

WINNSBORO.

Tuesday Morning, July 11, 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.

Mr. HENRY SCOTT, of Columbia, S. C., has placed us under obligations to him for late New York and Richmond papers. He will please accept our thanks for his favors.

Under the combination of some of our citizens and the military authorities, the public well, in front of the market, has been put in repair, and affords a good supply of water. Those who took an interest in the matter deserve the thanks of the citizens living in the neighborhood of the well, for they can now procure good water.

A refreshing shower of rain fell on Monday morning last, which cooled the atmosphere and caused vegetation to appear reanimated. It was the first rain we had for three or four weeks, and was very acceptable to mankind and brute and vegetable creation.

Gov. B. F. Perry.

We announced, on Saturday morning last, the appointment of the Hon. BENJAMIN F. PERRY, of Greenville, S. C., by President JOHNSON, as Provisional Governor of South Carolina.

In conversing generally, with our citizens, they all seem to be satisfied with the appointment. Mr. PERRY is a practical man, and a statesman, and is well qualified to preside over our State in her present distracted condition.

The Columbia *Phoenix* says of Gov. PERRY:

Mr. Perry, a distinguished lawyer, a man of fine morals, excellent character and sound, manly sense, has been through life a consistent Union man. He perilled much for the Union in 1832; and, in addition to the great general odium incurred by the Union party in that famous struggle, he risked his life in a personal combat, and we believe lost considerably of a very popular practice. Since then he has filled a seat, almost unbrokenly, in our Legislature, and in all the fluctuations of parties and politics, has maintained his consistency as a supporter of the Union, without forfeiting the confidence even of those citizens who were hostile to his politics. He was opposed resolutely to the secession of the State, and regretted the measure to the last. Nor is there any inconsistency in his course by acceptance of a judicial office under a Government *de facto*. He recognized an existing condition of things to which all his opposition had been vain, and might well suppose that, in a judicial capacity, he could mitigate and moderate the strifes of party, and arrest those persecutions of the unoffending which might happen to come before the courts. His acceptance of the office of a Judge of the Confederate Court, preceded by a few weeks only, the downfall of the Government. We regard Mr. Perry as really one of the most unexceptionable persons who could be presented to the United States authorities. The record is in his favor throughout.

From our Augusta exchanges we get the following item in reference to the Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS. It is an extract from a telegraphic despatch from Fortress Monroe:

"As incorrect statements, (not emanating from this point,) have appeared in several journals regarding the health and condition of Jefferson Davis, we would inform the public that his health, at the present time, is much better than when landed here from off the steamer *Clyde*.

"This morning he was seen by our informant engaged in smoking, and apparently in a calm state of mind. He is not in irons, and his quarters are very comfortable."

Upon the subject of negro suffrage the Cincinnati *Commercial* thus speaks:

Until the right of the negro to vote in the Northern States is recognized, and their Constitutions are amended so as to secure the exercise of the right, we have not a very solid base of operations from which to dictate negro suffrage in the South. Our example can be shown to lag behind precept, and our preaching will be so ineffective that the last argu-

ment, the bayonet, will be the only one respected.

If we insist, at the point of the bayonet, upon negro suffrage in the South just now, perhaps, we make up in that region parties of races—the black man's party and the white man's party, and we should not like to guarantee, under those circumstances, that so romantic a sense of justice would prevail in the North, that a majority of our people would sustain the blacks. Would it be wise to get up a political war of races at this juncture? Are we prepared for all the incidents of such a conflict? Would it not be criminal rashness to imperil all that we have gained in that way?"

The following is the form of the pardon granted by the President of the United States to those whose petitions are favorably received:

"Whereas, ———, by taking part in the late rebellion against the government of the United States, has made himself liable in heavy pains and penalties, and whereas the circumstances of his case render him a proper object of Executive clemency. Now, therefore, be it known that I, Andrew Johnson, President, do hereby grant to the said ———, a full pardon and amnesty for all offences by him committed, arising from participation, direct or implied, in the said rebellion, conditioned as follows: This pardon to begin and take effect from the day on which the said ——— shall take the oath prescribed in the proclamation of the President dated May 29, 1865, and to be void and of no effect if the said ——— shall hereafter at any time acquire any property whatever in slaves, or make use of slave labor."

A correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from Columbia, S. C., gives the following letter to that paper, which we publish for the information of our readers, and to let them see the correspondent's idea in general.

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 21, 1865.

THE DIFFICULTIES ATTENDING TRAVEL through the Southern States are greater in South Carolina than any section I have yet visited. The railroads along the line of which Sherman's army marched are completely obliterated. For eighty miles not a vestige is left, with the exception of the bed of the road and bent rails. From Charlotte, N. C., the road is running to the Catawba river, a distance of about thirty miles. At this point the railroad bridge, consisting of nine spans, was burned by Stoneman. Here the passengers alight and cross the river in a small boat, the pontoon bridge having been carried away by a recent freshet. A walk of two miles through the broiling sun brought us to the railroad again, where a train was waiting for Chesterville. To Chesterville, a distance of about forty miles, both the road and rolling stock are in better condition than any I have seen. The cars are in good order, and the speed double that of any road in Virginia or North Carolina. Judging from the receipts the day I came over it, I opine that the stockholders are not declaring very heavy dividends at present. The number of paying passengers was four, the balance consisting of paroled rebel prisoners.

Ten miles beyond Chesterville and eight miles from Winnsboro, the road terminates, leaving thirty-eight miles to Columbia to travel as best you can. Our mode of conveyance, and the only one available, consisted of an old fashioned rebel army wagon, drawn by four mules. For this luxury we were obliged to pay the moderate sum of fifteen dollars each. I presume the rate was higher on account of having one of the chivalric sons of the Palmetto State for a driver. At all events he knows how to take advantage of one's necessities, for he first proposed to take us for ten dollars, but, finding there was no competition and that we would be compelled to go with him or remain another day, he at once raised his price five dollars a passenger.

We felt some slight apprehensions on taking so long a trip through the country unprotected, as we learned we were the first "Yankees" who had been over the road, and rumors of guerilla parties and roving bands of rebel soldiers were current; but we have reached thus far without difficulty or adventure of any kind. We have forty-five miles further of staging to Orangeburg before we can again reach the railroad. From there to Charleston there is no interruption.

SHERMAN'S CLEAN SWEEP IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

General Sherman certainly made a clean sweep of it through this State. Nothing but ruin and desolation on every side. Houses burned, crops destroyed, and the whole country literally cleaned out of everything in the shape of horses, mules, wagons and stock of all kinds.

There may be a certain amount of poetic justice in the idea that here,

where secession first originated, and where the first shot of the war was fired, and where resistance to the federal government had been advocated for years, the people should feel more of the cruelties and horrors of war, than some of her less guilty sister States; but now that the war is over and we look about us at the terrible desolation existing on every side, we can but think that though their crime was great, their punishment has been equally so.

COLUMBIA.

The once beautiful capital of South Carolina did not escape the avenging hand of Sherman. Her beautiful blocks of elegant mansions and public buildings are in ashes. In one night twelve hundred buildings were destroyed, and fourteen hundred families made homeless. Eighty-four squares, comprising at least two-thirds of the city, are in ruins. Probably no city of its size in the United States could compare with Columbia in beauty or in wealth and refinement of its inhabitants. There was its capital, and here were congregated the *elite* and chivalry of the State. All that nature, art and wealth could do to embellish and adorn its streets and gardens and to make it attractive had been done. The streets are wide and the walks lined with every variety of foliage most attractive to the eye. Flowers in infinite number and variety are to be seen on every side; while the parks, gardens dooryards are most tastefully arranged. There can be but little doubt that the destruction of Columbia was the work of our army. I have taken considerable pains to get the truth of the matter, and it is the universal testimony of the citizens, as well as the negroes, that Sherman's troops went from house to house with burning torches setting fire to them, and in many instances burning them while occupied by the families. On Main-street, the principal business street in the city, not a single building was left standing. These were mostly of brick, while most of the private residences were built of wood. Among the buildings saved are the South Carolina Institute, Young Ladies' Seminary, churches, Insane Asylum, the elegant residence of General Wade Hampton, together with quite a number of private residences on the outskirts of town.

THE INHABITANTS,

from the highest to the lowest, are today in the most abject state of poverty. They have neither provisions nor the wherewith to obtain them. People who occupy elegant mansions, and who, a few weeks since, were worth their thousands, are now penniless and without the means of buying the actual necessities of life. Money, there is none, with the exception of a little put in circulation by the officers and soldiers of the garrison.

