

Items.

The Universalists are said to be rapidly leaving the Radical party, because they do not believe in endless punishment.

Letters from the Liberal camp, at Queretaro, say Diaz shot six general officers and sixty-one of a lesser grade, captured in Puebla, in alleged retaliation of the October decree.

It is stated upon very good authority, that Napoleon is endeavoring to purchase arms in the United States. The chances are apparently favorable for war, on the Luxembourg question.

Kentucky, like Wisconsin, pays its members of the Legislature in gold. This is only to a very limited extent, a return to specie payments, and is "we have before remarked; is the old story—gold for the office-holders and paper for the people.

Peace between France and Prussia is almost despaired of. The Prussians are quietly arming, preparing for the expected shock of arms. The warlike aspect of things is causing considerable alarm on the London Stock Exchange. There is a tendency toward a financial panic.

A rumor is current that negotiations are in progress for the purchase of British America, including Vancouver's Island, and that the only difficulty that appears to stop the final consummation of the bargain seems to be that Mr. Seward insists upon turning in the Alabama claims as part payment of the purchase, to which Lord Stanley, the English Secretary of the Colonies, demurs.

DISFRANCHISEMENT.—The opinion of the Attorney-General as to who are disfranchised under the reconstruction act has not been prepared yet. The opinion is asked in view of the recent order of General Sheridan excluding certain classes of citizens from registering their votes.—Baltimore Sun.

The Supreme Court have appointed Judges Nelson, Swayne and Miller as a Committee to arrange the forms and practice under the bankrupt law, with Clinton Rice, of New York, as Secretary. Instructions have been given to report the same at the earliest practicable moment.—N. Y. Tribune.

authorities, the values or damages assessed, should the plaintiff recover, shall be only the value of the services of such slaves from the time of the tortious conversion or detention to the period of their emancipation.—Mercury.

THE PERSONNEL OF THE SUPREME COURT.
The following Judges compose the Supreme Court of the United States, and they are without exception present on the Bench of the court at Washington: Chief Justice Chase; Justices Wayne, Grier, Swayne, Davis, Nelson, Clifford, Field and Miller.

The following named Judges voted in favor of the unconstitutionality of the test oath: Justices Wayne, Grier, Nelson, Clifford and Field; and the following Judges declared by their votes the illegality of the trial of civil officers by military commission: Justices Grier, Davis, Nelson, Clifford and Field.—Mercury.

An alarming rumor is in circulation that the Prussian Government, in view of the contingency of war with France, has made overtures to the Italian Cabinet analogous to those which it addressed to King Victor Emmanuel before the war with Austria. These overtures are said to comprise an alliance, offensive and defensive, Prussia undertaking not to suspend hostilities until Savoy and Nice are restored to Italy. This news requires confirmation, and is at all events only so far true that preparations may have taken place with a view to such an alliance in the event of France insisting upon the annexation of Luxembourg.

The Fortress of Luxembourg is being quickly but continually reinforced. Goben is to be placed in command.

While we recover to ourselves the right of defining our own political position by means of our editorial columns, we will be pleased to publish contributions from our fellow-citizens upon the grave questions which now agitate the public mind, whether their opinions coincide with ours or not. A district newspaper, we consider, should be an index of the various shades of popular sentiment in the section of country in which it circulates. Our columns are open, therefore, for any communications properly written, accompanied by a responsible name, not purporting to be in the character of an absolute injurious to their tendency.

The Decline in Cotton.

In these days of Ocean Steamers and Atlantic Telegraphs, it is astonishing what near neighbors we are to Prussia, France and other European Countries, and how soon we feel the effects of political events which are there transpiring, upon our affairs here on this continent. Prussia and France are quarrelling about Luxembourg, a little strip of land between the two rival powers, which France wishes to buy from the King of Holland, and which Holland is willing to sell to France. But Prussia has a garrison in the principal fortress of the little State, and Prussia says "No" to the bargain. So the probability is that France and Prussia will fight about it, and if so, there may be a general European war.

