

WINNSBORO.

Saturday Morning, July 15, 1865.

With this morning we commence the run of special messengers to the Catawba river and back, on the C. & S. C. railroad, tri-weekly, by which we are enabled to furnish our paper to those desiring it, on the day of its publication in Winnsboro.

Those of our friends living north of Winnsboro, who may desire the paper sent them, will please send in their orders. We can, by the arrangement we have entered into, deliver our paper punctually to those who may order it.

We are indebted to Mr. ROBERT WHITE, for the use of the Charleston Courier of the 7th inst.

Col JOS. AIKEN will please accept our thanks for copies of the Charleston Courier of the 6th and 12th inst.

Notice the good things advertised in to-days paper by Mr. L. W. DUVALL, at No. 3, Bank Range. Housekeepers would do well to attend.

See advertisement of Mr. R. WHITE, of a new arrival of fresh goods, &c., for sale at the store of Mr. D. B. McCREIGHT

"Lo! the Poor" Freedmen.

A Macon exchange says: "We are informed by a physician that there is great suffering among the negroes that have congregated around the city. Many are dying, and more are confined by sickness. They are destitute of all comforts, not being able to procure medical aid, nor even the absolute necessities of life. Numbers are crowded into small rooms, which renders recovery very improbable. It is stated that in two small rooms there are fifty of these miserable wretches crowded. This excessive hot weather is bringing disease of every character among them. Unless there are steps taken soon to relieve them, they will die by scores. Little sympathy is felt for these poor creatures, for they are mostly from the country; and had they acted wisely, they would have stayed with their masters, until provision was made for them. The government has no means of helping them at present."

Sentence of the Conspirators.

Northern papers announce that on the 5th of July the President made public his approval of the findings and sentences of the Military Court which was convened for the trial of the assassination conspirators. The sentence as approved is as follows:

"Payne, the would be assassin of Secretary Seward, to be hung; Harold, the accomplice, and companion of Booth, to be hung; Atzeroth, who attempted the life of the Vice President, to be hung; O'Laughlin, one of Booth's accomplices, to be confined in the Penitentiary for life at hard labor; Dr. Mudd, accomplice of Booth and Harold in their attempt to escape, to be confined in the Penitentiary for life; Spangler, also an accomplice in Booth's escape, to be imprisoned for six years at hard labor; Mrs. Surratt, convicted of using her house as a rendezvous for the conspirators and assisting in Booth's escape, to be hung."

Important Decision.

The reader of every class, says the Columbia Phoenix, will do well to note the following important decision, copied from the Richmond Whig, of May 26. The principle laid down will, as a matter of course, regulate all the relations of debtor and creditor, as well as those of landlord and tenant:

The Court yesterday delivered its written opinion in relation to contracts entered into between landlord and tenant on the basis of Confederate money. Rent due prior to April 1, 1865, and not paid, is to be paid in Federal currency, such a sum as the amount of rent in Confederate money would have purchased of gold at the time the payment was due. Thus, if the rent were \$1,500 per quarter, the sum to be now paid for the rent due March 31 is ascertained by dividing the \$1,500 by (say) 60, the selling rate of gold, equal to \$25 in greenbacks. From and after the 1st April, 1865, rent for the unexpired term is, for dwelling houses, fixed at the rates in 1860, and for stores and other

places of public business an addition of 50 per cent.

Tomlin against Giles. This case was decided, so far as concerns the rent, in accordance with the principle above announced. The rent in 1860, as a dwelling house, was \$300. If used and rented then for a place of public business, as a portion of it now is, the rent would have probably been \$400. Add to this latter fifty per cent., and the rent is ascertained which the tenant shall pay.

Benjamin F. Perry, Esq., the Provisional Governor of South Carolina.

President JOHNSON, on the 1st of July, appointed B. F. PERRY, Esq., of Greenville, Provisional Governor of South Carolina. When the South Carolina delegation waited upon the President to suggest candidates for the important position, the name of Mr. PERRY was suggested, when the President remarked, "I know Mr. PERRY very well." The public are not probably so well acquainted with the career of the gentleman, and we give the following facts regarding him, condensed from a sketch written by Mr. JOHN LIVINGSTON, which we take from "Eminent Americans."

