

# South Carolina Leader.

ALLEN COFFIN, Editor.

"First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."—Paul.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives: To express gratitude to God, in the name of the people, for the preservation of the United States, is my first duty in addressing you. Our thoughts next revert to the death of the late President by an act of partricial treason. The grief of the nation is still fresh; it finds some solace in the consideration that he lived to enjoy the highest proofs of its confidence by entering on the re-elected term of the Chief Magistracy, to which he had been elected; that he brought the civil war substantially to a close; that his loss was deplored in all parts of the Union; and that foreign nations have rendered justice to his memory. His removal casts upon me a heavier weight of cares than ever devolved upon any one of his predecessors. To fulfill my trust I need the support and confidence of all who are associated with me in the various departments of government, and the support and confidence of the people. There is but one way in which I can hope to gain their necessary aid; it is—to state with frankness the principles which guide my conduct, and their application to the present state of affairs, well aware that the efficiency of my labors will, in a great measure, depend on your and their unswerving approbation.

The Union of these United States of America was intended to last as long as the States themselves shall last. "The Union shall be perpetual," are the words of the Confederation. "To form a more perfect Union," by an ordinance of the people of the United States, is the declared purpose of the Constitution. The hand of divine Providence was never more plainly visible than in the framing and adopting of that instrument.

The full assertion of the powers of the General Government requires the holding of Circuit Courts of the United States within the districts where their authority has been interrupted. In the present posture of our public affairs, strong objections have been urged to the holding of these courts in any of the States where the rebellion has existed; and it has been ascertained, on enquiry, that the Circuit Court of the United States would not be held within the district of Virginia during the autumn or early winter, nor until Congress should have "an opportunity to consider and act on the whole subject." To your deliberations the restoration of this branch of the civil authority of the United States is, therefore, necessarily referred, with the hope that early provision will be made for the resumption of all its functions. It is manifest that treason, in its most flagrant character, has been committed. Persons who are charged with its commission should have fair and impartial trials in the highest civil tribunals of the country, in order that the Constitution and the laws may be fully vindicated; the truth clearly established and affirmed that treason is a crime, that traitors should be punished and the offence made infamous; and, at the same time, that the question may be judicially settled, finally and forever, that no State, of its own will, has the right to renounce its place in the Union.

The relations of the General Government towards the four millions of inhabitants whom the war has called into freedom have engaged my most serious consideration. On the propriety of attempting to make the freedmen electors by the proclamation of the Executive, I took for my counsel the Constitution itself, the interpretations of that instrument by its authors and their contemporaries, and recent legislation by Congress. When, after the first movement towards independence, the Congress of the United States instructed the several States to institute governments of their own, they left to each State to decide for itself the conditions for the enjoyment of the elective franchise. During the existence of the Confederacy there continued to exist a very great diversity in the qualifications of electors in the several States; and even within a State a distinction of qualifications prevailed with regard to the officers who were to be chosen. The Constitution of the United States recognizes these diversities when it enjoins, in the choice of members of the House of Representatives of the United States, "the electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislature." After the formation of the Constitution, it remained, as before, the uniform usage of each State to enlarge the body of its electors, according to its judgment; and, under this system, one State, after another, has proceeded to increase the number of its electors, until now universal suffrage, or something very near it, is the general rule. So fixed was this reservation of power in the habits of the people, and so unquestioned has been the interpretation of the Constitution, that, during the civil war, the late President never harbored the purpose—certainly never avowed the purpose—of disregarding it; and in the acts of Congress during that period, nothing can be found which, during the continuance of hostilities, much less after their close, would have sanctioned any departure by the Executive from a policy which has so uniformly obtained. Moreover, a concession of the elective franchise to the freedmen by the act of the President of the United States must have been extended to all colored men, wherever found, and so must have established a change of suffrage in the Western, Middle, and Northern States, not less than in the Southern

and South-Western. Such an act would have created a new class of voters, and would have been an assumption of power by the President, which nothing in the Constitution or laws of the United States would have warranted. On the other hand, every danger of conflict is avoided when the settlement of the question is referred to the several States. They can, each for itself, decide on the measure, and whether it is to be adopted at once and absolutely, or introduced gradually and with conditions. In my opinion the freedmen, if they show patience and many virtues, will sooner obtain a participation of the elective franchise through the States than through the General Government, even if it had power to intervene. When the tumult of emotions that had been raised by the suddenness of the social change shall have subsided, it may prove that they will receive the kindest usage from some of those on whom they have heretofore most closely depended.