If this be the case, a great many cotton mills will be stopped, a great many employes will leave the factories and shoulder the musket, a great many speculators in cotton will draw in their capital, and consequently, cotton will continue dull, as it is now. The factories in the Northern States are already fully supplied with cotton to last them for months and months to come, and nothing but the foreign demand has kept the price up even to its present rates. If this war, then, actually take place, it is a well-founded opinion among business men that cotton will go down ten or twelve cents a pound in consequence. Fortunate, then, will be those of our planters who have given preference to the culture of a large provision crop, as we have uniformly advised our people, and still advise. Let us by all means make sure of provisions, and let our cotton crop be something outside, so that if it fail to realize our hopes, in regard to production or profit, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that it is not our sole dependence.

TO THE MEMORY OF POOR CREDIT.

"Died January 14, 1867."
We desire you to publish this that the numerous friends and admirers of "POOR CREDIT" may know that he has gone the way of all the earth. For they are asking for him in all the stores, and in all places of trade everywhere. Yours, W. W.

AN ARAB'S NOTIONS OF EQUALITY.—"What do you think of equality?" I asked an Arab chief one day. "Do you believe that all men are equal?" "Without doubt," said he, "all men are equal as the fingers of the hand."
Showing me his slim nervous hand, he continued: "Behold!" said he, "look at these five fingers; their origin is common; they cannot be parted without grave wounds; but one of them is long, the others shorter. If all were alike I could neither touch, nor strike nor grasp. Be sure it is with men as the fingers of the hand."

COMMUNICATED.

Mr. Editor.—As the Presentation of the Grand Jury was published in your columns last week, and as it complains very much of some matters connected with the Sheriff's discharge of his official duties, the subscriber deems it but a matter of justice to a worthy and energetic public officer, that he should be set right before the people of this District. I therefore request of you a small portion of your valuable journal for this purpose. In the first place, the Sheriff is charged with making a great deal of money out of the public by the contract for building the jail. Now, as your readers well know, the State appropriated one thousand dollars to build a log jail in this District. The Commissioners of Public Buildings advertised for several months for bids, but none were offered. Finally, the Sheriff, as a last resort, took the contract himself, upon a plan furnished by the Board of Commissioners themselves, and employed Mr. Luther Ransdale, a carpenter of known experience and skill, to construct it. The Sheriff had some of the material hauled, before making the contract with Mr. Ransdale, and agreed with him to take the contract for that material and nine

hundred dollars. After the jail was finished, the Board of Commissioners unanimously accepted the work, and since then the Sheriff has expended out of his own pocket about fifty dollars in adding to the security and comfort of the jail. The people of the District will see by this that the Sheriff has not made any money by this contract, of which so much has been said. There is no doubt the jail is too small, but that is not the fault of either the Sheriff or the Commissioners. In other districts they have built larger and better jails, but it was done by adding to the State appropriation by taxing the people of the District for the purpose.

And then the Grand Jury present that forty cents a day is an ample amount for the subsistence of prisoners. As regards this matter, we were in Court, when the Sheriff made answer to the Rule served upon him, and we regard his answer as full and satisfactory upon the subject. We are sorry that the members of the Grand Jury themselves were not present; for we feel certain they would have acquitted him from all blame, after hearing his statement under oath, and the affidavits in support of it. When it is considered that the forty cents a day is paid in State Bills Receivable, which can now scarcely be passed at all, and only at a heavy discount, it will be seen that a provision which would be liberal, if in specie, or even in greenbacks, is rather a short allowance in such a currency. Notwithstanding this, the Sheriff proved conclusively that the prisoners are not starved in fare, but get a plenty of plain, substantial food; and I would like to ask, who, in these days of scarcity and distress, gets anything better?

As the cleanliness of the jail was a subject of presentment, I would remark as to this, that no one aware of the circumstances will blame the Sheriff. Many of the prisoners are destitute of all moral principle, and are responsible for their condition. As his Honor the presiding Judge very pertinently remarked, the appearance of these prisoners who were brought before the Court did not sustain the charge of them being badly fed, and he did not think that they looked like victims of harsh treatment.

I have trespassed thus far upon your columns, Mr. Editor, as a mere matter of justice to a public officer, who, I am sure, is conscientious and faithful in the discharge of the unpleasant duties of his office. SPECTATOR.

Letter from Ex-Gov. Perry.

We publish below the following letter from Hon. B. F. Perry, on the political situation:

"The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a republican form of government."—Section 4, Article IV, Constitution of the United States of America.