Governor Perry was born in Pickens District, South Carolina, November 20, 1805. He is descended from the same Massachusetts family which produced Oliver H. Perry. His father, Benjamin Perry, fought in the army of the Revolution. After the close of the war he removed to Charleston, where he married a Miss Ann Foster, daughter of Lieutenant John Foster, of the Revolutionary army, and became a planter. The son of this marriage, Benjamin F. Perry, spent his youth in the district in which he was born. He attended school in the same vicinity until seventeen years of age. In 1824 he entered the law office of Judge Earle, but finished his law studies in the office of Colonel Gregg, of Columbia, and was admitted to the bar in 1827.

During the memorable nullification contest of 1832, Mr. Perry edited a newspaper published in Greenville, opposing the nullification doctrines of Calhoun with much ability and great persistence. Among other interesting arguments which he was forced to deliver was a bullet, in the heart of a nullification editor who had challenged him, and with whom the mistaken principles of chivalry compelled Perry to fight a duel. He was a delegate to the Union Convention which assembled at Columbia in August, 1832. In 1834 he was defeated by a majority of sixty votes only as the Union candidate for Congress from the Anderson, Pickens and Greenville Districts. For the two years following this defeat he devoted himself to the law. In 1836 he was elected to the State Legislature without opposition, and in 1838 was again returned. While holding this office the second time he became prominent with Memminger, lately rebel Secretary of the Treasury, in closing up the connection between the State and the banks which had existed. In 1844 he was elected to the State Senate. He was the only member of that body who voted against the expulsion from the State of Mr. Hoar, the Massachusetts State agent. It is noteworthy that Memminger was the only member of the Lower House who voted against the same resolution.

In 1850, when the disunion feeling again rose high, Mr. Perry established a Union paper at Greenville, and persevered in its publication, though at great personal risk. A speech which he made in the Legislature was widely published throughout the North and South, and was hailed as the first ray of light from benighted South Carolina. Mr. Perry's speech and President Jackson's action had a wonderful effect in killing off secession in South Carolina, and when in 1851 an election was held for a State convention to dissolve the Union, nobody but the Union men voted, and the State did not secede.

The career of Mr. Perry since this period we are not familiar with. He has always maintained his position in opposition to the right of secession. In 1850 he laughed at the idea of South Carolina seceding at that time, and expressed the opinion that he should live to see the State "one of the most thoroughgoing Union States of the republic." On the adjournment of the convention without seceding, he was told that one-half of his prophecy was now true. "Yes," replied Mr. Perry, "and the other half will be true. I shall yet live to defend the States rights doctrines of Virginia against the consolidating, centralizing principles of South Carolina." On the question of slavery his opinion has changed by the experience of the last ten years. He now believes the institution to have been a burden to the

South, and that, as slavery caused the rebellion it is well that it is among the things that should perish by its failure.

United States Direct Tax.

In reply to the many enquiries daily made of us as to the character &c., of the U. S. tax, we copy the following from the Charleston Courier. From another source we learn that this tax, if paid within the sixty days from the time of notice, is eight dollars on the thousand dollars of valuation. We presume that real estate in this State will be taxed according to its real value and not at the arbitrary value heretofore fixed by the State for the purposes of taxation; but, on this point, we are not confident:

The United States tax now being collected by the commissioners in Charleston is levied by an Act of Congress, approved August 5, 1861, and is part of a tax for the year 1861 upon the entire real estate of the nation. The quota of the States then in rebellion not having been paid, an Act was passed in June—approved the 7th—1862, extending the provisions of the tax law to "insurrectionary districts." It is under this latter Act, as amended February 6, 1863, and March 3, 1865, that the commissioners are now proceeding.

By its provisions, as soon as the national military authority is established over any political sub-division of a State, the law is to go into effect. The commissioners are directed to assess a due proportion of the tax upon each piece of real estate, whether in town or country, open an office, and give notice that the tax is payable and they are prepared to receive it. The assessment is to be based on the last valuation made by the State prior to January 1, 1861, or in default of that, upon such other valuation as the commissioners may be best able to ascertain. The tax is to be received sixty days from the giving of the notice, without interest; after that period, interest attaches at the rate of ten per cent. per year from the first day of July, 1862.