But, while I have no doubt that now, after the close of the war, it is not competent for the General Government to extend the elective franchise in the several States, it is equally clear that good faith requires the security of the freedmen in their liberty and their property, their right to labor and their right to claim the just return of their labor. I cannot too strongly urge the dispassionate treatment of this subject, which should carefully be kept aloof from all party strife. We must equally avoid all hasty assumption of the natural impossibility for the two races to live side by side in a state of mutual benefit and good will. The experiment involves us in no inconsistency. Let us, then, go forward and make that experiment in good faith, and no be easily disheartened. The country is in need of labor, and the freedmen are in need of employment, culture, and protection. While their right of voluntary migration and expatriation is not to be questioned, I would not advise their forced removal and colonization. Let us rather encourage them to honorable and useful industry, where it may be beneficial to themselves and to the country; and, instead of hasty anticipations of the certainty of their failure, let there be nothing wanting to the fair trial of the experiment. The change in their condition is the substitution of labor by contract for the status of slavery. The freedmen cannot fairly be accused of unwillingness to work, so long as a doubt remains about his freedom of choice in his pursuits, and the certainty of his recovering his stipulated wages. In this the interests of the employer and the employed coincide. The employer desires in his workmen spirit and alacrity, and these can be permanently secured in no other way. And if the one ought to be able to enforce the contract, so ought the other. The public interest will be best promoted, if the several States will provide adequate protection and remedies for the freedmen. Until this is, in some way, accomplished, there is no chance for the advantageous use of their labor; and the blame of ill-success will not rest on them.

I know that sincere philanthropy is earnest for the immediate realization of its remotest aims; but time is always an element in reform. It is one of the greatest acts on record to have brought four millions of people into freedom. The career of free industry must be fairly open to them; and then their future prosperity and condition must, after all, rest mainly on themselves. If they fail, and so perish away, let us be careful that the failure shall not be attributable to any denial of justice. In all that relates to the destiny of the freedmen, we need not be too anxious to read the future; many incidents which from a speculative point of view, might raise alarm, will quietly settle themselves.

Now that slavery is at an end, or near its end, the greatness of its evil, in the point of view of public economy, becomes more and more apparent. Slavery was essentially a monopoly of labor; and as such looked the States where it prevailed against the incoming of free industry. Where labor was the property of the capitalist, the white man was excluded from employment, or had but the second best chance of finding it; and the foreign emigrant turned away from the region where his condition would be so precarious. With the destruction of the monopoly, free labor will hasten from all parts of the civilized world to assist in developing various and immeasurable resources which have hitherto lain dormant. The eight or nine States nearer the Gulf of Mexico have a soil of exuberant fertility, a climate friendly to long life, and can sustain a denser population than is found as yet in any part of our country. And the future influx of population to them will be mainly from the North, or from the most cultivated nations in Europe. From the sufferings that have attended them during our late struggle, let us look away to the future, which is sure to be laden for them with greater prosperity than has ever before been known. The removal of the monopoly of slave labor is a pledge that those regions will be peopled by a numerous and enterprising population, which will vie with any in the Union in compactness, inventive genius, wealth, and industry.