Under this authority the Congress of the United States, after excluding from their seats the Senators and Representatives of the Southern States, has established in all of the excluded States a Military Government, absolute and unlimited in its powers. It is well known that these States have exhausted their power and resources in a gallant and heroic struggle for independence and self-government. They now have no alternative but unconditional submission to the military despotism thrown over them. It is to be hoped, and it is generally believed, that the military commanders in the Southern States will exercise their despotic powers wisely and humanely. It is the administration of a government, and not the form of a government, which makes it odious and oppressive. A despotism, wisely, justly and virtuously administered, is the most perfect government that can be established. It is the government of God, established by him for the government of the universe.

Five or six months ago South Carolina, with all the other Southern States, rejected with scorn and indignation the constitutional amendment, which proposed to exclude from office their leading men, and reduce their representation in Congress unless they permitted universal negro suffrage. Now it is proposed by the Military Bill not only to exclude this class of persons from office, but to disfranchise them and exclude them from voting in all elections, and at the same time to enfranchise their former slaves, and give universal suffrage to the negro. Strange to say that there are many persons in the Southern States whose high sense of honour would not let them adopt the constitutional amendment, who are now urging the people to voluntarily swallow the Military Bill, regardless of honor, principle or consistency. I am happy to know that they are secessionists, and never were Union men.

The inquiry is, which, then, shall we do? Whilst I have been writing, the telegraph brings the glorious news that Mississippi and Georgia have appealed to the judiciary for the protection of their constitutional rights as sovereign States of the American Union. Would to God that South Carolina stood by the side of Mississippi and Georgia, in this their last noble effort to maintain their dignity and honor as States, and the just rights and liberties of their citizens. If this last grand expiring effort in favor of freedom should fail, then the South will have to quietly meet the tyranny of Congress; but in meeting, she need not embrace the hideous thing. When the military order is issued for a registration of voters, let every man, not disfranchised, go forward and register his name. When the election is ordered for a Convention, it will be the duty of every voter to cast his vote for the wisest, best and most trustworthy men, who are eligible to seats in that Convention. This much he is forced to do for self-protection, and to keep the State Government from falling into the hands of unworthy and base men. He need go no further. Let him then endorse on

his ticket, "No Convention." If he is a patriot and an honorable man, he cannot desire the change which the Military Bill contemplates, and he should not vote a lie!

With the cunning which always characterizes the tyrant, Congress has enacted that the people themselves shall endorse the call of a convention, in order to give legal validity to its acts. Without this endorsement, the whole proceeding might be regarded as forced on the States by the military government, and, therefore, null and void. Hence, the trick of making the people endorse the call of a convention. It is to be hoped that they will not be caught by this cunning device, and that they may be able to influence their freedmen to act with them. But should a majority of the votes be for a convention, then it is to assemble, and not otherwise. When it assembles the honor and destiny of the State will be in its keeping.

But if the people should vote "No Convention," what then? The honor and dignity of the States will, at least, not be thereby sacrificed by their citizens. We shall remain as we are, under a military rule, until there is a reaction at the North. It has already commenced in Connecticut, and will, sooner or later, sweep over the whole Northwestern and Middle States. Then we shall be restored to our rights in the Union, with honor unsullied and the right of suffrage unchained. Let us await this Democratic triumph, be it a hundred years, rather than seek new associations with our Black Republican tyrants and oppressors, and be guilty of the baseness of abandoning our friends at the North, who have nobly defended our cause for two years past, and sacrificed themselves in the struggle for Southern rights and constitutional freedom.

If we are unwilling to bear the ills to which we are subjected, for the maintenance of honor and principle, then we deserve our destiny. It is said that if we do not accept the degrading terms now offered, worse will be imposed! Have we any assurance that worse may not be imposed, if we do accept? Like the woman who consented to her own dishonor to save the life of her husband, and then went to witness his execution! There is no faith in tyrants. Threats of condemnation are futile. Almost every one has been pardoned, by taking the amnesty oath, or by special application. The Southern people may be robbed and murdered, but their property cannot be confiscated.

