

# WINNSBORO.

Saturday Morning, July 8, 1865.

DURBEC & WALTER, Auction and Commission Merchants, Columbia, S. C., are the authorized agents at that place, in collecting subscriptions and advertisements for the News. They will receipt for all monies due this office.

A private telegram which has just been received here by a citizen of our town, from Charlotte, N. C., says that the Hon. B. F. PERRY has been appointed Provisional Governor of South Carolina by President JOHNSON.

In another column will be found an article, written from Washington, that will be interesting to South Carolinians. We desire simply to call attention to the article in question, without any expression of opinion whatever in regard to it.

We learn that during the negro barbecue in Columbia, one of the colored chaps was shot through the eye, and is not expected to live. He was shot by one of his own color.

By a gentleman from Columbia we have been informed that business is very brisk in that city—that the merchants have large amounts of commodities for sale—but how are the folks desiring those articles in the interior to know about it unless the merchants of Columbia advertise their wares? A word to the wise is sufficient.

The cars on the Charlotte and South Carolina railroad, as we learn by advertisement, now make daily trips from Adgers—a point five miles north of Winnsboro—to Charlotte, N. C. Travelers should make a note of this, as it enables them to make a direct route through to the North.

A. H. STEPHENS.—We are permitted to publish the following extract from a private letter.

[Augusta Constitutionalist.

FORT WARREN, Boston Harbor,

June 3d, 1865.

I am permitted to communicate with no one here, except those in whose charge and custody I am. But I am permitted to walk out each day with an officer, and have access to books and the daily papers. Tell all my friends I am in usual summer health.

The New York News contains the following statement.

J. B. Van Dorn, a clerk in the rebel War Department, writes to the Cincinnati Commercial that in February last he was present at an interview between Booth and Davis. Booth was introduced to the Confederate Chief by Benjamin, and two other young men were in his company.

Booth commended by saying that a plan was formed in the Northern States and Canada, friends of the Confederacy, to capture or assassinate Mr. Lincoln; that he had a full list of the names, and all they desired was an official recognition on the part of the Confederate authorities, and that then the project would certainly be executed.

He further stated that they desired no pecuniary assistance from the Government, as that was already secured; that they were not after gain, but were actuated only by a desire to render the Confederacy a service by removing the tyrant who was the cause of so much suffering to the country, and the only obstacle in the way of a speedy peace. These are the words as near as I can remember. Messrs. Davis and Breckinridge both expressed their hearty condemnation of the plot, and advised Booth to think no more of it. That they felt that their cause was just, and that God, in his own good time, would give them the victory without resorting to anything but the most honorable warfare, and that they were willing to leave Lincoln's punishment, for his great crime, to the Providence of a just God and an outraged people.

Benjamin said nothing. Booth then retired, and the last words he uttered in the room were: "He must die!" After Booth and his friends were gone, Davis said: "Those fellows came here merely to see the Richmond sights, and their assassination plot is a mere fudge." Breckinridge and Benjamin laughed, and the latter said: "I think so." The matter received no more attention, and all agreed with Mr. Davis that the plot was mere fudge. I am satisfied that none of them ever expected what has since become so deadly a reality. In conclusion, let me say that I am willing to be qualified to the above statement.

## Reconstruction in South Carolina.

A delegation of her Citizens visits the President—A free and general interchange of Views—Important Statement of his Policy by President Johnson.

WASHINGTON, June 24.

A delegation from South Carolina, consisting of the following named persons, had, late this afternoon, an interview by an appointment with the President: Judge Frost, Isaac E. Holmes, George W. Williams, W. H. Gilliland, J. H. Steinmeyer, Frederick Richards, Wm. Whaley, James H. Taylor, Wm. J. Gayer, and Joseph A. Yates.

The President said it was his intention to talk plainly, so there might be no misunderstanding. Therefore, it were better they should look each other full in the face and not imitate the ancient augurers who, when they met one another could smile at their success in deceiving the people. He said that if this Union was to be preserved it must be on the principle of fraternity, both the Northern and Southern States maintaining certain relations to the government. A State cannot go out of the Union, and therefore none of them having gone out, we must deal with the question of restoration, and not reconstruction. He suspected that he was a better States rights man than some of them now present.

Mr. Holmes—You always so claimed to be. [Laughter.]

