

Validatory.
Having accomplished the object for which we assumed the chair editorial, and fully established the purposes of our advent by the introduction of an organ completely devoted and dedicated to the "Restoration, Reconstruction and Union of the States," we now pay our parting salute to those who have encouraged us in the efforts we have expended by their material and friendly aid. We assure them all that our acquaintance has been of the most satisfactory nature, and while we withdraw from their presence in a public capacity we shall ever hold in remembrance the early patrons of THE NEW ERA, which has now found its way as far as the momentous questions which concern us in the new era of our Nation, extend.

Starting out unknown, we have become well known. To each point of the compass our weekly issues have been sent, and returning mails have brought acknowledgments of our welcome everywhere.
We have been plain in our dealings, matter-of-fact in our columns, and striven to counsel and instruct in the blunt language of sober earnestness, believing what we have said, and saying what we believed, allowing nothing but the requirements of the hour, the "logic of events," to move us. We have told some stern truths, unfolded some unpleasant scenes, and, it may be, provoked some harsh feelings; nevertheless we were, as the subjects of duty, bound only to answer to its dictates, and therefore could not fawn upon any.

We have been rejoiced, also, in the proud privilege of beginning our career as a journal, when the State of South Carolina, repenting of the past, cautious of its present, and hopeful of its future, was seeking the opportunity to show how far it had been governed by the wrong and would be actuated by the right. We have seen the State pass into its provisional sphere of a chaotic or anomalous confusion; it has, in its delegated capacity, assembled and proclaimed the changes in its constitutional relations; it is now moving step by step into the sure restoration of all its former prerogatives because noble prerogatives; the new era's dawn is the bright hope of its reconstructed policies, and perfect reconciliation with the promises that await a country united and cemented by the indivisible bonds of a common destiny.

South Carolina and THE NEW ERA have a history co-eval in the amended constructions of events; and, we trust that both may continue improving and improved upon, furnishing to each that support which co-operative sympathy brings and insures.
In retiring, then, from our official duties we have sought a successor whose ability and experience, whose acceptance and extended acquaintance will warrant the highest promise in the future of our successful enterprise. As your favor, so will he again command their generous support.

We invite all who have added to the interest of our columns by their contributions and patronage, by their good-will and desire to further an honest motive, to continue their bestowments upon our brother, who will in the next number of THE NEW ERA make his bow editorial.

The many friends of Major J. H. Nowwood will give him a cordial welcome, while we extend our most earnest wishes to his welfare.
To the gentlemanly publisher and attaché of our office, the associates still of "the coming man," we give a kind adieu.
For those whose names have graced our subscription lists and THE NEW ERA we shall ever feel a strong and abiding interest, a true and devoted attachment. To each, to all, we say farewell.

The Present Condition of Things.
We have marked with interest and gratification every sign of returning wisdom in all the deliberations of the once misguided South.—We have had no disposition to withhold our commendations when we have found evidence of awakened solicitude in hearts converted to the faith of a perfect allegiance to the Government of the United States. Whereas there were many, who, "in honesty" it is claimed, believed they were doing only their duty, when they declared themselves separated from the past; whereas they could counsel in the day of their heated imaginations, disaffection, desertion and disunion; nay more, conspire with fell intent toward the disruption of a country, which had been the birth-place of all their property, greatness, wealth and honor; beside the protector of even their unrighteous "rights;" whereas the results of their wayward belligerency and folly have been as disheartening as disastrous and full of incalculable injury throughout our borders; yet, when there is a disposition to atone for such unjustifiable wrong, to acknowledge the mistake and the criminality of all its acts, we must admire at least the manhood of such confessions, and accord our confidence as far as the works of the repentant correspond with their professions.
We have not failed to be vigilant in our inspection of every element and attribute of character, of the different expressions and exhibitions of loyalty, as it has been presented to us, sincere and otherwise; we have noted from time to time the honorableness of motive, of action on the part of "leading men" in leading questions and important measures; for we care little about pretension in the absence of true meaning; we have had some opportunity of knowing much that was transpiring around us, and we are glad to acknowledge that the impulses, the intents and aspirations of those especially in the State of South Carolina, whose voices have been heard, can only when hope we to the political future of our State.

