

THE RIFLE COMPANY.

To the Editor of the *Conservatist* :

As the character of the Rifle Company, which some of your readers are endeavoring to raise, is not understood, it is well that it should be briefly explained. In the second section of the "Act to provide an armed Military Force," (under which Volunteers were last week called for,) the following clause occurs: "the Governor shall be authorized and required to call for one Volunteer Company of Infantry from each Infantry Battalion, and to receive *two Rifle Companies* from each Infantry *Brigade*." It is clear then that the proposed Rifle Company is to be raised under the Act of Legislature, and as likely to be called into active service as any of the Infantry Companies. The Rifle Companies thus provided for will be as much a part of the Regiment to which its neighboring Infantry Companies will be attached, as the Infantry Companies themselves. The two Companies are to be raised from *this Infantry Brigade*. The Brigade is composed of the two Regiments that muster in this District, the two in Laurens, and the one in the lower corner of Spartanburg District, at Burnt Factory. Now, our neighboring town, Laurensville, has one of the Rifle Companies (in the spirited "State Guards,") to which this Brigade is entitled, and Newberry ought and must furnish the other. This is what gentlemen are striving to do for our town. Another point.—Section 13 of the same Act is as follows: "That the Companies herein authorized to be organized shall be *fully armed and equipped* when mustered into service." This puts at rest the report that men joining this Company will have to arm and equip themselves. It is enough to say that this proposed Rifle Company will, in all respects, be on an equal footing with the Infantry Companies raised under the Act of Legislature. If they are called into service, so will the Rifle Company be; if they will not be called into service, neither will the Rifles. Now we have contributed one quota in the Infantry service, let us like Laurens give the Brigade a Rifle Company.

A MEMBER.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN MCGOWAN.

The following is an official account of the trip