Our Government springs from and was made for the people—not the people for the Government. To them it owes allegiance; from them it must derive its courage, strength, and wisdom. But, while the Government is thus bound to defer to the people, from whom it derives its existence, it should, from the very consideration of its origin, be strong in its power of resistance to the establishment of inequalities. Monopolies,

perpetuities, and class legislation, are contrary to the genius of free government, and ought not to be allowed. Here there is no room for favored classes or monopolies, the principle of our Government is that of equal laws and freedom of industry. Wherever a monopoly attains a foothold, it is sure to be a source of danger, discord, and trouble. We shall but fulfil our duties as legislators by according "equal and exact justice to all men," special privileges to none. The Government is subordinate to the people; but, as the agent and representative of the people, it must be held superior to monopolies, which, in themselves, ought never to be granted; and which, where they exist, must be subordinate and yield to the Government.

The Constitution confers on Congress the right to regulate commerce among the several States. It is of the first necessity, for the maintenance of the Union, that that commerce should be free and unobstructed. No State can be justified in any device to tax the transit of travel and commerce between States. The position of many States is such that, if they were allowed to take advantage of it for purposes of local revenue, the commerce between States might be injuriously burdened, or even virtually prohibited. It is best, while the country is still young, and while the tendency to dangerous monopolies of this kind is still feeble, to use the power of Congress so as to prevent any selfish impediment to the free circulation of men and merchandise. A tax on travel and merchandise, in their transit, constitutes one of the worst forms of monopoly, and the evil is increased if compounded with a denial of the choice of route. When the vast extent of our country is considered, it is plain that every obstacle to the free circulation of commerce between the States ought to be sternly guarded against by appropriate legislation, within the limits of the Constitution. The lamentable events of the last few years, and the sacrifices made by the gallant men of our Army and Navy, have swelled the records of the Pension Bureau to an unprecedented extent. On the 30th day of June last the total number of pensioners was 85,986, requiring for their annual pay, exclusive of expenses, the sum of \$8,023,445. The number of applications that have been allowed since that date will require a large increase of this amount for the next fiscal year. The means for the payment of the stipends due, under existing laws, to our disabled soldiers and sailors, and to the families of such as have perished in the service of the country, will no doubt be cheerfully and promptly granted. A grateful people will not hesitate to sanction any measures having for their object the relief of soldiers mutilated and families made fatherless in the effort to preserve our national existence.

When, on the organization of our Government, under the Constitution, the President of the United States delivered his inaugural address to the two Houses of Congress, he said to them, and, through them, to the country and to mankind, that "the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally, staked in the experiment intrusted to the American people." And the House of Representatives answered Washington, through the voice of Madison: "We adore the invisible hand which has led the American people through so many difficulties, to cherish a conscientious responsibility for the destiny of republican liberty." More than seventy-six years have glided away since these words were spoken; the United States have passed through severer trials than were foreseen; and now, at this new epoch in our existence as one nation, with our Union purified by sorrows and strengthened by conflict, and established by the virtue of the people, the greatness of the occasion invites us once more, with solemnity, to repeat the pledges of our fathers to hold ourselves answerable before our fellowmen for the success of the republican form of government. Experience has proven its sufficiency in peace and in war; it has vindicated its authority through dangers and afflictions, and sudden and dangerous emergencies, which would have crushed any system less firmly fixed in the heart of the people.

**THE COLORED PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**—There are now in operation in Washington City twenty-five colored schools, with fifty-nine teachers, and thirty-two pupils; in Georgetown there are four schools, with 381 pupils; in Alexandria 10 schools, with 1022 pupils; and in the freedmen's village on Arlington Heights two schools, with 302 pupils. All of these schools are in a flourishing condition, and are supported by the voluntary contributions of Northern benevolent societies. The City Council has passed an ordinance providing that in the event of a bill being introduced in Congress for the admission of the colored man to that city to the right of suffrage, a special election shall be held to ascertain the sentiments of the people on the subject. We think Congress had better take the management of this semi-rebellious and contumacious city into its own hands. Congressional administration of its affairs cannot be worse than now.—Commonwealth.

An experienced southern planter who has tried the experiment of paying cash to the negroes for their labor, says "it works like a charm." Another man says: "They won't work—they won't work—unless you pay them cash every four weeks!"

## COMMUNICATED.

MORRIS ISLAND, S. C.,  
Dec. 10, 1865.

