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CAMDEN, FRIDAY, MARCH 10.

To the Patrons of the Confederate and Journal.

We deem it unnecessary, as publishers, to offer any apology to our intelligent readers, either on account of a three week's suspension of our regular issue, or for at this time consolidating, temporarily, what has been left us of material on which to publish a paper, as a suspension during the invasion and occupation of a town by an enemy would be a natural consequence—and especially so as we, like most others of our town's people, removed the most valuable portion of our material to the swamps and sand-hills, only to be pillaged and burnt by the enemy. We have merged the two into one until we can procure an additional type, having lost by far the larger portion of both offices by the incendiary torches of the vandals who were our recent unwelcome guests. The paper will be issued regularly, without further notice, every Friday morning—without any reliable information as to the whereabouts of the main body of our army; nor can we locate that of the enemy at this time. He was supposed to have evacuated Cheraw on Wednesday, but whether he is going from that point we know not. It is to be presumed, however, that he will take a direct northward course, and will no doubt encounter our forces at Greensboro or some point between that place and Raleigh.

We are informed by a gentleman, direct from Richmond, that GEN. LEE is yet in command of the army in Virginia, and is in full force—the officers and men in buoyant spirits.

THE ENEMY AT LIBERTY HILL.—The Yankees, while at Liberty Hill, well sustained their unenviable reputation for pillage and wanton cruelty to both man and beast. They reaped a golden harvest whilst there. Probably no spot, of its dimensions, in the interior of the State, could boast of more wealth and refinement. The palatial residence of Mr. R. B. CUNNINGHAM, and every piece of furniture it contained, was destroyed by the incendiarism of some fiend in human shape; also the residences of Mr. JOHN PERRY and C. B. CURETON was burned. The desolation in that locality has fully equalled that of our own town, its population considered. Surely a retributive justice awaits the spoiler, and no doubt will, ere long, overtake and punish the guilty ones.

CAMDEN BRANCH OF RAILROAD.—Mr. H. T. PEAK, General Superintendent of the South Carolina Railroad, has already secured a large number of competent workmen who are actively engaged in rebuilding a temporary bridge over the Wateree River. Travel from this point by railroad is now open to Florence and intermediate stations. In consequence of the river being evacuated by our forces, the cars have discontinued running on that road for the present, their through-trips.

DROP-SICAL.—From the amount of rain that that has fallen during the past forty-eight hours, we are forced to conclude the clouds are somewhat drop-sical and have been recently topped.

Mr. WITHERSPOON informs us that his line of telegraph is up and in good working order. Communication can be had at this time, as far on his line as the Wilmington and Manchester Junction, and thence to Sumter and Florence.

STOLE OUR SCIZZORS.—If the pilfering scamp who entered the office during our retreat from the Yanks, and appropriated an only pair of scizzors—an indispensable appendage to an editor—will present himself at our sanctum, we will promise no questions asked, but he shall be handsomely done for.

DEPOT FOR STOLEN PROPERTY.—Persons having goods of any kind in their possession or that of their servants, known to be taken from merchants of our town during the occupation of the enemy, will confer a favor on the owners of such property by sending it to the store-house of BELL & MATHESON. Already has a large amount of goods been returned, and placed in charge of Mr. BELL, who will take pleasure in receiving and delivering the same.

Many thanks are due our intelligent and gentlemanly enrolling officer, Capt. COLCLOUGH, for his efficient and untiring exertions in having the goods returned to their rightful owners. Dr. YOUNG informs us that he has already received about one half of the books stolen from his store; but the most valuable works are yet in the possession of servants and others.

THE LADIES OF OUR TOWN DURING THE OCCUPATION.—The blackest cloud has a silver lining, and every true patriot and well-wisher of his country cannot but draw consolation for the past and hope for the future, when he considers the undaunted spirit, which from the beginning until now has actuated the women of the South. Unremitting in their exertions to heal the sick, minister to the wounded and clothe the naked, they have ever cheered the battle-worn soldier and reproached with gentle but powerful voice the laggards and skulkers at home, until it has become a fixed belief in every well-regulated mind that a cause so just in itself as ours is, with such potent influences brought to bear in its support, cannot, will not, under the rulings of a just Providence, be allowed to fail.

We are proud to know and chronicle the fact, that the ladies of Camden during the recent occupation of our town, have proved no exception to the heroic conduct of their sisters in other parts of the Confederacy under like distressing circumstances. Calm, dignified, unshaken, they received the intrusion of the dastardly thieves and plunderers, with true womanly bearing—overpowered, but unconquered; oppressed, but still patriotic, they have seen our barbarous foe depart, without the comfort of one word of sympathy, of aid, or of hope for their cause, breathed by woman's voice.

Were the men of the Confederacy as true and devoted to the cause of our country as the women, where would be the absentees without leave, the occupiers of impenetrable "bomb-proofs?" We hope and believe that even considering the universal private suffering inflicted, that the late invasion will be productive of good; that like the tropical tornado, it will purify the atmosphere it so lately vexed, and that adding private injury to the spirit of patriotism, it will yet be the means of materially assisting in working out the great cause of Southern independence.

The Occupation of Camden by the Enemy.

The storm has at length burst upon us; the anticipated blow has fallen, and Camden has been made to undergo, in her turn, all the horrors of a Yankee invasion. The raid, though expected, was so sudden, and its duration so brief that we feel stunned, as it were, and hardly able to realize that a Yankee force has actually been in our midst, plundering and destroying, as is their wont, although the blackened and smouldering ruins around us too painfully attest the fact. God grant that it may be long ere such scenes of horror are again re-enacted in our peaceful quiet town.

