

# OAK STREET WEEKLY.

NOVEMBER, 1863. [VOL. XI, NO. 11.12.11]

SINGLE COPIES SIX CENTS.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the Year 1863, by Hensley & Hensley, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court for the Southern District, North Carolina.

## OAK STREET WEEKLY.

SAT., NOV, 1863

*(Articles collected from the four issues of Harper's Weekly Newspaper published in October and November, 1863)*

### DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

#### THE WINTER CAMPAIGN.

FROM Washington comes once more the weary report that the campaign in Virginia is at an end. In November, say the strategists, Virginia mud is impracticable. The only episode of the fall campaign has been Lee's unsuccessful attempt to outflank Meade or to force him to fight on the banks of the Rappahannock. Having failed in this, the rebel chief has fallen back to his old quarters, within easy reach of Richmond and Staunton, having lost in his brief enterprise about as many men as we did, and minus four or five guns, against which last loss he has no set-off. The Richmond editors do not seem well pleased with the result, on the whole, and we are not surprised at it. Whether, as is assumed at Washington, the campaign in Virginia is really over is not very certain to our mind. Virginia mud is no doubt very deep and very cohesive, but is it much more difficult to navigate than the swamps of the Mississippi, through which Grant and Banks marched their armies to victory? Of the propriety of marching forward at once to give Lee battle where he is, the President and General Meade must be much better judges than we are. But one does not need to be much of a soldier to see that if Lee sends any considerable portion of his army to reinforce Bragg in the Southwest it will be possible for Meade to attack him to advantage in Virginia, mud or no mud, and that he ought on no account to fail to do so.

So far as can be now discerned, however, the true key, in a military sense, to the rebel position is in the Southwest. It is doubtful whether the conquest of all Virginia, including of course Richmond, would really impair the capacity of the rebels to continue the war, so long as they held the more southern States. To lose Richmond would be a very serious loss, not only in a moral aspect, but likewise in view of the stores and work-shops established there. But it would not be fatal. Raleigh would answer every purpose of a Confederate capital, and the rebels have shown that they can build foundries

and cast shot and shell any where. Thus far, with the single exception of the capture of Norfolk, it is questionable whether all our operations in Virginia, from the commencement of the war to the present time, have yielded any permanent advantage to the Union cause.

#### THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND.

From Chattanooga we learn, by dispatches via Cincinnati, that a portion of the enemy's forces under Generals Breckinridge and Hindman had withdrawn from the front of General Grant's army, and were moving in large bodies to the left of our army. It was reported that an attack was made on both Atlanta and Rome in the rear. General McPherson drove the rebels from Canton, Mississippi, on the 15th, taking 200 prisoners and occupying the town. The Army of the Cumberland is detained for the present from making any general movement in consequence of the delay in bringing up supplies.



#### GENERAL GRANT IN THE FIELD.

General Grant has issued an order assuming command of the Military Division of the Mississippi, and announcing that his head-quarters will be in the field.

#### A FIGHT NEAR CORINTH.

General Osterhaus, in the advance from Corinth, eastward, on the 21st inst., encountered two brigades of rebel cavalry, under Generals Lee and Forrest, near Cherokee Station. The fight lasted an hour, when the rebels were driven back with serious loss. Our loss was seven killed and thirty-seven wounded.

#### THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

LEE has fallen back across the Rappahannock. Meade followed him slowly, repairing the Orange and Alexandria Railroad as he went. Skirmishes occur daily, especially between the cavalry reconnoitring parties; but no battle has taken place, and the impression prevails that the campaign in Virginia is at an end for the season.

#### WHAT THE REBELS WILL TAKE.

The Richmond Enquirer says:

Save on our own terms we can accept no peace whatever and must fight till doomsday rather than yield an iota of them; and our terms are:

Recognition by the enemy of the independence of the Confederate States.

Withdrawal of the Yankee forces from every foot of Confederate ground, including Kentucky and Missouri.

Withdrawal of the Yankee soldiers from Maryland, until that State shall decide by a free vote whether she shall remain in the old Union or ask admission into the Confederacy.

Consent on the part of the Federal Government to give up to the Confederacy its proportion of the navy as it stood at the time of secession, or to pay for the same.

Yielding up all pretension on the part of the Federal Government to that portion of the old Territories which lies west of the Confederate States.

An equitable settlement, on the basis of our absolute independence and equal rights, of all accounts of the public debt and public lands, and the advantages accruing from foreign treaties.

#### FOREIGN NEWS.

##### ENGLAND.

##### ENGLAND THREATENED WITH WAR IN INDIA.

It is stated that the Punjab had been invaded by 7000 men, headed by the sons of Dost Mohammed, who are thought to be merely the vanguard of a large force.