DEAR LEADER: It is with much pride and great complacency that I send you the enclosed Resolutions of the legislature of my glorious Old State (of Vermont), and which were unanimously adopted at their late session. I cannot in this connection refrain from noticing, that colored men have always voted in Vermont, without detriment to the interest of the Commonwealth; and when some years since a thief of the "divine institution" essayed to capture and claim his property [in man] the judge before whom the case was brought informed the claimant that if he could "show him a bill of sale from God Almighty, you can have the man; otherwise he is free" and a man for a that! She is the only one of the "original thirteen" States, but what held slaves.

"They touch her souls  
And their shackles fall!"

I would advise the Commission, soon to proceed to Washington, to make the acquaintance of the noble men from Vt., who grace, in their legislative capacity, the national halls. I assure the Commission they will meet with a cordial reception.—Yours &c.,

L. S. LANGLEY,  
Sergt. Major, 33rd. U. S. C. I.

Joint Resolutions in relation to the reconstruction of the States recently in rebellion against the United States.

Resolved, That it is the sense of the General Assembly of this State, that in the reconstruction of the Governments of the States, lately in Rebellion against the government and authority of the United States, the moral power and legal authority vested in the Federal Government should be exercised to secure equal rights without respect to color, to all citizens residing in those States, including herein the right of elective franchise.

Resolved, That the Secretary of State is hereby instructed to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States, and also a copy to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress, who are hereby requested to present the same to both Houses in Congress.

## ABOUT NEGRO INSURRECTIONS.

Felix Grundy of Tennessee once wisely remarked, that the way to ensure the peace of a state is to legislate as to make it to the interest of all its honest inhabitants to keep the peace. Secure the rights of all, he said, and all will support and maintain the laws. Those people in Louisiana and elsewhere who are fearful of a negro insurrection will do well to bear in mind this speech of a Southern man.

Much has been said about the recent outbreak in Jamaica, and people speak as though negro insurrections were new there, and had only occurred since the blacks became free. But the facts are otherwise. While slavery existed in Jamaica there was a constant insurrection there. For forty years the maroons, mutinous and fugitive slaves, held the mountain fastness of the island, and carried on a war with the whites, and the government was at last forced to make a treaty of peace with them. In 1760, in 1795, and in 1832 there were special and formidable insurrections of the slaves, subdued with great difficulty. But when freedom was declared these insurrections ceased, and from the year 1833, when the slaves of Jamaica were set free, to the last month, there has been no outbreak.

Thus merely freeing the slaves was the most effective of peace measures. But the oppression of the poorer class continued, and lasts this day, as we know, in part, a few days ago. The form of government is ingeniously adapted to encourage this class oppression in an island where the blacks are to the whites as forty to one; where, in fact, they are almost the whole of "the people."

The governor is appointed by the Crown, and is paid a salary of £5,000, of which £1,500 is paid by the island and the remainder by the British Government. The Privy Council, or Cabinet, is appointed by the Governor. The Legislative Council of seventeen members forms the upper house of the colonial legislature, and is also appointed by the Governor. The parishes are also presided over by a magistrate called a *custos rotularum*, who is appointed by the Governor for life. The only branch of the Government in which the people have any voice whatever is the lower branch of the legislature, which consists of two members elected from each parish, with an additional one for Spanish Town, Kingston, and Port Royal, making forty-seven in all. These are elected by freeholders of the annual value of six pounds rental, which reduces the entire number of voters on the island to three thousand, or one in one hundred and thirty of the population.

No white man, speaking the English language, standing in the same relations to a small minority of wealthy aristocrats, would have borne this state of things as patiently as these Jamaica Negroes have.—N. Y. Evening Post.

Quibble, on hearing it remarked, in a discussion of certain facts of ancient history, that "Noah made the ark of Gopher wood," said immediately that Noah "made the antediluvians go for wood," to build it with.

It is authentically stated in Macon, Ga., that Hon. Robert Toombs, who has been concealed for months in one of the adjacent counties, has eluded his pursuers, escaped across the country, and made his safe exit from the port of New Orleans for foreign parts.

## SERVANTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The whole civilized world now seems to be troubled with the servant question. How shall we get good servants, and how shall we keep them? are the inquiries that are being discussed—too often in vain—in thousands of households not only in Boston and New York, but in London, Paris, Vienna, and Berlin. In our own cities no brilliant reformatory measures have been initiated, and we are obliged, as our late President said of the prosecution of the war at a very dismal period, "to keep pecking away" in the old unsatisfactory style. On the other side of the water relief has been sought in a new agency, which pledges itself to furnish first-class servants of any special qualifications which may be required. But it is another thing to keep them after you get them, for even "an endless chain" of first-class servants through one's house would not be a desirable result.

In this stage of the general question, the State of South Carolina, having disposed of the little matter of secession, comes forward as an instructive law-giver on the subject of the entire relations and management of servants. That State never does anything by halves, and the code to which we refer, passed recently by her Legislature, is a moral thoroughness, which ought to have a good moral effect, at least, on all servants. In the first place, there must be a regular contract between master and servant, with the wages to be fixed, an application of the parties, by the district judge or magistrate. There would seem to be no need of a certificate of character, for the law says "the servants must obey all lawful orders and be honest, truthful, sober, civil, and diligent." What householder in Boston would not cheerfully submit to an increase of even his present taxes to sustain such a law as that? But to guard against all possible shortcomings in practice, the law-makers of South Carolina add: "The master may moderately correct a servant under eighteen years of age."

As to the specific duties of servants in South Carolina, it is provided that, in the country, "servants must rise at dawn, feed, water, and care for the animals, etc., and begin regular work by sunrise." In the city and in households the same general regulations prevail so far as is applicable, with this modification: "They must obey calls at all hours of the day and night, on all days of the week; and it is their duty to be especially civil and polite to their masters, their families, and their guests." In case these ideal qualifications are not realized in any particular case, the servant may be discharged. But (here again note the vigilance of South Carolina for practical contingencies) "if the master does not wish to discharge the servant he may complain to the judge, who may cause to be inflicted on the servant suitable corporal punishment, or impose fines."

But says the reader, "this is slavery." Does he not know that slavery is abolished in South Carolina with the proviso that Congress shall not hereafter legislate for the negro? South Carolina will take care of that. She will have no more slaves but she will have "servants," and we see how she proposes to manage them. Give her free rein for a few years, and wherein will the new system fall behind the old in severity, in despotism, in utter willfulness? The name will have gone, but the thing will have revived, more hateful than ever. We are inclined to think that South Carolina has been a little too hasty in her ambitious attempt to enlighten the world on the duties of servants, and that she will be taught that an amendment of the Constitution of the United States must be respected to the last letter.—Boston Journal.

**RADICALS THE SAVIORS.**—SIR.—The Radicals originally awoke the nation to the sin and evil of slavery. They have since kept it awake, and prepared it, in every stage, to contend against oppression.

When President Lincoln doubted, hesitated, faltered, the Radicals, under God, showed the way, pushed him forward, and are the prime source of much of the renown with which his name is now upheld. Who does not remember the bitter times when Mr. Lincoln superseded Fremont and dallied with McClellan? In my opinion, not a little of the credit which covered the death of Edward Everett was due to the criticisms he received from the unsparing lips of Wendell Phillips.

At the present hour, if the very worst things do not happen, it will be because the Radical Anti-Slavery men predict them, showing the results to which wrong measures must lead—the prediction, in this case, preventing some of the fulfillment. Grateful, indeed, am I that the eloquence of a Phillips has warned us of a tricky organization of Congress, of National repudiation, of a victorious South, etc.; and that the American Anti-Slavery Society is not yet dissolved. Charles Sumner, with all his messianic power, and every other true man, in either branch of Congress—and notwithstanding the bearing and force of the late election—will need to be grateful for the utmost efforts of those far-sighted "unpracticables," whose mission it still is to labor, suffer, and wait.—Lucius Holmes in A. S. Standard.