Most of our citizens having sought refuge in the neighboring swamps, from which they are only now venturing to return, and small bodies of the Yankees being still reported hovering at no great distance from the town, render it somewhat unsafe to stir abroad, hence we have not been able, up to the date of this writing, to gather full particulars of the invasion and capture of Camden. Such items as we have been able to glean, we throw hastily together for the benefit of our readers.

The enemy made their first appearance in our midst on Thursday evening the 19 instant, having crossed the Wateree, at Peay's and Jones' ferries, about twenty miles above Camden. They were in small number—some thirty—and formed a line near Major JOHN WINTERAKER'S residence, where the militia, under the command of Col. JONES, confronted them, but after a few shots were exchanged, the enemy withdrew, wounding and capturing Mr. R. C. DRAKEFORD, of Flat Rock. They returned on the day following (Friday) and reached Camden about 2 p. m., entering the town from the north, with a force consisting of two detachments of cavalry and one of infantry, numbering in all, perhaps, two hundred and fifty men. A portion of the cavalry and the bulk of the infantry proceeded directly down Main street into the heart of the town. The remainder stopped, by the way, to plunder. All the houses on the road were entered and pillaged more or less thoroughly, according to the caprice of the robbers. But of this hereafter.—Soon after the main body reached JUNCTION'S hotel, which was, we believe, their headquarters, the work of destroying the government stores and public buildings was begun. The first building fired was the passenger depot, next the freight depot at the railroad; then the Cornwallis house; and the building occupied as a commissary store house and office, on the corner of DeKalb and Main streets, was next fired. From this latter, the flames communicated to the adjoining buildings, and all the houses fronting on Main street on that square were totally destroyed. They also burnt Mr. GEO. DOUGLAS' store, the cotton sheds in the rear of Mr. GERALD'S and BELL'S stores, and the bridge over the Wateree, The Masonic Hall, the three-story brick dwelling adjoining, occupied as the enrolling office of Capt. COLCLOUGH and residence of Mr. S. OPPENHEIM, MCKAIN'S drug store, and the three wooden buildings to the south, were also burned; but there is reason to believe that the Yankees were not the incendiaries in this case. All the stores were broken open and pillaged. The Yankees took what they wanted, and threw the balance of the goods in the street, whence they were carried off by the negroes, who were encouraged and urged by the Yankees to appropriate whatever they fancied.—The destruction of property has been very heavy, and years of patient labor will be required to replace it. The devastation is so utter, so complete, it is really heartrending to

contemplate it. But we have not space to particularize in this issue, but will be more minute in a future reference, when we shall have gathered the many items and incidents attending this cruel invasion. After the cotton, government stores, &c., had been burned, the majority of the Yankees dispersed in small squads over the town to rob on private account. Nearly every house in Camden and Kirkwood was visited. In fact we have heard of but two that escaped, besides those in the immediate vicinity of Bishop DAVIS' residence, before which a guard we understand, was placed. The conduct of these invaders varied, in different localities, according to the dominant instincts of the individuals who composed the squad. In some instances, rare ones, they are reported to have behaved with courtesy and gentleness, neither plundering nor insulting the inmates, and limiting their demands to a dinner or a bed. In others, and these by far the larger number, they seem to have run through the gamut, from simple impertinence to gross outrage, and from petty pilfering to wholesale spoliation and robbery. Many families have been stripped of everything they had in the world; and for these especially we would bespeak the sympathy and aid of those who suffered less. In one neighborhood, where several barrels of liquor had been buried by their owners, and dug up by the Yankees, drunkenness came to stimulate outrage, and intensify the horrors of the scene. They seemed to take special delight in frightening women and children, and we have heard of private dwellings being set on fire under circumstances of the most wanton and heartless cruelty.—The loss of property and the pollution of their presence is all we have been called on to endure. But that is quiet enough to satisfy us for a long while to come.

True to their instincts they sought affiliation with our slaves, and devoted a portion of their time to persuading them to desert their owners and try the blessings of Yankee freedom. About two hundred and fifty, we hear, from the town and plantations in the vicinity, have been deluded in going off, but the large majority of the slaves have proved faithful to their masters. Indeed great praise is due them, especially the house-servants, who, as a whole, stood faithfully by their mistresses, and, by their earnest and active efforts, aided greatly in preventing outrage and saving property.

Although the force which entered Camden was small, there were large bodies of Yankees in the vicinity. In fact the whole of SHERMAN'S army probably passed within twenty miles of us. The party who came in on Friday left on Saturday night, but stragglers are still to be seen in the vicinity, and larger bodies are known to be at no great distance. Whether SHERMAN is going we have no means of conjecturing with any approach to accuracy. Cut off from all communication with the world, we know nothing of what is going on elsewhere, and we have no data on which to base a calculation. It is possible that he at this time occupies Cheraw, and in that case we shall probably be wholly rid of our unwelcome visitor for the present. Upon the whole we have much to be thankful for. We have lost much, and we have suffered much; but we might have lost and suffered much more heavily; and in so glorious a cause who would not suffer cheerfully? Let us then keep a stout heart, trusting that He who orders all things wisely, will know how to bring good out of evil, and bestow on us in a glorious future an overflowing compensation for the sad present.

WANTED, AN OWNER.—A friend of ours has left at this office a pair of shoes—no doubt lost by some one of our citizens. The owner can have them by proving property and paying for this advertisement.