In order to disfranchise prominent Southern men, offers have been made in Congress to remove their disabilities, and it would seem, not without success! Threats to the many, and bribes to a few, is the policy adopted for reducing the Southern States. With universal negro suffrage and disfranchised politicians, we may bid farewell to all hope of republican institutions. Virtue and intelligence alone can sustain a republic. When the negro has acquired intelligence to understand his political rights, and property to make him feel an interest in the proper exercise of them, he should be allowed to vote. This principle has been adopted in most of the Northern States, and is wise and just. But it is wicked to put ballots into the hands of those who will be the passive tools of their employers, or the mischievous agents of Black Republican emissaries.

Nothing can be more unjust and impudent than the discriminating disfranchisement of the Military Bill. A Union man, whose life has been spent in trying to maintain the interests of the Union, but who was a member of the Legislature or a Judge ten or twenty years ago, and who, after his State seceded, fed or clothed a son in the Confederate army, is disfranchised! But the man whose whole life may have been spent in treacherable efforts to destroy the Union and involve the country in a bloody civil war, who was a leading member of the Secession Convention, and afterwards a distinguished General in the Confederate army, hurling his command against the United States forces in a hundred bloody fields of battle, is not disfranchised, unless he had voluntarily taken an oath to support the Constitution of the United States! There are many instances of this character which might be mentioned, showing the injustice and folly of this disfranchisement. It is believed that neither Generals Beauregard, Hill, Magruder, nor General Lee himself, the illustrious commander-in-chief of the Confederate forces, is disfranchised. But the humble Union magistrate, who relieved the distresses of a son or friend in the Confederate army, is disfranchised!

There is not the remotest hope or probability of the Southern States being restored to the Union till after the next Presidential election. Why, then, shall we voluntarily degrade ourselves, and give up our dearest political rights for a delusion? If dishonor must come, do not embrace it. If we are to wear manacles, let them be put on by our tyrants, not by ourselves. If a man threatens to kick you, self-respect would forbid your exposing your person to him and asking him to kick you at once and be done with it. We have lived already two years under military rule in great poverty and distress, and have been cheered all the time by the consciousness that we are not a degraded, though a conquered, people. We can continue to live in the same way two years longer, or if need be ten years, and feel a pride in knowing that we have maintained our honor, and made every effort possible to preserve our freedom and constitutional rights. A man who feels that he has dishonored himself, is lost, and so it is with a people.

Let us live quietly and peaceably, attending diligently to our various vocations in life, obeying patiently the powers that be; but never think of voluntarily giving away our rights as a State or honor and freedom as men. Let us trust in a returning sense of justice on the part of our oppressors, which sooner or later

must come. Have patience, forbearance and long suffering. The Southern States fought four long bloody years for what they believed to be a sacred right proclaimed by all the American people in their Declaration of Independence. Can they not now afford to live four years longer out of that Union, rather than sacrifice their honor, their rights as States, and the great republican principles of freedom? B. F. PERRY.

The Military Act.