The sale of a thorough-bred cow, belonging to Col. J. W. Fairfax, of Loudoun county, weighed 124 pounds when only a day old.

Quantrell, the brigand, is on his way to Washington, seeking pardon. Don't he wish he may get it?

## POETRY.

### SUFFRAGE.

GIVE A MAN HIS FREEDOM,  
And then withhold his rights!  
That's a kind of Liberty  
That wouldn't do for Whites,  
"Tis well enough for Niggers,"  
"Tis the same "logic" reads:  
—Now out upon such sophistries,  
Such anti-human creeds!

Chorus—For 'tis black hand and white hand—  
And God made both—  
And the hand that holds a musket  
Is fit to hold a vote;  
They've helped us conquer Treason,  
And take it by the throat;  
And the hand that holds a musket  
Is fit to hold a vote.

The treason of our blood like water  
To save the country's cause;  
And they have saved the right  
To help us make the laws!  
For when they've done us wrong,  
For when they've done us wrong,  
They've done us wrong, for when they've done us wrong,  
They've done us wrong, for when they've done us wrong,

Chorus—For 'tis black hand and white hand, etc.  
The sweat and toil of ages  
O'er our country's brow—  
O'er our country's brow—  
O'er our country's brow—  
O'er our country's brow—  
O'er our country's brow—  
O'er our country's brow—  
O'er our country's brow—

Chorus—For 'tis black hand and white hand—  
And God made both—  
And the hand that holds a musket  
Is fit to hold a vote;  
They've helped us conquer Treason,  
And take it by the throat;  
And the hand that holds a musket  
Is fit to hold a vote.

Chorus—For 'tis black hand and white hand—  
And God made both—  
And the hand that holds a musket  
Is fit to hold a vote;  
They've helped us conquer Treason,  
And take it by the throat;  
And the hand that holds a musket  
Is fit to hold a vote.

## MISCELLANY.

**DESTINY OF AMERICA.**—We have been accused with setting up the pursuit of money, and following the acquisition of wealth, as the only thing worthy the attention of men; of being extravagant and dissipated in public life, untrustworthy in private. That we are the devotees of gain, the scornors of all things intellectual. The last four years have seen this epidemic people scattering their wealth without stint, pouring out their best blood like water, encountering fortune in public, and bereavements and sorrows in private, and exulting in the self-sacrifices of the most grinding taxation; and all for what? And we would have encountered sacrifices ten times more severe for the sake of an idea. That idea is—that there shall be but one great republic on this continent, whose grandeur should throw into eclipse even the great ancient republics of Rome, and that we should be sovereign among the powers of the earth. That idea has been established. We have irresistible armies in the field. We have a navy, a match for the combined navies of the world. What signifies the debt incurred by these things? The gold, the iron, the cotton, coal, tobacco, the oil, and all the products that make us the richest people on earth, will soon settle that. The idea is being carried. The lion permits no rival in the boundless forests which he selects for his home; the eagle tolerates no companion in his flight to the skies. So there can be no rival to this republic on the American continent.—Prof. J. W. Draper.

**DEATH OF TWO REPRESENTATIVE COLORED MEN.**—We are pained to announce that the rising cause of colored-men rights has just lost two of its ablest advocates. The first is Dr. J. McCune Smith, of New York, one of the editors of the Anglo-African, and a writer and speaker of ability, which took place at Williamsburg, N. Y., on Friday last. The second is Capt. H. Ford Douglas, of Cincinnati, an eloquent orator, and a brave and patriotic soldier, (who was in the national service nearly the whole time of the rebellion), which occurred at Leavenworth, Kansas, on Saturday morning week. Capt. Douglas lectured a few years ago in the Fraternity course in this city.—Boston Commonwealth.

A tight-rope dancer from Fishville, named T. N. Huntley, under twenty years of age, lost his life at Wilmington, N. C., on the 24th ult., while in the act of performing. He is said to have shown nervousness and self-distrust, yet persevered, and when nearly across upon the rope the unhappy youth fell, and was terribly mutilated, dying immediately. His experience was unequal in his undertaking.