##### MR. BEECHER AT EXETER HALL.

The Rev. Henry Ward Beecher delivered a lecture on the American question at Exeter Hall, London, on the 20th of October. The hall was crammed to overflowing, and outside meetings were extemporized. Mr. Beecher was carried into the hall on the shoulders of policemen; being totally unable to make his way through the crowd. The lecture was a perfect success.

##### MORE NEUTRALITY.

Two other members of the British Ministry, the Secretary of War and the Solicitor-General, have made speeches on the American war. Both defended the course hitherto pursued by the Government, and the continuance of strict neutrality.

#### HUMORS OF THE DAY.

##### Beware of the Ladies!

Never quarrel with a lady. If you are troubled with her, retreat; if she abuses you, be silent; if she tears your cloak, give her your coat; if she boxes your ear, bow to her in return; if she tears your eyes out, feel your way to the door, and—fly!

A sentimental young man thus feelingly expresses himself: "Even as Nature benevolently guards the rose with thorns, so does she endow women with pins."

A correspondent of a contemporary says: "It is my duty to impress upon you the certain fact that one-half of one young people lose their senses when they lose their hearts. One of our party has already written five letters to his lady-love, and he goes about groaning and sighing in a most pitiable manner. He has no appetite, and sleeps up at the top of the house, close to the moon. He can not stand by one of the columns of the piazza without putting his arm round its waist, and I caught him kissing an apple to-day because it had red cheeks."

#### ADVERTISEMENTS.

##### To all Wanting Farms.

Large and thriving settlement of Vineland. Rich soil. Good crops of Wheat, Corn, Peaches, &c., to be seen—only 30 miles from Philadelphia. Delightful climate—20 acre tracts of from \$15 to \$20 per acre, payable within 4 years. Good schools and society. Hundreds are settling. Apply to CHAS. K. LANDIS, P.M., Vineland, Cumberland Co., New Jersey. Report of Solon Robinson and Vineland Rural sent free. From Report of Solon Robinson, Ag. Ed. Tribune. "It is one of the most extensive fertile tracts, in an almost level position, and suitable condition for pleasant farming that we know of this side of the Western Prairies."

##### Fine Sleeve and Bosom Studs.



Sleeve and Bosom Studs made of the finest Ivory, brought to a high polish, of all colors, and engraved with Initial Letter, Old English, &c. Monograms to order. Free by mail on receipt of price. Sets, \$1.50. Trade supplied. JOHN F. PHELPS, 429 Broadway, N. Y.



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## LOCAL NEWS

From the residents of Oak Street

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### BIRTH.

A fine baby girl named Clara Jean arrived at the home of Mr. And Mrs. Peck on 16 September to gladden the hearts of her parents. Born in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peck, all three in the family are doing well. Naturally, the Oak Street Bakery will be closed for the winter.

Baby, I lie and gaze on thee

All other things forgot-

In dreams the things of earth pass by

But awake I heed them not.

I hear thy soft breath come and go,

Thy breath so lately given,

And watch the blue unconscious eyes

Whose light is pure from heaven.

*Anonymous*

### HELP WANTED.

Harvest help needed! The apple crop this year is abundant at the Minton Farm. All available workers are asked to come help pick apples. Mrs Minton will be baking pies for the Methodist Church Bazaar taking place on 19 November. Please support our community by purchasing pies for yourself or for a donation to a destitute family.

### OAK STREET WEEKLY OFFICE REPAIRS.

The repairs to the Oak Street Weekly Office have been a success and the office will reopen this weekend to visitors. The main support of the structure was damaged in the historic "Moorpark" winds last winter, and it has been a trying year for the Hensleys. They are extremely grateful for the understanding of Oak Street residents as operations had to be made out of their home. However, the office has been restored and along with it a new office table and writing desk to be revealed.



Winter Fashions courtesy of Godey's Lady's Magazine

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### Rooms for Rent.

Good Rooms and Board can be obtained at the JOHNSON OAK INN. Price of Board \$4 per day, \$10 per week, or \$30 per month. Soldiers welcome as long as they are on good behavior.

### Writers Wanted.

Oak Street weekly are looking for knowledgeable persons to assist in the investigation and reporting of local news. Articles needed are book reviews, new receipts, news from soldiers, literary contributions, and fashion reviews. Articles are paid by the length - inquire with the Editors at the Weekly.

