The Vindicator.

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Staunton, Va.

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 10 1865.

The Peace Bubble Exploded

While the mission of Blair was involved in mystery, many men in our land believed that it remained with President Davis alone to have peace or war as he might prefer and that he would elect war. Contrary to their expectations a commission of three distinguished and prominent men were sent to confer with the Administration of the United States upon the prospect of a speedy adjustment of the existing difficulties. Scarcely had they left before some not in our Valley we rejoice to say, declared that reconstruction was the panacea for all our ills. Strange conclusion, when the mere anticipation of the troubles the South would be called upon to endure from the rule of Abraham Lincoln, caused the acts of secession and the formation of an independent Government, and after the spilling of the blood of thousands of the brave men of the South to maintain that independence, while the war has been prosecuted against us with a more fiendish malignity than ever characterized the benighted nations of a barbarous age, that by restoring the Union we might secure all that we have thus long contended for. Messers Lincoln and Seward, however, speedily dispelled this delusion, for they said to our Commissioners, they would agree to nothing less than our unconditional submission to the constitution of the United States, and all laws passed under its forms, that is, the confiscation law to be enforced and the penalty of treason to be meted out to all of us.

What think our reconstructionists now? Do they still upbraid President Davis as electing war and being unwilling to reconstruct the union? Will they yield up their all and submit to the doom of traitors, or will they stand up like men and yet strike a blow that will undeceive the despots of the North and learn them that we are freemen, who know our rights and dare maintain them?

We opine that the idea of speedy peace other than through the success of our arms has vanished forever from the Southern mind, that reconstruction will not be thought of with a shudder and that in one week from this day the entire South will stand more united and determined than at any period of this struggle for liberty.

Let the speculator and croaker cease their respective endeavors to accumulate and to cavil at this or that, and let us all bend all our energies to the attainment of that success which ultimately awaits us, being willing rather to give our all and to sacrifice ourselves for the cause of liberty and independence, than to see our lands and tenements; our sacred places and our keepsakes confiscated for the use of the polyglot rabble, who are endeavoring to tear every vestige of liberty from this continent, while we would be compelled to stand aside and suffer the penalty of treason. God forbid that such a fate should ever befal the noble people of our beloved Confederacy and by His help, with an united effort on our part, it never will.

☞ Last week we published the resolutions of the Staunton Artillery and this week those of the 52d and 31st Va Regts. of Pegram's Brigade to which we refer our readers.

While many were canvassing in their minds prospective reconstruction, these scarred veterans only thought of peace being secured through their own stout hearts and strong arms. With them there has been no reconstruction no, never! Their feelings are those expressed in the language of a lady of Augusta, whose beautiful poetical effusion we published a few weeks since,

Reconstruction, never! never!!
Independence and forever!
Our land shall be a nation, glorious,
Independent, free.

Let all who may have felt that their despondency permeated the army, read these resolutions, which are similar in tone and sentiment to those which have been passed already by nearly every regiment in the army, and take courage from their noble brethren in the field.

☞ It will be gratifying to the many friends of Gen. A. W. Harman to learn that he arrived at home via Central train on Wednesday evening. The Col Commanded the 12th Va. Cavalry, Rosser's Brigade and was captured in July 1863 and sent to Johnsons Island, where he has remained since a prisoner of war.

His health, owing to his close confinement is somewhat shattered, but his spirits as buoyant as ever, and we trust that his arrival at home, surrounded by his family and immediate relatives, together with a host of warm friends will in a very short time restore him to his usual health.

He returns to his native home, more strongly impressed if possible than ever, in the firm belief in the success of our cause, and we doubt not, that ere many moons pass over, we shall see him again in the saddle, at the head of his gallant regiment, ready and anxious to strike another and a heavier blow, for home, country and friends.

SAD FATE.—A. L. Shiflett Co A 56th Va Regt, and Frank Sullivan Co D. 54th Va. Regt, were shot near Petersburg on Thursday last, at 2 P. M. agreeably to the sentence of the Military Court of the Corps.

We learn that the charges against them were desertion and robbery.

WAR NEWS.