In talking with the citizens I find them generally ready and willing to submit to the necessities of the case, but without any abandonment of the principles of State rights for which they have been contending. They say, "We are compelled to abandon the cause for the present, but we hate you, and always shall continue to do so." In addition to the hatred of the Yankees, they now seem to feel the most bitter hatred towards the negro. The negroes have all learned that they are free, and, as is usually the case at first, most of them stopped work, both on the plantations and in the city, and congregated in large numbers at Columbia. As there are in South Carolina more than double the number of negroes than white people, it was found necessary to have a military force distributed through the country to preserve order. Lieutenant Colonel Houghton, commanding the Twenty-fifth Ohio Volunteers, was accordingly sent to Columbia for this purpose. Upon arriving near the town he found the roads and streets of the city blocked up with negroes. The next morning he sent out and arrested all the able-bodied male negroes, and set them to work clearing the rubbish from the burned district. They worked all day faithfully, expecting when night came to get something to eat; but such was not the Colonel's plan. He allowed them to go hungry, and in the morning not a negro could be found. All of them returned to their homes, glad to go work again. An order was then issued requiring owners of slaves to call them up and tell them they were free, advising them to continue their work, with the understanding that they should share the crop when harvested, but notifying all those who wished to leave that they were at liberty to do so. Many took advantage of the offer and left, and have since been roaming about the country, living on what they could steal, for the supply of labor is greater than the demand, and their only method of obtaining a living this year is by remaining with their former masters, who are compelled to keep them if they wish to remain. The

Southern planters generally say that with the exception of the loss in property in negroes, and the unsettled state of affairs which the freeing of so large a body will naturally produce, they will be better off with free labor than slave. They contend that the only source of profit in the State from slavery consisted in the increase, and that if we take away the right of property in them they will then have many more in the State than they can possibly use to advantage.

THE SOIL OF SOUTH CAROLINA

is proverbially the poorest in the South. No effort has been made to recuperate, but after it has become exhausted by the continuous raising of cotton, it has been allowed to go to waste and new ground cleared up. It has been the policy of the planter to clear as much land as possible, raise all the cotton and negroes he could in a few years, and, after the soil became exhausted, he would be rich enough to emigrate to Louisiana or some other Western State, and buy a new and larger plantation. This year there has been no cotton of consequence planted in the State. Large quantities of corn and some wheat and oats comprise the crop.

COTTON.

There is considerable cotton scattered over the State from last year's crop, in small lots, but the great bulk of it has been destroyed. In consequence of the destruction of the railroad, stoppage of mails and facilities for travel, the greater portion of the citizens are in the most lamentable state of ignorance regarding the rest of the country. Many of them still think that the cessation of hostilities is merely a truce, and that the war will be resumed again in a few days, while others admit that the war is over, but contend that the emancipation of the slaves is to be gradual, covering a period of thirty years. All are anxious to know who is to be their Governor. When asked who they would prefer, they generally hit upon Mr. Boyce as the most available man for all parties. Ex-Governor Aiken has been almost too conservative during the war to give satisfaction to the leading fire-eaters. One thing above all others is apparent. They are subjugated most completely and thoroughly. The very course taken by Sherman in his march through the country did more towards ending the war than a dozen victories. The remedy was severe but effectual. I am informed by Colonel Houghton that the oath of allegiance is being very generally taken by the inhabitants, and that there is a very general desire to get the State government in working order as soon as possible, and to settle down to work. The inhabitants with whom I have talked appreciate the fact that their only course now is to work. They first want to know on what terms they are to be received—whether they have any rights, either in property or in the affairs of State—and then they are ready to begin work.

THE RETURNED REBEL SOLDIERS.

Very little trouble has occurred in the State from returned soldiers. In the upper country, as they call it, raids were made upon property belonging to the rebel government, and was appropriated indiscriminately; but when this was gone, the difficulties ceased. Negroes also, in some instances, banded together, and organized a system of robbery from the planters, who in some cases shot them, which they were authorized to do by Colonel Houghton, provided they could not otherwise protect themselves. It will take a long time for the negroes to learn what freedom is, and they will now be obliged to work harder than ever to maintain themselves and families. The idea of freedom is that they can live as they have been accustomed to see white people do, without work, and that the government will feed them. Many soldiers amuse themselves by putting this idea into their heads, which will lead to incalculable injury to themselves and the country.

