

The Camden Confederate.

VOLUME III

CAMDEN, SO. CA., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1863.

NUMBER 4

The Camden Confederate

J. T. HERSHMAN, Editor.

AT THREE DOLLARS A YEAR,
PAYABLE INVARIABLY HALF-YEARLY IN ADVANCE

Terms for Advertising:

For one Square—twelve lines or less—TWO DOLLARS for the first insertion, and ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS for each subsequent.

OBITUARY NOTICES, exceeding one Square, charged to at advertising rates.

Transient Advertisements and Job Work MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE.

No deduction made, except to our regular advertising patrons.

The Currency.

CAMDEN, S. C., October 24, 1863.

Hon. W. W. Boyce:

DEAR SIR: It is with much diffidence that I approach the great financial question of the day; but at the solicitation of a number of intelligent gentlemen—bankers, merchants, &c., some of whom have considerable local financial reputation—I have been induced thus to address to you the following crude scheme for reducing our currency to a healthy standard, and keeping it so:

The subject of the currency is now the all-absorbing question before the country, and well it may be, for already it is in confusion, and without a speedy and effectual remedy, must very soon reach a condition of utter worthlessness. And although I do not think our cause would be lost even should it reach such a point, yet it would be a calamity extremely embarrassing to the Government, and a source of the deepest mortification to every patriot of our country. The obvious evil now present, and the imminent danger near at hand, is the already too great, and still growing amount of our currency. That now we have too much money is but too plain to every one, and the great problem is, how is it to be reduced to healthy limits, upon just principles, and without injury to any, and with the least possible inconvenience and embarrassment to the Government, and to the business of the country. Without stopping to discuss the merits of any of the plans now before the public, looking to this desirable end, I will venture to suggest a scheme which will be speedy and effectual, and will not involve sacrifice or serious inconvenience to any one—a scheme that will restore the confidence of our people in their Government and cause, and in the patriotism and integrity of each other, which is now, I deeply regret to say, rapidly passing away, and my scheme is this: Let the Treasury Department at once prepare a new issue of \$100,000,000 notes of suitably mixed denominations, on good paper, payable to bearer, and upon the faith and credit of the Government alone; and let it fix the shortest possible time when this issue will be ready, and give ample notice of such time to the people, and require that on or before such a day, that all persons, without exceptions, shall surrender to a treasurer, or board of sub-treasurers, at such places as shall be named, say their county court house, every dollar of which they may be possessed, of all the present issues of and above \$5; and for such notes so surrendered, each person shall receive from the board of sub-treasurers one-fifth one-fourth, or one-third, as the case may be, in this new issue, and the balance in interest-bearing bonds, at the rate of six per cent; or failing to make such surrender of such notes as they may have in hand at such time, they shall be declared to be paid.

After these new notes are ready and placed in the hands of a principal treasurer to be appointed in each State, and after such treasurer has named a board of sub-treasurers at each county seat, ten days would be ample time for all persons to make their deposits of old notes and receive their proportion of the new ones, and register for bonds which may be delivered afterwards. The board of sub-treasurers should consist of seven respectable and patriotic citizens, who can be readily found, who would

perform their duty promptly and faithfully, and without cost to the Government, except for stationary. The Confederate tax collectors can be made the chairman of the different boards of sub-treasurers; it would be but a small extra duty, which they would, no doubt, cheerfully perform. In the larger cities, boards of sub-treasurers might be appointed in each ward, and in the army the brigade quartermasters could easily perform the duty.

The Treasury Department knows exactly the amount of notes now in circulation, and hence can determine the precise proportion they bear to the 100,000,000 of new notes; but to avoid fractions, I would vary the new issue from 90,000,000 to 110,000,000. But whatever be the amount fixed on, it should be made the maximum, and the issue should never exceed it. The Government must, for its revenues and supplies, look exclusively to its tariffs, its income and specific tax, its tax in kind and the sale of its interest bearing credits, and not to issues of currency.