From Petersburg we learn that an enemy drove in our pickets on Gen Jordans front on Sunday, and a portion of their force reached the Vaughan road and crossed Hatcher's Run. No skirmishing had taken place, but there has been no engagement as yet. The object of the movement is not yet developed.

The enemy were busily engaged in running their trains on Saturday night, supposed to be in the act of transporting their troops from the Cattail Creek, the cavalry to Dinwiddie Court House, where its advance encountered a portion of our cavalry and retired. In the afternoon parts of Hill's and Gordon's troops demonstrated against the enemy on the left of Hatcher's Run, near Armstrong's mill. Finding him entrenched, they were withdrawn after dark. During a night the force that had advanced beyond the river returned to it and were reported to be recrossing. This morning Pegram's division moved down the right bank of the creek to reconnoitre, when it was vigorously attacked. The battle was obstinately contested for several hours, but Gen. Pegram being killed, while bravely encouraging his men, and Col. Hoffman wounded, some confusion occurred, and the division was pressed back to its original position. Early's division ordered up to support Gen. Gordon to support Pegram's, charged the enemy and forced him back, but was in turn compelled to retire. Mahone's division arriving, the enemy was driven rapidly to his defences on Hatcher's Run. Our loss is reported to be small; that of the enemy not supposed great.

(Signed) R E Lee

General Lee reports to the War Department a very creditable affair in the Valley. It seems that about eight of the enemy surprised our cavalry picket at Edinburg, and captured a lieutenant and fourteen men. Capt. Grandstaff and Lieutenant Mohler with twenty men of the 12th Virginia Cavalry, pursued and overtook the enemy at Woodstock, where they attacked and routed the party, recapturing our pickes and their officer, and taking sixteen of the enemy and twenty horses.

FOR THE VINDICATOR

Meeting of the thirty first Virginia Regiment of Pegrams Brigade.

Immediately after dress parade, on Feb 1 1865, a meeting was organized in the 31st. Va. Regt., by calling Captain N Clawson to the chair, and appointing Dr S. Buttermore Secretary.

Major W. P. Cooper explained the object of the meeting and offered the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, it is the duty, as it is the privilege of freemen to express their sentiments upon all subjects affecting the public weal, we the officers and men of the 31st. Va. Regt. do therefore

Resolve That we have entire confidence in the President, the members of his Cabinet, both houses of Congress, and our Commanding Officers.

Resolved. That we denounce all faultfinding croakers as opposite of their County—the least of all, as unworthy sympathy, and deserving their friendship.

Resolved: That we pity our weak-kneed desponding brethren, both citizens and soldiers, (if there are any such soldiers,) and say unto them: "Be of good cheer," do but half your duty to your God, your Country, and yourselves, and all will be well.

Resolved. That we took up arms to achieve our independence, and that four years of hardships and privations, as well as the blood of our slaughtered comrades, demand that we shall say them down only when that purpose is accomplished.

Resolved. That the Richmond and Staunton papers be required to publish the proceedings of this meeting.

After which the meeting adjourned

N. CLAWSON, Ch'm.

S. BUTTERMORE, Sec'y

FOR THE VINDICATOR

CAMP PEGRAM'S BRIG. Feb 2, 1865.

Preamble and resolutions adopted by the Fifty second Virginia regiment:

1. "Whereas, the Southern States never bound themselves to make the union that they formed with those of the North a permanent one; and whereas, the war waged against us to make it such against our will is unjust; be it therefore,

1. *Resolved*, That we have an good right to be free and to govern ourselves as our ancestors have, and that any unwilling interfere that right by usurping at their hands any terms short of independence.

2. "That we are firmly convinced that a valorous and steady adherence to the determination to conquer by force of arms cannot fail to award us with an honorable peace; that with our resources and an indomitable resolution to be free, subjugation is impossible, and that should we be conquered, it will not be by the stern valor of our foes, but by a want of firmness and determination in ourselves.

3. "That we ever acknowledge the hand of Providence in our past successes, and that we trust in the righteousness of our cause and in the justice of our God, and in an upon His strong arm for deliverance in the to come.