Each tax payer is to appear at the office of the commissioners in person, or, in case he cannot so appear, then by his attorney either in fact or legally appointed, and the attorney must show that the person whose tax he applies to pay either has not engaged in the rebellion voluntarily, or has taken the oath of allegiance to the United States.

On the expiration of the sixty days, all property on which the tax is unpaid is considered forfeited to the United States, and the commissioners may sell the same by giving thirty day's notice. But the tax may be paid at any time before the day appointed for sale, by paying the interest accruing as above stated, and in addition, a penalty equal to one-half the tax, which attaches as soon as the property is advertised for sale.

The interest in Charleston became chargeable after the 6th inst. The penalty will not so become, probably, till November next, before which time, it is thought, no advertisement of tax sales will be made.

After the sale, sixty days is allowed for redemption on payment of purchase money, with interest at the rate of 15 per cent. per year from time of sale. Any person can redeem within this time. After that, persons proving loyalty may redeem at any time within a period of from one to two years, varying in length according to their class, whether as persons beyond seas, minors, etc., and according to the discretion of the tax commissioners. An appeal may be made from the decision of the tax commissioners to the United States courts.

The certificates of sale, however, issued by the commissioners, can be affected in only one of three ways: 1st, by showing no tax was chargeable; 2d, by showing payment of tax; or, 3d, redemption of property.

The commissioners are empowered to bid in, under certain regulations, property for the United States at the tax sales. The property so bid in may afterwards be resold in quantities not to exceed 320 acres to any one purchaser. At these secondary sales officers, soldiers, sailors and marines, having faithfully served in the army, navy or marine corps of the United States for not less than three months, are entitled to buy, by paying one-fourth the purchase money down, and the balance within three years without interest.

Under certain other regulations the Commissioners are required to bid in lands at the tax sales for various government and charitable purposes. More than one-half of the lands sold for taxes in Beaufort District have been so bid in. Some of these have been set apart for military purposes, but by far the larger share has been reserved for schools and

for "heads of families of the African race," to whom they have been sold in small parcels not exceeding twenty acres each, at private sale, and at the nominal price of one dollar and a half an acre.

[From the Charlotte Democrat.]

A Difficulty in the way of Office Holders.

A new difficulty has been discovered in the way of Southern men holding office under the U. S. Government. The Raleigh Progress calls attention to the matter and shows that while the following Act of Congress is in force no conscientious man who lived in the South during the war can qualify as a Federal office holder:

Be it enacted, &c., That hereafter persons selected or appointed to any office of honor or profit under the Government of the United States, either in the civil, military or naval Departments of the public service, excepting the President of the U. S., shall, before entering upon the duties of such offices and before being entitled to the salary or other emoluments thereof, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation:

I, —, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the U. States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel or encouragement of persons engaged in armed hostility, thereto; that I have neither sought nor accepted nor attempted to exercise, the functions of any office whatever, under any authority, or pretended authority, in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended Government, authority, power or constitution within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further swear (or affirm) that to the best of my knowledge and ability I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. So help me God.

And any person who shall falsely take the said oath shall be guilty of perjury, and on conviction, in addition to the other penalties now prescribed for that offence, shall be deprived of his office, and rendered incapable forever after of holding any office or place under the United States.

Approved July 2, 1862.

We do not see how any man (who lived within the Confederate lines at least) can subscribe to the first clause or sentence of the oath. The Progress says that R. P. Dick (a man who has always been for the Union) and who was recently appointed U. S. District Judge in this State, "will not qualify on account of the requirements of the above Act, and that if he be forced to take the oath of office with that in existence and force, he will decline the appointment tendered him."

We hope some arrangement will be made so that Mr. Dick can accept the office, for we believe, he will make a just and upright Judge.

The Progress calls for the repeal of the Act, and remarks:

"We think that we are as loyal to the government of the U. S. as any man in North Carolina, that we are as good a Union man as the best, and yet we would not take the above oath to hold any office in the gift of the President; and for the simple reason that we could not take it without perjury. Nor do we believe that there is a man in North Carolina with sufficient prominence to render it probable that he will be called to official position, that can."

A Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, speaking of the effect of this Act, says:

"This act plays havoc among the Southern aspirants for office under the government. It will doubtless be a bar to many good men, especially in North Carolina, where the state Government during the first three years of the rebellion, was in the hands of the anti-secessionists. The effect of the discovery of this test oath, beneath the accumulated legislation of three eventful years, has produced quite a sensation among our Southern reconstructionists. Not one of Governor Holden's nominees, who were promptly appointed to the places for which they were recommended, can pass the ordeal; and the Governor himself is in the same box, he having voted for the secession ordinance, and held the office of State Printer during the war. The appointment of Provisional Governor is, however, one not known to the law, and if he draws no pay he may escape the ordeal. Mr. Robert P. Dick, who is regarded as one of the most sincere and consistent Unionists in North Carolina, has declined to qualify as United States District Judge, in consequence

of having in some way compromised himself with the Confederacy. If the righteous cannot be saved, where shall the ungodly rebels and original secessionists appear? It is to be regretted that such men are excluded from office under the General Government at such a time, but there is no help for it while the law remains on the statute book."

The Appointment of Governor Perry, of South Carolina.

The interest in South Carolina affairs began to languish a week ago, but there was still a considerable amount of latent feeling on the subject, developed from day to day by the various rumors put afloat by the friends of conflicting policies. Dr. A. G. Mackey was generally accepted as the real representative of the genuine Union men of the State, and he was also understood to be opposed to the appointment of either of the persons named by the delegation as certain to be acceptable to the people at large. The members of the delegation were open to the charge of having been active secessionists throughout the war. The Cabinet was believed to be nearly evenly divided in opinion on the propriety of making any appointment at present. Many influential persons were urging upon the President and Cabinet, that inasmuch as South Carolina had been foremost and steadfast in her adherence to the confederacy, retributive justice demanded that she be compelled to endure a probationary period of military government before the reins of civil authority were entrusted to her citizens. To add to the complications, stories were industriously circulated that a widespread secret organization existed among the white inhabitants to compel all negroes to leave the State. This and similar absurdities were retailed around hotel lobbies and street corners, and served the mischievous purpose of their originators by inciting outside pressure against the appointment of a civil governor. Happily wiser counsels prevailed, and on Saturday the President determined to end all discussion by the appointment of Mr. Perry, a gentleman of acknowledged ability. Further Cabinet discussions could have been productive of no good. Differences of opinion were honestly entertained among its members, and the responsibility of action would have finally devolved upon Mr. Johnson. By the appointment of Mr. Perry, he has unmistakably manifested his determination to adhere to his original policy of reconstruction, and to supersede military by civil authority throughout the entire country. Those entertaining the strongest convictions against the wisdom of the President's policy, accord him undoubted honesty of intention, and acquiesce cheerfully in his resolve to make the trial of governing the rebellious States by civil law.

[N. Y. Herald.]

The Negro Vote.

Druid, the correspondent of the New York World, says of President Johnson's intentions upon this point:

"I can assure your readers that he has no idea of permitting the future political and social status of Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, or any other Southern State, to be determined by a lot of calculating, speculating, and meddlesome theorists from Massachusetts and Connecticut. Mr. Johnson is well grounded in democratic principles. He will see to it that no traitor or disloyal person be allowed to vote in any State. He will see that work and wages are provided for the negroes. But he believes in that cardinal doctrine of the democratic party, that each State has a right, under the constitution, to regulate its own internal affairs in its own way, and he will see to it that each one of the Southern States is secured in that right."

I have these facts from high authority, and your readers may depend upon their correctness. If the legal voters in any Southern State decide to let the negroes vote, there will be no opposition on the part of President Johnson. But he will sanction no measures, initiated by persons from the New England States or other non-residents, which will deprive any loyal white man in the South of a voice in the matter, or which will force upon any Southern State a constitution repugnant to the wishes of a majority of the legal voters. In plain words, President Johnson believes that in giving to the slaves their freedom this generation has done quite enough for them, and that it remains now for the latter to prove the fitness of their race for the right of citizenship by a few years of honest labor and industry. It is not likely that the present generation of negroes will be allowed to vote in any Southern State. Nor will the next generation, unless the negroes now living prove that the race is really worthy of the boon.