THE SOUTHERN RAILROADS.

Unless the government or Northern capitalists step in and assist the South in rebuilding their railroads it will be many months before they are in running order. They have neither the money nor the iron to do the work. Small parties are at work on the South Carolina road, endeavoring to straighten the rails, which were heated and bent by the troops, but their progress is very slow, and it is questionable if the rails can then be made serviceable. Many bridges are destroyed, which will require both mechanical skill and money to rebuild, neither of which they have. The sooner these roads are repaired the better it will be for the country. As it is, all the resources of the country are as effectually blockaded as they were during the war.

SPECULATORS IN COTTON.

have commenced to arrive, and are going

about the country buying wherever they can to advantage. Three Western men arrived here yesterday, via Charleston. They have succeeded in buying several hundred bales in small lots, at from ten to fourteen cents in gold. There appears to be a general feeling of distrust in South Carolina of paper money. They were so severely bitten by the rebel government that it has shaken their confidence in all paper currency.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

There is one subject upon which it is impossible to talk with Southern people without at once raising a breeze, and upon which it is impossible to reason with them; and that is the policy of granting negroes the right of suffrage. On this point they are united. No amount of reasoning can convince them of the right or justice of the plan; and nothing but the force of arms will ever induce them to submit to it. They say that they give up their slaves willingly; but, when you come to put him upon a social or political equality with us, it is more than we can stand. In time they may be induced to grant the privilege upon certain conditions, such as for instance, being able to read and write, and the owner of a thousand dollars in government securities. I doubt the feasibility of church membership qualifications, as nine-tenths of them are members of the church.

As far as South Carolina is concerned, I think it would be perfectly safe to place it upon the ground of being able to read and write, at the same time restricting the whites to the same test; for in the first year there will be more negroes who possess that accomplishment in the State than white people. The negroes certainly are very desirous of enlightenment, and the first use for their freedom, as far as my experience goes, is to learn to read. Their opportunities, as yet, are very limited, as the citizens do all in their power to discourage it; but it is frequently the case that I see negroes, who, by some means have learned to read, seated by the roadside teaching their less enlightened brethren and sisters the alphabet. Schools will undoubtedly be established as soon as the wants of this class are known at the North.

THE PRISON LOCATED AT COLUMBIA,

where many of our officers were confined, was the building erected as an addition to the Insane Asylum. Both the accommodation and treatment of prisoners were far superior here to many parts of the South.

I was a good deal amused at the conversation of an intelligent colored driver, who was pointing out the places of interest to us as he drove us about the city. Upon passing the Insane Asylum we asked him if there were many confined there at present. He said, "No; there are not many now, but," says he, "Lord bless you, massa, you ought to have seen how fast they took crazy after the Conscription bill was passed. Why," said he, "they used to bring them in by the hundred so crazy that they could not go into the army; but as soon as the war was over they had just as much sense as I have." This same negro told me that when some of our prisoners were passing through there, one of them told him they had had nothing to eat for two days. He went off and bought forty loaves of bread, which he managed to slip in to them at night. He was informed on by some person that saw him, and "My golly," says he, "they gave me about fifty lashes."

THE LADIES OF THE SOUTH

take their defeat much more to heart than the men. They are bitter in their language and often insulting in manner towards Northern people. They have been so long used to the ease and luxury of slave labor that they find it difficult to come down to the realities of life and cook their own dinners. The poor class of white woman are the most ignorant and debased people in the world. Without education or natural intelligence, they live in hovels, perfectly content if they have a little bacon and corn meal and snuff, of which they use large quantities.

Their manner of using snuff consists in saturating the end of a stick in it and holding it in the mouth until the strength is gone, when they repeat the operation. This they call "dipping." In addition to this many of them chew tobacco.

As a whole, the state of society at the South is in a deplorable condition. The men have neither the means nor ambition to take hold and try to extricate themselves from their embarrassments. In the loss of their negroes they think they have lost all worth living for, and prognosticate all manner of trouble and danger in the future. The corps are in many instances suffering from want of care, and unless they wake up to a sense of their duties the coming winter will bring famine and suffering.