"That these are our sentiments, and that a copy of this preamble and resolutions be sent for publication to the Richmond *Examiner* and *Dispatch* the Staunton *Vindicator* and Lexington *Gazette*."

The above preamble and resolutions were enthusiastically adopted by the regiment without a dissenting vote.

G. B. Cosner, Capt'n commanding regiment.

☞ We learn that an arrangement will soon be perfected for a general exchange of prisoners. The Federal authorities have put the matter in the hands of Gen Grant, who is willing to carry out the provisions of the cartel speedily.

Fragments of a Soldier's Diary.

Written and signed by the Mayor of Charlottesville.

Since the pleasant Sabbath evening on the receipt of your welcome do-nates via: Our second Holiday. At this late period of the war when provisions are scarce, even in the most fertile regions, and the country ravaged by the contending armies, it was with a heart overflowing with gratitude for the distinguished favors and hearts were gladdened.

At past three o'clock, the shrill bugle assembled the men in the American Hotel. After the a few minutes, they were marched to the dining room of this building.

Here stationed at tables, we were soon satisfied, would be accorded ample justice to the good things before them, which had been augmented by the presence of Gen'l and staff, and the smiling faces of ladies, they quickly commenced the onslaught upon the contents of the Hotel, soon again in front of the Hotel, amid shouting vociferously for Gen'l to make them a speech. The Gen'l responded, and in his plain and earnest manner spoke in substance as follows: Soldiers—I enjoyed the dinner prepared by the ladies of your Town, very much. It afforded me much more pleasure to know you enjoyed it. I am sure you will know you enjoyed it. It has always given me pleasure to speak of the heroic conduct of the Artillery on every battle field in the Valley campaign; and in view of your services I have given permission for you to stay in town to night, and enjoy yourselves in any innocent way you may deem proper. I am sure you will not abuse the indulgence, and that your conduct in all respects will be as unexceptionable, as it has been in the presence of the Foe. Defenders of your Country.

Gen. H. Harman, was then called and responded in a short and stirring speech.

After Colonel Harman, the Battalion Commander, and Company Officers, were called on, but did nothing more than excuse themselves, by telling the men, that talent lay in the fighting and not in speaking time. After the speech was over, the men quietly returned to their homes of their families and friends—the late affair having been a complete success.

It affords us great pleasure to say those men, although they have passed through the hardships and dangers of a considerable battle fought on the soil of Virginia, are as firm and as unalterable in their determinations to be free from yankee rule, as they were on any day previous.

As humorist puts it, we will be willing to abandon their arms for any thing short of absolute and complete independence. To obtain this independence for our Country, they are willing to fight to the last extremity, and even to the last man. They deem it far better to join the ranks of the Silent Majority, than to see slavery and severity of the laws of their mother State, thrust upon them by tyrannic, and enjoy the luxuriant fields, rich valleys, and fair domains and beautiful rivers, our land, if they could be spared, which happens not. Let them their fate is the disgrace of the wife and the sweetheart and assure them that they would rather weep to see them buried in a soldier's grave than have their survive by skulking duty, soon would every jerking place be vacated and every breast bared to the shafts of the enemy. We assure you, however, you the ladies of the Churchville neighborhood, that for us you have done more than your part, more than we have done, more than we can ever repay. We appreciate the patriotic spirit you have exhibited in our behalf. It is a matter of great consolation to know that you sympathize with us in our hard fortunes and that your anxiety will follow us wherever the stern fate of war may bear us. It strengthens our resolution to continue to tread the path of glory and to achieve, even in the greatest extremity, the independence of our beloved Country. Our determination to put forth the very best efforts of which we are capable to save you, ourselves and our country from the disgrace of subjugation by an unprincipled foe. And should we perish in the struggle, should some of last missile spill our hearts blood trickling to the ground, the assurance will be that not that there are those who will drop a tear of grief over our untimely fate. Should we survive this crash of arms attendant upon the dissolution of the National Union and be permitted to return again to our native country in peace, and our homes, in all its purity, and our peaceful homes, in all its purity, and our peaceful homes, in all its purity, and our peaceful