The President replied that he always thought that slavery could not be sustained outside of the Constitution of the United States, and that when the experiment was made it would be lost. Whether it could or could not, he was for the Union, and if slavery set itself up to control the government, the government must triumph and slavery perish. The institution of slavery made the issue, and we might as well meet it like wise and patriotic and honest men. All institutions must be submitted to the government, and slavery has to give way. He could not, if he would, remand it to its former status. He knew that some whom he now addressed looked upon him as a great people's man and a radical. But however unpleasant it might be to them, he had no hesitation in saying that before and after he entered public life he was opposed to monopolies and perpetuities and entails. For this he used to be denounced as a demagogue. We had a monopoly South in slaves. Though he had bought and held slaves he had never sold one. From Magna Charta we had derived our ideas of freedom of speech, liberty of the press, and unreasonable searches, and that private property should not be taken for public uses without just compensation. He had these notions fixed in his mind, and was therefore opposed to class legislation. Being provisionally brought to his present condition, he intended to exert the power and influence of the government, so as to place in power the population of this nation. He proceeded on the principle that the great masses are not the mushrooms about a stump which wet weather supplies. He believed that this nation was sent on a great mission to afford an example of freedom and substantial happiness to all the powers of the earth. The Constitution of the United States, in speaking of persons to be chosen as Representatives in Congress, says that the electors in each State shall have the qualification requisite for electors of the most numerous branches of the State Legislature. Here we find a resting place. This was the point at which the rebellion commenced—all the States were in the Union, moving in harmony—but a portion of these rebelled, and, to some extent, suspended and paralyzed the operations of their government. There is a constitutional obligation resting upon the United States Government to put down rebellion, suppress insurrection, and to repel invasion. The slaves went into the war as slaves, and came out free men of color. The friction of the rebellion has rubbed out the nature and character of slavery. The loyal men who were compelled to bow and submit to the rebellion, should now, that the rebellion is ended, stand equal to loyal men every where. Hence the wish of restoration and the trying to get back the States to the point at which they formerly moved in perfect harmony. He did not intend to serve any particular clique or interest. He would say to the delegation that slavery was gone as an institution. There was no hope that the people of South Carolina could be admitted into the Senate or the House of Representatives until they had afforded evidence by their conduct of this truth. The policy, now that the rebellion is suppressed, is not to restore the State Government through military rule, but by the people. While the war has emancipated slaves it has emancipated a larger

number of white men. He would talk plain, as the delegation had said that was what they desired. He could go to men who had owned fifty or a hundred slaves, and who did not care as much for the poor white man as they did for the negro. Those who own the land have the capital to employ help, and therefore, some of our Northern friends are deceived when they living afar off, think they can exercise a greater control over the freedmen than the Southern men, who have been reared where the institution of slavery has prevailed.

Now he did not want the slaveholders to control the negro voters against white men. Let each State judge of the depository of its own political power. He was for emancipation. He was for emancipating the white man as well as the black.

Mr. Holmes asked: Is not that altogether accomplished?

The President replied that he did not think the question fully settled. The question as to whether the black man shall be engrafted in the constitution will be settled as we go along. He would not disguise the fact that while he had been persecuted and denounced as a traitor, he loved the great mass of the Southern people. He opposed the rebellion at its breaking out, and fought it everywhere, and now wanted the principles of the government carried out and maintained.

Mr. Holmes interrupted by saying we want to get back to the same position as you describe, as we are without law, no courts are open, and you have the power to assist us.

The President replied that the government cannot go on unless it is based on right. The people of South Carolina must have a convention and amend their constitution by abolishing slavery, and this must be done in good faith, and the convention or Legislature must adopt the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which prohibits and exclude slavery everywhere.

One of the delegates said we are most anxious for civil rule, for we have had more than enough of military despotism.

The President, resuming, said that as the Executive, he could only take the initiatory steps to enable them to do the things which it was incumbent upon them to perform.

Another of the delegates remarked that it was assumed in some parts of this country that, in consequence of the rebellion, the Southern States had forfeited their rights as members of the Confederacy, and that if restored it could only be on certain conditions, one of which was that slavery shall be abolished. This could only be done through a convention.

The President replied that the friction of the rebellion had rubbed slavery out, but it would be better so to declare by law. As one of the delegates has just remarked that the Constitution of South Carolina did not establish slavery, it were better to insert a clause antagonistic to slavery.