Even those, who have been uppermost in the assemblies of rabid nullification, secession and rebellion, have "seen the error of their ways" and are turning to the consciousness of mis-spent lives. If they are not altogether eligible themselves to the benefits which they advocate, they are not so bound up in self-adoration or aggrandizement as to forget that others have interests, and that the well-being of the community is of more consequence than individual prejudice gratified, presumption sanctioned or profit gained. Like true statesmen, like men of a noble spirit, they await the approval of their own acts, the acceptance of their creeds transformed, by those who will not fail to acknowledge their disinterested fealty to the public good.

It has been a source of more than gratification to us to know that all are not apathetic in the great matters of a change in the speculations, theories and conclusions of centuries.—We have been content at the indifference of the indifferent, the say-a-good-deal but do little; those who incite with words, that's all. We imagine the people of the South have seen, heard and felt enough of their merit, distinguished influence and responsibility. They were through seas of blood in visions, but came not to spill much themselves. They believe when the mischief they have wrought becomes dangerous that
"Distance lends enchantment to the view," and prefer to see the slaughter through the telescope inverted.

During all the initial steps of our reconstructive designs we have secured success to our restoration, from the fact of the absence of that noise and bluster which attends the non-essentials in their every manifestations.—In our elections, at our Conventions, the sterling citizens have moved with caution, circumspection and deference to the demands of duty. Old men eloquent in the established doctrines of State policies, fathers in the construction of our vital, institutional and constitutional laws, the thinkers of decades and long accredited actors upon the stage of our political history; with the young men prominent in the defense of their favorite maxims, faithful in the trust of strict, however exercised; men of the forum and of the field, eager once in the strife of error, have met and covenanted anew, determining only when of wrong convinced the right to pursue.

We have only to refer to the honorable acts of our late Convention to substantiate our most expectant indulgences in the present condition of things. When representative men like PERRY, ORR, PORTER, IGLIS and DUNLEY take the stand of progressive as well as administrative liberality in the ordinances of the future; when the very framers of seditious instruments and promulgators of the necessity of disunion unsay their sayings, and undo their doings by bold and fearless denunciations of their own arguments or works, surely we cannot but invite the commendations of all who admire a noble, many principle, such as will actuate him who finds himself misled and misleading, to acknowledge it. We are among those who appreciate the coming out from among prejudices unfounded, even if it calls for self denial and sacrifice. It is the quickest means of exaltation to be humbled especially in the avowals of error.

Whatever may be said of the sincerity of Southern men as to their assertions; whether or not they mean all they profess; however much there may be a desire on the part of radical or inimical parties, persons or cliques to dispute the loyalty of their words or works, one thing is sure, no one but Southern men can maintain their positions; no one can answer for the future but themselves as to the intent of their lives. They have the fortune or misfortune of their States, localities and persons in their own hands. They are to be the architects of a nobler policy, prosperity and fame, or the builders of a rule that shall bring about their ruin and desolation. Having begun well they have only to continue in the same line of promise, and when duty is ended, they will have done well.

There is much before them in the prospects that are arising, local as well as National.—Soon they are to unite again in the consideration of momentous and world wide themes, in the legislation of which, as a nation, we are to discover whether we have truly estimated the epochs through which we have passed, the problems that have been presented, the obligations of the present hour or whether we are worthy of the trust confided to our charge in the destiny that awaits us and the consequent examples we are to set before a quick observing, and imitating world.
The present condition of things demands that, that we sink out of the narrow limits of a prescribed sovereignty and stand united upon the broad platform of our Republican declarations. That while we are mindful of the State that reared us we shall remember our greater devotion to the Government which protects us—the continent that gives us a name and makes us honored among the nations of the earth.

