Our informant paid high compliment to conductors Medlock and Walsh, who were on the train, for their coolness, skill and energy, in allaying fears, restoring order, disentangling the wreck, and rescuing those who were buried beneath the ruins. The engine and one car arrived in the city about dark, bringing the mails. It is said that both the sufferers were standing on the platform when they were crushed. Another warning to travellers who indulge in this habit.—*South Carolinian*

An Important Event to Happen Two years hence.—The date of the end of the world is satisfactorily fixed for the year 1866. There is an ancient prediction repeated by Nostradamus in his "Centuries," which says that when St. George shall crucify the Lord, when St. Mark shall raise Him, and St. John shall assist at His ascension, the end of the world shall come. In 1866, it will happen that Good Friday shall fall on St. George's day, Easter Sunday on St. Mark's day, and Holy Thursday, or Ascension Day will also be the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

Rules of A. Ward's Show.—"Artemus Ward" is now travelling with a panorama of Mormon Scenes, which he explains in his lecture. The programme of the exhibition contains the following "Rules of the House:"

"I. Artemus Ward is compelled to charge one dollar for reserved seats because oats which two years ago cost 30 cents per bushel, now costs \$175; hay is also \$75 per cwt. formerly 50 cents.

"II. Persons who think they can enjoy themselves more by leaving the hall early in the evening, are requested to do so with as little noise as possible.

"III. Children in arms not admitted if the rms are loaded.

"IV. Children under one year of age not admitted unless accompanied by their parents, or guardians.

"V. If any usher employed in the hall should assault the audience he will be reprimanded. If the same conduct be frequently repeated he will be discharged without a certificate of character.

"VI. Ladies and gentlemen will please report any negligence or disobedience on the part of the lecturer.

"VII. Artemus Ward will not be responsible for any money, jewelry, or other valuables left with him—to be returned in a week or so.

"VIII. The manager will not be responsible for any debts of his own contracting.

"IX. If the audience do not leave the hall when this entertainment is over, they will be put out by the police."

RETRIBUTION BY COL. MOSBY.—The following letter, written to General Sheridan by Colonel Mosby, will show that the murder of our men by the Yankee cavalry in the Valley has not gone unavenged. It is brief and to the point, and worthy of the writer:

NOVEMBER 11, 1864.

Major General P. H. Sheridan, commanding United States Forces in the Valley.

"GENERAL: Sometime in the month of September, during my absence from my command, six of my men, who had been captured by your forces, were hung and shot in the streets of Front Royal, by the order, and in the immediate presence, of Brigadier-General Cluster. Since then, another (captured by a Colonel Powell, on a plundering expedition into Rappahannock) shared a similar fate. A label, affixed to the coat of one of the murdered men, declared 'that this would be the fate of Mosby and all his men.'

"Since the murder of my men, not less than seven hundred prisoners, including many officers of high rank, captured from your army by this command, have been forwarded to Richmond, but the execution of my purpose of retaliation was deferred, in order, as far as possible, to confine its operation to the men of Cluster and Powell. Accordingly, on the 6th instant, seven of your men were, by my order, executed on the Valley pike, your highway of travel.

"Hereafter any prisoners falling into my hands will be treated with the kindness due to their condition, unless some new act of barbarity shall compel me, reluctantly, to adopt a line of policy repugnant to humanity.

Very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
JOHN S. MOSBY,
Lieutenant Colonel."

The Washington "Chronicle" contains an article on President Davis, in which it says:

We desire to do justice to this remarkable man; and in doing so, we may find the secret of his recent remorseless confessions. If there ever was a public character who seemed to be careful to preserve the reputation of a gentleman, it was Jefferson Davis. He was an honored Senator and an incorruptible Cabinet Minister, scoring alike the political parasite and the selfish jobber. Nobody, friend or foe, doubted his personal integrity. He had, it is true, the hauteur of an educated slaveholder; but he could be as gentle as a woman; and he had the manliness to do justice to an enemy, and to retract an offensive allusion, if convinced that he was wrong.

The Washington "Constitutional Union," in copying this, says:

We might have hesitated to pen such an article or fear of the consequences. But extracting from such a ruling authority, our motives will be easily understood. We have no intention of joining in a eulogy of Jeff. Davis; we wish but to rescue a cotemporary journalist from the imputation of constantly and unconscionably misrepresenting political opponents, and of misstating facts in political history.

Camden, Wednesday, November 30.

J. T. HERSHMAN—Editor.

THE FOREIGN ELEMENT.—Only 18,000 votes were cast in the combined armies around Richmond and Petersburg. We should say that Grant's army was either very small or very Hessian.

Look out for them.—We understand that one of the Yankee deserters who took the oath of allegiance to the Confederate Government was captured Wednesday, while en route to join Sherman's army in Georgia. He gave his name as John Smith, and says he had eleven associates who escaped. He was dressed in Confederate uniform.

By reference to our Special Notice column, it will be seen that Col. Jones issues an order, calling on all those enrolled or liable for service in accordance with the organization of the State Militia on the 13th of September last, to be and appear at the railroad depot, at Camden, on the evening of the 6th proximo, to report to Capt. J. D. McCaskey, and be prepared to leave the next morning for Hamburg, S. C. The Beats included in this call is Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 6, in this regiment.

On Saturday last a man wearing the uniform of a Confederate soldier—claiming the position of a Lieutenant Colonel of Artillery, and calling himself Major MAURY, T. DE ESTELLA, and several other names, which we are at this time unable to call to memory, was arrested as a suspicious character, and confined in jail. He is supposed to be an emissary of the LINCOLN government, and will no doubt be sent to Richmond for trial. It becomes us to be vigilant, and always on the alert, for our country, at this time, is certainly infested with such characters.