Judge Frost, said, substantially, the object of our prayer is the appointment of a Governor. The State of South Carolina will accept these conditions in order that law and order may be restored, and that enterprise and industry may be directed to useful ends. We desire restoration as soon as possible. It is the part of wisdom to make the best of circumstances. Certain delusions have been dispelled by the revolution—among them that slavery is an element of political strength and moral power. It is certain that the old notion respecting State rights, in the maintenance of which those who made the rebellion in South Carolina erred, has ceased to exist. Another delusion, viz: that cotton is king, has likewise vanished in mist. We are to come back with these notions dispelled and with a new system of labor. The people of South Carolina will cordially cooperate with the government in making that labor effective and elevating the negro as much as they can. It is however, more a work of time than the labor of enthusiasm and fanaticism. The people of the South have the largest interest in the question. We are willing to cooperate for selfish, if for no higher motives. We have taken the liberty, encouraged by your kindness, to throw out suggestions by which the policy of the government will be most surely and effectively subserved. I repeat that the new system of labor is to be inaugurated by sober, sound and discreet judgment. The negroes are ignorant. Their minds are much inflamed with liberty. They are apt to confound liberty with license. Their great idea is, I fear, that freedom consists in exemption from work. We will take in good faith and carry out your intention with zeal, and hope for the best; and none will rejoice more than the people of the South if emancipation proves successful. Freedom to the slave is free-

dom to the master, provided you can supply a motive for industry.

The people of South Carolina, from their fidelity to honor have submitted to great sacrifices; they have endured all. We are defeated and conquered by the North, who are too strong for us. The same good faith which animated them in the contest will not be found wanting in their pledge of loyal support to the government. There may grow out of this, blessings which you have not foreseen, and some pleasing rays now illumine the horizon. I suppose the oath of allegiance will be taken with as much unanimity in South Carolina as any where else, and we will submit to the condition of things which Providence has assigned, and endeavor to believe "all discord harmony, not understood, and partial evil universal good." We cheerfully accept the measures recommended, and would thank you to nominate, at your convenience, a Governor to carry out the wishes you have expressed.

President Johnson asked the delegates to submit whom they would prefer as Provisional Governor. To this they replied they had a list of five men, viz: Aiken, McAliley Boyce, Col. Manning, late Governor, B. F. Perry. All of them were spoken of as good men, but who had been more or less involved in the rebellion. Mr. Perry was a District Judge in the Confederacy until a few weeks before it collapsed, and is said to have always been a good Union man and a gentleman of strict integrity. The people certainly respect him, and he could not fail to be acceptable.

The President said he knew Benjamin Perry well, having served with him in Congress. There was no spirit of vengeance or vindictiveness on the part of the government, whose only desire was to restore the relations which formerly existed. He was not now prepared to give them an answer as to whom he should appoint; but at the Cabinet meeting, next Tuesday, he would repeat the substance of this interview, with a hope to the restoration which the gentlemen present earnestly desired.

The delegates seemed to be pleased with the proceedings, and lingered for some time to individually converse with the President.

TRIAL OF THE CONSPIRATORS.—The Military Court, in Washington, was engaged in trying the conspirators at 2 P. M., on the 28th, when Assistant Judge Advocate, Bingham, proceeded to read his summing up of the evidence in behalf of the prosecution; occupying nearly the entire day's session.

He reviewed the testimony minutely, and at much length, maintained that it was clearly shown by the evidence that all the prisoners before the Court were connected in the plot to murder President Lincoln, Vice President Johnson, Gen. Grant, Secretary Seward, Secretary Stanton, and others. He quoted high legal authority to sustain the prosecution. That being cognizant of the conspiracy, and entering into it, the prisoners were equally guilty.

He contended that it was shown by evidence that Davis and John C. Breckinridge, ex-rebel Secretary of War, and others in Richmond, Saunders, Thompson, Tucker, and other agents in Canada, had planned, arranged, and assisted the conspirators in their hellish work, to murder, burn, plunder, and make raids into the United States, for the purpose of aiding the rebellion; to starve national prisoners imprisoned in the South; to introduce yellow fever into Northern cities; the armies; and to carry on a wholesale burning of Northern shipping and hospitals.