Relics of Want and Suffering.
Our correspondent whose article upon the Stockade appears in this issue, has put in our hands relics of a barbarous reign, which he found in the prison dens at Florence. While they speak of the skill and adaptability of the poor subjects of want and cruelty, they are the evidence too of the dernier resorts of suffering, and we can almost hear the recital of wrongs which the emaciated starving patriots endured. Their tongues may be silent yet they speak to us from the festering graves where they have been huddled.

The Soldiers Burial Ground.
We are glad to learn that Adj. GREEN of the 20th Maine V. Vols. has commenced the building of a fence around the burial ground of the Soldiers who have died since the garrison was established here. He will also cause to be put up neat tablets at the head of the graves with the names of the sleeping warriors thereon. This is as it should be. We cannot guard too well, or honor too much the sacred dust of our country's defenders.

A Certain Class.
There are a certain class of men every where, who claim that they know nothing of what is transpiring around them unless it happens to jingle with their own notions; unless it is congenial to their own way of thinking. If any thing occurs in their very door-yard unlike what they feel a sympathy for, growing out of their own measures, projects or declarations; if it give, as it were, the lie to their affirmations; if it produce results contrary to their prophetic visions, utterances or hopes, you will never know, by their acknowledgments, of the fact. Should you question them upon the phenomenon you will find them losing their senses very fast; they will not only have been blind at the time of the "strange event," but will grow dumb while you are dwelling upon it, and you will be in doubt whether or not they hear before you conclude your investigations.

It is not an easy matter to convince a man upon any subject, whatever turn it may assume, who thinks he has exhausted all its merits, and placed it among his antiquarian conclusions.
The bent of the mind has much to do with the stupidity of some intellects to accept the changes that are wrought in the great revolutions of the world. It makes a large difference with any one whether they are satisfied with what did occur as to what will occur.—We have heard of people and seen those who preferred the days of their fathers so well that they would have been better pleased if times had never changed, if "conditions had never moved."

We presume the Hottentot would be ill at ease in refinement, and the Feejee Islander a poor appreciator of the code moral. It is not wonderful that a man is governed by the influence of his surroundings, that he forms estimates, makes deductions, assumes positions in accordance with the rules, reasonings and presumptions of his teachers, viz: circumstances as well as men. But, when logic is grown old and in the process of events, facts displace theories; when the present unfolds a new book to be read, a new calendar to inspect, a something in the way so unlike the past, it does seem strange that sentient beings do not find at least that they are brought to confront more than a doubt, and if it be an innovation, to confess it the irrefragable approach of power.

There are many, some in most every community, who are always neutral; who never take any side in the political questions of the day; who disdain to be politicians; whose neck to enter the "muddy pool" of contention in a public debate; who scorn newspaper articles; who are in fact "no politicians," yet so full of partisan rancor, prejudice and deceit, that though one should come from the dead dominions of their follies to announce their speculations or confirmations false, they cannot withhold their flings of invective or stay the bent of their negative intolerance.
They are "the setters on" of those who tilt in the tournament of words; they are the provokers of frenzied contests; the "s' boys" of controversy, while they keep at a convenient distance or rather disconnection with the effects produced.

Like gnats they seek to sting the nostrils of contenders, that they may enjoy unharmed the results. They are "no politicians," but they admire the strife of those they claim no connection with. If there is not subject of discussion or distraction enough about them, if the mind of the public is not sufficiently agitated, if the animosities of party are not with malice lent, these self-absorbed, complacent, justice-loving, truth-revering perfectionists, at once, in sugar-coated interrogations, stir the elements.
That discord may sever rage and fever rave. We admire consistency; if there are those who profess a peculiar condition or caste of character which makes them neutral, let their neutrality

In strictest silence dwell.
These over-wise, close-keeping, always-hinting inquisitives, would have the world believe, that they possess statistical intelligence that will at least answer all implicative interrogatories; at the same time they bow themselves out of your presence with the profound protestations of indifference, looking over their spectacles to observe the effect of their unequalled effort.
Nothing appalls them, though they conjure things appalling. Like a negation they are arguing always out of their own details, and would, if possible, convince the world against itself while they turn the wheels of truth, justice, progress backward until the reign of desolation, suspicion, confusion should be made supreme. We have this certain class everywhere, like "thorns in the flesh" or public funguses.