Now, that this scheme is practicable there cannot be the shadow of a doubt, and that it will be effectual is self-evident. To show that there will be no injustice done in its practical operations, I will suppose a case. We will take it for granted that there are just 4000,000,000 of treasury notes now in circulation, and that Mr. A. has just 4,000, which he has laid aside for the purchase of his next year's supplies. He comes up on the day appointed and delivers up his 4,000 of old issues, and receives 1,000 in the new currency and 3,000 in six per cent. bonds. Now, in this case, can any man doubt but what A's 1,000 will then purchase as much supplies as what his 4,000 would at present? And if so, in place of injury, he is positively benefitted, and those he buys from would be effected precisely in the same way. It is obvious that if the currency is reduced three-fourths, that prices of all commodities will fall at least in the same proportion, and the seller can well afford to sell lower, because he obtains a currency worth four times as much—dollar for dollar—as that he before had; and above all to cheapen supplies is to restore confidence in the Government and between individuals, and the "grand confidence," is now what is wanted, more than anything else. And then, in the case supposed, the Government makes a permanent ("forced") loan of 300,000,000, so that, in one word, all are benefitted and none injured. But my object was not to descant upon the advantages of this scheme, but simply to lay it before you, and hear such objections as might be raised against it. Very respectfully,

JAS. V. LYLES.

WINNSBORO, S. C., Nov. 13, 1863.

DEAR SIR: I have read with great care the letter you addressed to me. You propose two measures of vital importance—to fund the treasury notes now in circulation and to issue a select currency in limited amount. These are exactly the measures we ought to adopt.—We must fund the currency before we can do anything beneficial. This is the first great step. Without it nothing is of any avail.—You propose to accomplish this by a forced loan. Your proposition is certainly efficacious, if legal. The only question is, have we the constitutional power? I have all along taken it for granted we have not. If we have not the constitutional power we must fall upon some other plan. I invite your attention to this question of constitutional law. With great respect, &c.,

WM. W. BOYCE.

MR. JAMES V. LYLES.

The Prince of Wales is tolerably comfortable for a young man just commencing the world. One million dollars of the accumulation of his Cornwall estate has been paid for an estate in Norfolk; two millions remain as a balance with his banker, and he has besides an income of \$125,000 a year from his landed property, with \$500,000 voted him by Parliament while his mother lives, and \$250,000 pin money for his bride.

Letter from the President.

ATLANTA, GA., Oct. 27, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. Polk, Atlanta, Ga.:

GENERAL: After an examination into the cause and circumstances attending your being relieved from command with the army commanded by General Bragg, I have arrived at the conclusion that there is nothing to justify a Court Martial or Court of Inquiry, and I therefore dismiss the application.

Your appointment to a new field of duty, alike important and difficult, is the best evidence of my appreciation of your past services and expectation of your future career.

I am very truly and respectfully yours,

JEFF. DAVIS.

It is now pretty well understood that the cartel has been dropped and no more prisoners are to be exchanged during the war. The fact is suggestive. Our soldiers will remember that capture means imprisonment till the close of the war—perhaps for life. They will remember also that Yankee prisoners have to be fed, and that every one sent to Richmond shortens their rations and increases the price of food purchased by their wives and children. We are bound by every obligation of humanity to treat our prisoners well, and the Government will continue to feed them with the best it can afford, even when the price of provisions becomes so enormous that the wives and children of the soldiers will have to be supported by public charity. But what soldier will like to see his own flesh and blood turned into paupers, for the sake of pampering Yankees? The more Yankees sent to Richmond, the sooner will our women and children be compelled to beg their daily bread. We do not blame the Yankee Government for its course; everything is fair in war; but we repeat the fact that no more prisoners are to be exchanged is very suggestive, especially to Southern soldiers, who do not like long years of confinement, and who have families not accustomed to the pangs of hunger or hardships and ignominy of the poor house.—*Richmond Whig.*

The difference in the style of fighting between the armies of Lee and Bragg is said to be remarkably distinct, the Western army, with few exceptions, seldom charge continuously. The Virginia army rarely do otherwise. The one are content to stand up and exchange shots at long range; the other close up and dash forward. On the one hand experience has shown that the enemy stand fire as well as ourselves; on the other, the Yankee pluck always fails on the advance of cold steel.