As a general rule, (says the Savannah "Republican") we believe that editors, if they do their duty, can effect far more for a struggling cause with the pen than they can with the sword, and such opinion has dictated the past policy of our Congress with regard to them; but in extreme cases requiring the aid of every man in the field, we always believed that the members of the Press are as much bound to shoulder their muskets as anybody else. The day of the pen will have passed, and the sword and bayonet must take its place. It is his home, his rights, his liberties to be defended, and he should not hesitate, under any pretext, to take up arms against the invader.

The Columbia "Carolinian" has commenced the publication of a new Christmas story, by WILKIE COLLINS, entitled "The Stolen Mask." The story will appear in the issues of Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, of each week, until it is finished. The renowned reputation of many years of the author, will certainly elicit an interest in the "Stolen Mask," and will add, if possible, to the interest taken in the perusal of that valuable journal. The "Courier," in referring to the publication, says:

"Those who remember the striking passages of "No Name" and "The Woman in White," the fine sentiment and graphic delineations of all of Wilkie Collins' characters, will enjoy in the "Stolen Mask," a repetition of some of their rarest pleasures."

Could not our neighbor of the "Carolinian" republish the work in novel form, and make it a profitable investment?

ANOTHER SCARE AT MEMPHIS.—The "Clarion" learns that when Forrest was lately moving into West Tennessee, the Yankees became very much alarmed about the safety of Memphis, a feint having been made in that direction by the "Wizard of the Saddle" to cover his real movement. The Yankees commenced making all preparations for Forrest, by digging rifle pits and throwing up barricades at the various crossings of Gaylesse bayou, taking up the bridges, and urging forward the work upon the four new forts in process of erection, lying beyond the bayou. One of these forts is now completed, and the others very nearly so. The

one just completed is South of the city, and intended to prevent our troops from forcing their way in through Memphis, and thus cutting off the troops in the city from Fort Pickering, take both in detail and at an advantage. The regiments of enrolled militia were also engaged on the fortifications. All through the city the streets were barricaded with cotton bales; and all preparations for a vigorous defence were made. The military stores, cars, etc., at White's Station, were brought to the city; a number of black regiments thrown into Fort Pickering, and outlying regiments thrown nearer town. The militia patrolled the streets, dragging in service every man capable of carrying a gun. It was discovered that blue and white signal lights were being sent up by some parties in the city to advise our forces, and Morgan L. Smith had all the cars East of the bayou run into Fort Pickering with the stores lying in the vicinity. After remaining in the trenches some days they heard from Forrest at Johnsonville.

Stick to the Truth.—Was an officer above a lieutenant any ever convicted of drunkenness in our army? Will liquor make an officer drunk at all? We should say not, judging from the quantity consumed by many of them, who, according to reports, are never drunk.

"P. W. A." of the Savannah "Republican," whose exact and fearless truthfulness is a model for correspondents and reporters, writes lately:

Brigadier-General Battle, of Alabama—whom some anonymous writer has recommended for the position of Major-General—comes out in a card, to the Richmond Whig, in which he takes occasion to express his opinion upon matters and things generally. Among other topics, he refers to the Army of the Valley, to which he is attached, and says the charge of drunkenness against the army has been "virtually withdrawn," &c. In this General Battle is mistaken. I made the charge, and have not withdrawn it, and shall not withdraw it, because it is true, as applied to the high officers in the army; and I am sorry that one who should be considered by any one worthy to be a Major-General, should attempt to screen them.

CLEARING OUT A NEST OF DESERTERS.—The deserters who form themselves into bands in Mississippi to rob the country do not seem to have a very quiet time of it. A letter to the Mobile Advertiser, from Gainesville, Mississippi, gives an account of Seals's band, in Jones and Perry counties. It says:

"Seals soon came across two soldiers, Daniel McCall and John Knight, who had been captured at Fort Hudson and paroled, and lately exchanged, and told them that they should join or leave the country. They left, but soon returned and captured four of his men, two of whom they hung, and shot another. This encouraged the citizens, who soon organized and went in pursuit of the outlaws. In their first day's scouting they captured five—two Smiths, one Leonard and one Holleman—with stolen horses, cattle, bed-clothes, and bedding in their possession. They were tried and sentenced to be shot. These men made confessions, implicating some forty-two others. The next day, they captured two and killed two. One of these, named Stewart, was a native of Hancock county, who has been buying stolen horses and cattle from the deserters and shipping them to New Orleans. Another, named Moody, of respectable connections was taken with thirty head of beeves in his possession. I believe this was his first offence, but the sentence was inexorably executed. In all there have been ten shot and three hung, and four are still in the hands of the citizens.

The full Result of the Presidential Election.—Lincoln carries every State but three. Lincoln is unquestionably re-elected, carrying every State of Yankeedom but three. The Herald sums up the result of the Presidential contest as follows:

We have received sufficient returns of the recent Presidential election from all the States to warrant the announcement that Mr. Lincoln has over three hundred thousand majority of the popular vote, which is a Republican gain since 1860 of four hundred thousand; that he has carried all the States voting but three, and that he will have one hundred and ninety-two majority in the electoral college, without including Tennessee. It is therefore unnecessary to go further into the details of the election. All other returns published will therefore, be merely a matter of record. The only State about which there has been the least uncertainty was New York. Complete returns from every county have now been received, which show that he has received the majority in this State.