☞ We have on our table the alarm rattles of his Snakebite, who for sixteen years, has carried his venom and hissed his wrath through our precincts. We have no admiration for any of the reptile tribe and we say to them all whether they have rattles on their tails or copper in their heads, we wish that some SAINT PATRICK or canonized patron of all else, but that which is devilish, would banish them hence;—they have been up and down our land, seeking whom they might devour long enough.

New Orders.
General Orders No. 43; Concerning the relieving of officers and their successors. No. 44; Relating to the dishonorable dismissal of Lt. Col. J. M. DAILY, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry. No. 45; Respecting the dismissal of Asst. Surgeon CHARLES B. CHAPMAN, 6th Kentucky Cavalry.

☞ We have been frequently applied to of late to know where *Harper's Weekly* may be obtained, and we therefore notify the public that our enterprising Postmaster Mr. EDWARDS deals in all the Standard Monthlies and Weeklies and that they will no doubt find at his counter such periodicals as they desire.

The Election and the Elected.

To-morrow we shall be called upon to deposit our votes for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Representatives of the General Assembly of the State. The polls will be open at 9 o'clock A. M., at the separate precincts, and, it is the duty of all who have the interest of the State at heart, if they are not overwhelmed with enthusiasm because of the absence of an excited contest, to swell the number of their ballots as far as they are lawfully entitled to do. No opposition exists against the popular candidates for the chairs of Governor, but, let them have a strong poll, so that they may have the satisfaction of knowing that their course in the late repudiation of ordinances illegal as well as their prowess in the defence of submission to the demands of humanity, the requirements of their country has been approved of by the people. We can have no better leader than Hon. JAMES L. ORR, who has been one of the most fearless pioneers in the emerging of the State from its uncertainty and darkness into the light of present hope and security for the future. The name of W. D. PORTER is too well known throughout our Commonwealth to require any mention of his peculiar fitness for the honor to be conferred upon him. Let us then, in our suffrages for members of the Assembly be sure and cast them for such men, as having fully comprehended the great issues before us, will take with them acceptable devotion to the welfare of the Nation as well as the State, so that the action of our legislators may not be hampered with inconsistent obstinates or unreasonably non-constructionists. The announcements of the several Candidates in our District are in our columns, they have been in season for a choice to be made. Let us support the right man; that "the elected" may be the true exponents of our will and the advocates of a true reform.

"Cedar Creek."

One year ago the 19th of October the bloody, strange and more than triumphant battle of Cedar Creek was fought. The very troops that now garrison this military District did more than all others combined toward turning the tide of success which, like a double surprise, rested upon the arms of the Veterans of EARL'S host who, mid fog and slaughter, rushed with such wild enthusiasm amid the camps of the routed heroes of the Shenandoah. The yells of the then belligerents are in our ears as we write, and we care not to wake their fiendish sounds again.

The citizens of these Districts many of them were there; how changed the scene! The earth has, on its axes, once received, and we find the spirits that were nerved to desperate conflict on that day of carnage and of death, now counselling peace, and dwelling together with their former foes in unity.
The great Desaix of our civil strife, as he sought the sound of raging conflict, when twenty miles away, as he urged his fiery charger, with flying speed to the thick front of battle, did not more surely lead defeat to triumph than despair to hope.

With the electrical presence of a SHERIDAN were sent through the hearts of his patriot columns an inspiration that made no deed impossible but every arm and will a giant grown. On that day the sun of "Confederate" promise set in gloom, and the braves of the Valley gave the signal assentance to the world that the strife was ending. The 19th of October shall be the date historic, when
*Mid shout and groan of heroes slain,
We saw the dawn of Freedom's reign.*

The graves of the fallen shall be the monuments of the future to guide us where victory perched upon our banners and glory upon their sacrifices.