The evidence proved that Jeff. Davis had hired men, paid them, and issued blank commissions for their use. He also introduced the fact that it was in the evidence that one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, as part pay for the work entrusted to the conspirators, had been deposited in the Ontario Bank at Montreal, by Jake Thompson.

[N. Y. Herald, 29th ult.]

AFFAIRS IN FLORIDA.—We understand that the prospect for an abundant harvest is excellent. The crops looked well, and the negroes are orderly and industrious, and remain contentedly with their late masters.

The railroads through the State are being repaired. The road from Gainesville to Jacksonville is already in operation.

The road from Baldwin to Fernandina will soon be repaired. Lumber mills are going up, and a number of turpentine plantations are again being opened along the line of this road, with a view to the renewal of a thriving business.

The cotton crop in the center of the State will not, perhaps, be more than a few hundred bales.

The planters have cheerfully adapted themselves to the new order of things.

The attempt made by some of the New York journals to create the impression that there is no disposition at the South to give ready faithful support to the Federal authority, and that the submission of the people here is only yielded with a view to future mischief, and hence that they must be humiliated to the last degree, distrusted and controlled like unyielding enemies, is working much mischief to the cause of pacification and doing wrong to the South generally. We rely upon the better judgment and kinder feeling of the people generally, as a corrective of these inconsiderate and mischievous reflections.

[Richmond Whig.]

Unfortunates, there are a few sycophants here in the South who consider it necessary to establish their own loyalty by abusing Southern men and demanding their punishment, degradation and ruin; and who thus deceive the North about the wishes and sentiments of the great mass of the Southern people who are anxious to promote true peace and good feeling. Such miserable creatures (their real character and motives not being understood at the North) encourage "some New York journals" and others in the exercise of malice towards us. It is, indeed, a foul bird that pollutes its nest.

The great mass of Southern people heartily supported the Confederacy whilst it had an existence, and now, it being dead, they will do their duty as law-abiding citizens of the United States; but they feel wounded and hurt every time a Southern man's property is confiscated or his person imprisoned for political offences. This is natural. And we can assure the Northern people that the true Union men of the South [we mean those who, from principle, prefer the Union to the Confederacy] participate in this feeling more or less—they are not now of the proscriptive class, but are generally found advocating kind feeling and peace. It is only the latter day saints, the eleventh-hour Union men, who urge proscription and exult at the imprisonment of Southern men—they are always ready to go with the strong side.

We are sincerely desirous of letting bygones be bygones—we are tired of turmoil and disputes, and want to do all in our power to promote peace—but it may become necessary, in behalf of truth and in defence of conscientious, honest and well disposed men everywhere, to expose from the record the past course of some of those in the South who are now professing to be the salt of the earth, and constantly abusing men and calling for their degradation.

[Charlotte Democrat.]

GOOD NEWS.—The most gratifying news lately received, is the official announcement from Washington City, that no man will be excluded from voting because he has been a soldier in the Confederate army.

It is desirable that as many persons as possible should have the privilege of voting when the government is to be reorganized. We want all to feel that they have an equal and substantial interest in constructing a good government.

It would have been most unfortunate if the soldiers had been excluded; we believe the majority of them have ever been true men, strongly opposed to the late war.

They are a brave and manly body of men, and such men readily forget and forgive injuries done to themselves and others. They have behaved nobly and magnanimously—they have had enough of war.

We are sure they will make useful and peaceable citizens, and will be opposed to the next war.

[Raleigh Standard.]

Judge Robert Ould and Major Carrington, connected with the Exchange Bureau of the late so-called Confederate States, were, on the 23rd, released from Libby prison upon their parole. It will be remembered that these officers, in connection with Captain Maffit, also of the same rebel bureau, were placed in durance upon charges of malfeasance in relation to the funds sent to our prisoners from the North. It now appears that no taint attaches to either Judge Ould or Major Carrington, but Captain Hatch and Captain Maffit are held to be blameworthy in this business and have, therefore, been transferred from Libby prison to Castle Thunder, where they will remain until their cases are finally disposed of.

Dick Turner, the infamous tyrant over our prisoners of war, who escaped sometime since from Libby and was retaken, is now chained to the wall of his dungeon, and is being made to taste some of his own horrors imposed upon our poor boys.—N. C. Standard.

Valuable confiscated property, belonging to JEFFERSON DAVIS, was sold in New Orleans a few days ago.