Whereas no legal State Government or adequate protection for life or property now exists in the rebel States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, and Arkansas; and whereas it is necessary that peace and good order should be enforced in said States until loyal and republican State governments can be legally established; therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That said rebel States shall be divided into military districts and made subject to the military authority of the United States, as hereinafter prescribed, and for that purpose Virginia shall constitute the first district; North Carolina and South Carolina the second district; Georgia, Alabama and Florida the third district; Mississippi and Arkansas the fourth district; and Louisiana and Texas the fifth district.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the President to assign to the command of each of said districts an officer of the army, not below the rank of Brigadier-General, and to detail a sufficient military force to enable such officer to perform his duties and enforce his authority within the district of which he is assigned.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of each officer assigned as aforesaid, to protect all persons in their rights of person and property, to suppress insurrection, disorder, riot, rebellion, or to punish or cause to be punished, all disturbers of the public peace and criminals, and to this end he may allow local civil tribunals to take jurisdiction of and to try offences, or, when in his judgment it may be necessary for the trial of offenders, he shall have power to organize military commissions or tribunals for that purpose; and all interference under color of State authority with the exercise of military authority under this Act shall be null and void.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That all persons put under military arrest by virtue of this Act shall be tried without unnecessary delay, and no cruel or unusual punishment shall be inflicted; and no sentence of any military commission or tribunal, hereby authorized, affecting the life or liberty of any person, shall be executed until it is approved by the officer in command of the district, and the laws and regulations for the government of the army shall not be affected by this Act except in so far as they conflict with its provisions; Provided, That no sentence of death under the provisions of this Act shall be carried into effect without the approval of the President.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That when the people of any one of said rebel States shall have formed a Constitution of Government in conformity with the Constitution of the United States, in all respects framed by a convention of delegates elected by the male citizens of said State, twenty-one years old and upward, of whatever race, color, or previous condition, who have been resident in said State for one year previous to the day of election, except such as may be disfranchised for participation in the rebellion, or for felony at common law, and when such Constitution shall provide that the elective franchise shall be enjoyed by all such persons as have the qualifications herein stated for election of delegates, and when such Constitution shall be ratified by a majority of the persons voting on the question of ratification, who are qualified as electors for delegates, and when such Constitution shall have been submitted to Congress for examination and approval, and Congress shall have approved the same, and when said State, by a vote of its Legislature under said Constitution, shall have adopted the amendment to the Constitution of the United States proposed by the Thirtieth Congress, and known as article fourteen, and when said article shall have become a part of the Constitution of the United States, shall be declared entitled to representation in Congress, and Senators and Representatives shall be admitted therefrom on their taking the oath prescribed by law, and then and thereafter the preceding sections of this Bill shall be inoperative in said State; provided, that no person excluded from the privilege of holding office by said proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States shall be eligible to election as a member of the Convention to frame a Constitution for any of said rebel States, nor shall any such person vote for members of said Convention.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That until the people of said rebel States shall be by law admitted to representation in the Congress of the United States, any civil governments which may exist therein shall be deemed provisional only, and in all respects subject to the paramount authority of the United States at any time to abolish, modify, control or suspend the same; and in all elections to any office under such provisional governments, all persons shall be entitled to vote, and none other, who are entitled to vote under the provisions of the fifth section of this act; and no person shall be eligible to any office under any such provisional governments who would be disqualified from

holding office under the provisions of the third article of said Constitutional Amendment.

Article XIV.

SECTION 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Sec. 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of Electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, Representatives in Congress, the Executive and Judicial officers of a State, or the members of the Legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be ascertained in proportion which the number of such male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

Sec. 3. No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or Elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid and comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

Sec. 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any State; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void.

Sec. 5. The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Washington News.

APRIL 20.—The registration of voters in five wards of this city has been completed—two more wards to be registered. The whole number, so far, is 10,639, of which the blacks have 5,269, showing a majority, so far, of 101 in favor of the whites.

In the Senate, Mr. Sumner offered a resolution, proposing the good offices of the United States between the contending parties in Mexico.

Mr. Cole submitted the following, which lies over:

Whereas a misunderstanding exists between Prussia and France, springing out of the annexation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; and war between these two powers is imminent; therefore,

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to offer his friendly mediation to the end that the effusion of blood may be avoided.

The Senate adjourned leaving about twenty positions vacant, which, under the Tenure of Office law, the President cannot fill. The vacancies are in the West.

The impression seemed to be almost universal that there would be no quorum in either House on the 3d of July next.

APRIL 22.—The Supreme Court to-day decided that the United States District Courts alone had jurisdiction over the internal waters of the United States, including rivers and lakes. Heretofore State Courts have claimed jurisdiction over the internal waters.

APRIL 23.—The Spratt case is up to-day. His counsel are urging an immediate trial, and the prosecution claimed time.

The Postoffice Department has been advised of five robberies since the 8th inst.

HYMEN SAH.

MARRIED—By the Rev. E. A. Austin, on the 17th inst., at the residence of Mrs. Mary Bolen, Mr. M. W. BOLEN to Miss FLORA STIRKEY, all of this District.

THE CARD.

It appears that there is a Report in circulation that my SCHOOL is about to be closed. The object of this Card is to contradict that Report. It is my fixed purpose to continue the School at least to the end of the year, if not longer. And if it should be necessary to leave it, then I shall feel bound to try and supply my place with a competent Teacher.

APR 27—11
A. F. DICKSON.

FOR SALE.

A GOOD SIZED HORSE, SUITABLE for a Family or general Farm Work. Apply at this OFFICE.

APR 27.

Attention Young America.

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO ATTEND your Regular Monthly Parade this afternoon at 5 o'clock. By order of the President.

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IF YOU WANT A CHEAP PAPER

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