

CONFEDERATE FINANCES.

The war had its humorous and funny incidents of many kinds, but the hugest joke connected with it was the Confederate currency. At the beginning the Southern soldiers were accustomed to treat United States currency rather contemptuously. An authentic story is told of one of them sitting on the bank of a stream in Louisiana, tearing up a large number of United States greenbacks that he had captured, and throwing the fragments into the water. When a fellow-soldier who knew their value remonstrated, the answer was:

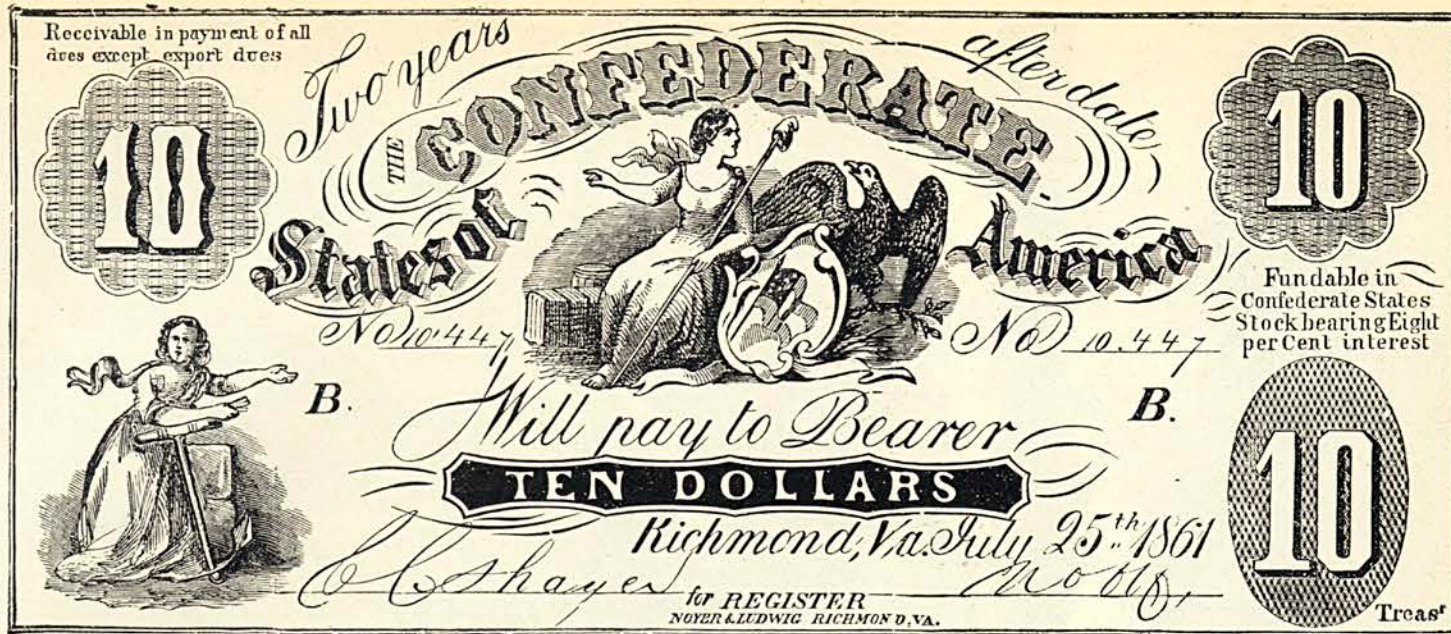
"No, I will put out of existence as many of the detestible things as I can." It was useless to try to explain to him that in destroying United States notes he was in reality assisting the United States Government by excusing it from ever paying them. The Confederate currency, much of which was made redeemable in coin "six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace with the United States," diminished rapidly in value. By the time the war had entered upon its fourth year this currency was worth hardly more than hundreds for one. At the same time the Confederates had learned that the United States greenback had a very respectable purchasing power, and when they took prisoners they commonly exchanged money with them, making some show of honesty by allowing five dollars in Confederate money for one dollar in United States money. The bonds

of the Confederacy had a somewhat similar career. Large numbers of them were purchased in England, and the English holders still occasionally have a meeting in London to inquire whether there is yet any prospect of getting something for them. If they would read the United States Constitution, they would learn that it is there provided that no debt or obligation contracted in aid of insurrection against the United States Government shall ever be paid by the United States or by any State.

TRADING BETWEEN THE PICKETS.

It is one of the strangest things in war to see two lines of men, with deadly weapons in their hands, ready to obey orders and kill one another at every opportunity, when at the same time they

have little or no feeling of personal animosity, and are ready to fraternize, or at least to communicate good-naturedly, whenever discipline is relaxed. In the Civil War there are some things, by many considered necessities, held by each side, and very scarce or not possessed at all by the other. The Confederates, of course, had plentiful supplies of tobacco, which on the Northern side of the line was at that time pretty dear; while the Northern troops were constantly supplied with good coffee, which it was almost impossible for the Confederates to obtain. The desire for these articles, and also to exchange newspapers and have a general chat, sometimes brought out the men from the rifle-pits to a line midway between them, where they talked and traded, until the appearance of an officer caused them to rush back to their own places.



FAC-SIMILE OF TREASURY NOTE ISSUED BY THE CONFEDERATE STATES GOVERNMENT, 1861.



SOLDIERS COMING OUT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE RIFLE-PITS ON CESSATION OF FIRING AND EXCHANGING CIVILTIES AND "YANKEE NOTIONS" DURING THE INVESTMENT OF PETERSBURG.