Military Items.

The 15th Maine Vols. under command Lt. Col. B. B. MURRAY, which has been stationed at Georgetown S. C., during the past four months, is to be relieved by three companies of the 35th U. S. T., under command of Major ARCHIBALD BOOLE.

The 162d New York Vols. is named among the regiments soon to be discharged from service.
Prominent members of Congress from all the States have protested against the mustering out of the 24 Regiments of Veteran Reserves in a communication to the Secretary of War. They ask that the Volunteer force be first dispensed with if the army is to be reduced to a peace footing. General GRANT is to be consulted on the matter.
Five Regiments of Regular Artillery are to be organized as Heavy Artillery and sent to Gen. Sheridan's Department, also some of the Regular Cavalry now under Gen. Steadman in Georgia.

By Orders from the Secretary of War there are to be immediately mustered out of the service 25 Regiments of Infantry, 10 Batteries, 10 Regiments of Cavalry and 2 Regiments of Artillery. Fifteen Regiments of Infantry are to be consolidated.

Sad Accident at Florence.
On the 9th inst., as the train was approaching Florence with the 56th N. York Vet. Vols. on board, on their way to Charleston to be mustered out of the service, one of the men fell between the cars which passed over him, completely severing his leg at the ankle. Fears are entertained of his recovery as it is thought he is injured internally.

We have often wondered that the transportation of soldiers has not resulted in a greater number of casualties and believe that life has been hazarded too often by the wretched manner in which they have been carried from place to place. We would not however attach any censure in this case, for we learn that it was the imprudence of the soldier that caused the accident.

☞ There is to be a tournament at Sumter on the 19th inst., that will no doubt eclipse the one lately held at Statesburg, it taking place on the day of the Battles.

MESSRS. F. F. WARLEY, E. J. LEEB and W. E. ZIMMERMAN have withdrawn from the canvass in the coming election in this District.

(FOR THE NEW ERA.)

The people of South Carolina are now endeavoring to enter upon a state of reconciliation, with those whom they have long been taught were their bitterest enemies. To speak candidly, the process is a difficult one, although not impossible; important duties devolve upon both sections of the country; but we look with confidence to happy events, if those duties are faithfully performed. The war worn Southern soldier was "astonished" when the Generals, GRANT and SHERMAN, immediately after the capitulation, threw off the garb of enemies, and generously tendered them mules, horses, and other means of transportation to the homes from which this unfortunate war had so long expelled them. They were not prepared for any magnanimity whatever; they had been taught that no virtue could be found in the Northern heart; that it was incapable of a generous emotion; and now, when they saw their former enemies extend to them the hand of friendship and reconciliation, a chord was touched in their hearts, which will ever vibrate in a Southern soldier; he is generous and impulsive, and not the sooner excited by insult and wrong, than he is by the returning kindness of those whom he has looked upon as his enemies. The tear can start from his eye just as soon as the flash of fiery indignation, and there is no doubt that many a tear dropped in the Southern ranks, when they felt the kindness of victors, who offered them their sympathies and aid, which they needed, and deserved. Three-fourths of these soldiers were driven into the war by the stern demands of power—they wanted no war—they were solemnly assured that there would be none—that the change of government would be peaceful and quiet—that even the old ladies would not insult and wrong, that he is by the returning kindness of those whom he has looked upon as his enemies. The tear can start from his eye just as soon as the flash of fiery indignation, and there is no doubt that many a tear dropped in the Southern ranks, when they felt the kindness of victors, who offered them their sympathies and aid, which they needed, and deserved. Three-fourths of these soldiers were driven into the war by the stern demands of power—they wanted no war—they were solemnly assured that there would be none—that the change of government would be peaceful and quiet—that even the old ladies would not insult and wrong, that he is by the returning kindness of those whom he has looked upon as his enemies. 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