## FASHION REVIEW.

*(Be aware that these are the sole opinions of the author and are by no means shared by the editors of the Oak Street Weekly!)*

You may well elevate your nostrils at my resume of the fashions; but withal, I can't believe you totally indifferent. With the exception of the New Orleansais, Southern women, as a rule, dress badly. To my taste, Philadelphians understand the science better than any, with their lovely silver grays, and doves and 'ashes of roses,' and 'monkeys' last sighs.' — 'Those neutral tints, carried out in rich materials, are the perfection of good taste. Boston women are quite too much given up to ethics and metaphysics, gymnastics and the study of the Sanscrit primer, to care much how they adorn their barber-pole persons. New York girls affect a fast style—extreme decollete, as they whirl in the Deux-temps, or thread the German—the English jockey, in their riding schools, and the debardeur sometimes, in an occasional fancy ball. Washington, or as it was once rudely called, 'Hag-town,' because of its destitution in youthful beauty, always was made of cosmopolite dressers... This circuit brings us back to Baltimore. You who know how to appreciate our monumental city will not think me vain to award to our women, par excellence, the palm in dressing. There is more grace, and archness, and aptitude, and elegance in the knot of a Baltimore ribbon than any other this side of Paris...

*Submitted by Seccisia*



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Messrs. Editors:

Do give me your sympathies and attention for a brief space, while I tell you what a mortification I suffered Sunday on account of wearing a home spun dress—but, first, let me ask you a question: don't you think it would be more patriotic in our girls to wear home spun dresses, instead of wearing such doleful faces about the blockade, just because they can't get such lots of fine dresses and other finery as they used to in times back? I think so, Messrs. Editors, and I hope you do, too. Every second lady you meet up here in Oak Street has her face elongated to twice its natural length because, as she says, there's no "dry-goods" in the stores, "and what are we to do for wearing apparel?" If I suggest home-spun, O! such a thing is not to be thought of. Well, Messrs. Editors, I bought me a home-spun dress, had it made up and wore it to church on Sunday last. When I took my seat, I looked around and saw a smile, or a sneer, on the lips of our "would be" aristocratic ladies. They whispered and nudged each other, and were even rude enough to direct their glances straight at me. If they call that good manners, their code and mine slightly differs on the subject. I am only a little girl, and I felt like crying, but I managed to listen with tolerable attention to the sermon. Just as soon as I got home I sat down to write to you about it, feeling sure of your sympathy. I just made up my mind that every one of those ladies I saw laughing at my home spun dress were nothing but "Yankees." Now would you advise me to wear that dress again, or doff it entirely to please the over-refined taste of these Oak Street villains? Do answer me something—I think it would be nice to answer this question about home-spun dresses in your paper. Hoping to be excused for trespassing so long on your time, I remain yours, Respectfully, Louise.

Dear Ms. Louise,

Let me take the time to thank you for sharing with your horrendous experience. I have never given much notice to those who would snub me for my simpleness in dress and encourage you to turn your heads from them as well. They do not deserve one more thought on your mind. Homespun dresses show courage of conviction in these times to the situation we occasionally find ourselves; that without the means to purchase fine silks or satins we shall endeavor to show our beauty through acts of kindness and patriotism rather than through our clothing. Let those who are convinced true beauty only lies within their garments be ridiculed for their ugliness when they find themselves without.

Sincerely, Mrs. Hensley

To the Editor-

I have been a citizen of Oak Street for most of my long life, and so I have become acquainted and would like to say friendly to most of it's citizens. I understand that these are unusual times. Times that no American should ever have to endure, but just because all of our worlds have been shaken due to this unfortunate conflict, I think it is no time for us to forget that we are still ladies. I am simply shocked by the conduct of some of the ladies that reside in this town. Necklines have become shockingly low. Ladies wandering around down half naked, without hat nor gloves, ladies of good birth and manners consorting and chatting in the streets with soldiers without being properly introduced. These are exactly the activities that will result in the downfall of civilization and must be stopped. I implore the good mothers of our beloved towns to take charge of their daughters while their husbands are away. Do not allow such behavior; keep your precious daughters in check. Just because our beloved nation is at war, is no reason to let caution to the wind and forget our good breeding and manners.

Regards, Mrs. Jones  
Post Mistress

## GOSSIPS CORNER.

### SCENE AT THE DRESSMAKERS.

It is with shocking dismay that it is reported the appearance of not one, not two, but several Union soldiers taking tea with Mrs. Cressman at her new Dressmaker's shop this summer. Such a display of disheveled dresses strewn about on the floor! Upon hearing of this news, our honorable preacher reproached Mrs. Cressman for having questionable and highly controversial guests socializing within her establishment, which as all are aware is boasted to be for the "ladies' pleasure". Pleasure indeed! The result of which you will note this week is the closure of the shop, and the return of Mrs. Cressman to her sister Ms. Johnson and their Inn.

### NEIGHBORLY DISTURBANCE.

It is quite common for the Mrs. Jones to host a large party of 4 and 20 families in her home, and even more common for it to be such a ruckus event as to cause neighborly concern. So it is no surprise to find that Mr. Jones' house was once again visited by the county Sherriff last month and the hosts scolded for their guests' behavior. More likely than not, it was Mrs. Jones' herself the culprit of the disturbance as she tells such lavish stories as to make Ms. Filson's laugh heard from miles away.