Some twenty-three negroes found in arms on the river plantation of President Davis, at Hurricane, thirty miles below Vicksburg, arrived in Meridian, Tuesday morning. Ten of them are the property of the President and six belonged to his brother. They were captured by a squad of Wirt Adams' cavalry, under command of Lieut. Harvey. The negroes fired on our troops when they approached, but fortunately inflicted no injury. What disposition will be made of them is not yet known.

RESIDENCE FOR GENERAL LEE.—A resolution has been adopted by the City Council of Richmond, appropriating \$60,000 for the purchase of a house, to be tendered free of rent, to General Robert E. Lee, as a family residence. A Committee of three was appointed to select a suitable building.

TERRIBLE RIOT IN THE COAL REGION OF PENNSYLVANIA.—A despatch from Philadelphia gives an account of a terrible riot among the workmen in the coal regions around Manchester. Four men, one a prominent citizen of Philadelphia, had been killed, and the Governor had called on the military to put down the "rebellion." The riot grew out of an attempt to enforce the draft among the Irish colliers. At the last accounts some eight or ten persons had been killed, and the rioters had cut the telegraph wires.

FALL OF PRICES.—A correspondent at Wilmington, under date of the 11th inst., writes:

"Blockade goods are tumbling down with a crash. The last auction sale I attended was on the 10th inst., when prices fell more than seventy-five per cent. below those realized at the preceding ones. I am not at all surprised at this seemingly extraordinary change. There are here now no less than fifteen entire cargoes warehoused, waiting a change in the market. The result may, in a great measure, be attributed to the large stocks already in the hands of speculators, but much is also due to the success which has attended home manufactures.

"A merchant tailor, whom I met at the sale, observed that it was astonishing to witness the great extent to which home made cloth had come into use in so short a time, and that almost nine out of every ten men he met wore a homespun suit. So he said it was getting to be the case with shirts and domestics. He said he intended to be very cautious in his purchases, as a panic was brewing and he was not going to be caught among the victims."

George D. Prentice, of the Louisville Journal, draws the following picture of "society" in the Federal Capital:

"Vagabonds and swindlers, the scum and off-scourings of all countries, are ready to fleece any one according to his means, either of a million in government speculations, or a dollar at dropping the pigeon. Reeling rowdies, in and out of shoulder straps, crowd the streets, block up the carriage ways, and pollute the air with blasphemy. Women of the town—the creatures and victims of debauchery, in voluptuous carriages and crowned with jewels like a Cleopatra or Aspasia—flout in open day, shameless and unrebuked. The days are open bold, God-defying profligacy. The nights riotous, swindling and plundering. The rush for contracts and the like are followed in the evening by the brilliant glitter of the gambling hell, or the shameless profusion and ruin of the brothel. This at the national capital, to vitiate corrupt and destroy the very fountain of the nation. It has become an Augean stable that wants cleaning badly. It is a pity that a purifying army of some kind could not sweep it clean of its corruption, even if it had to be purified by fire."

A remarkable invention is now engrossing the attention of artists. The method followed by the inventor, M. Willeme, is this: A number of simultaneous photographs of a person are taken, and the outlines thus obtained are enlarged or reduced at will by the photograph. With these data Willeme produces a statue, the exact likeness of the original, in any size, and in so short a time, as is hardly to be credited. Any person wanting his statue to be made, is photographed in various directions, and two days later he may call for his statuette in clay.

From Bragg's Army.

ATLANTA, November 13.—Nothing from the front.

A party of Georgia State troops and Indians killed, on the line between Georgia and North Carolina, the notorious Bryson and thirty-four of his gang.

A special despatch to the Register, dated Sweetwater, 12th, says the Federals removed all their supplies to Knoxville for safety, and live on short ration.

The deserters recaptured were executed here yesterday.

A special despatch to the Intelligencer says two Yankee officers, who deserted, report that Grant expects soon to assault Lookout Mountain. His army is on half rations.

Fifteen negroes belonging to Mr. B. F. Adams, who has a plantation in Lee county, Ga., died a few days ago, from eating too heartily of the Chinese sugar cane syrup.

Senator Simms, of Kentucky, has donated \$5,000 to the wounded, of Bragg's army in the hospitals at Atlanta.