

WINNSBORO.

Tuesday Morning, September 19, 1865

The proceedings of the Convention, from the time of its meeting up to the 17th inst., have been received by us, through the Columbia Phoenix. We will commence the publication of the proceedings in our next, having received them too late to do so in this issue of our paper.

The message of Gov. PERCY to the Convention has also been received. Our friends who wish to read the proceedings and the message, prior to their being published in our paper, can do so by calling at our office.

We are pleased to welcome the re-appearance of the Chester Standard, which reached us last week. Our friend of the Standard has had a heap of ups and downs lately. We hope he may now be able to "keep afloat" without further interruption, and that his shadow may ne'er grow less, but keep expanding until it reaches the dimensions it enjoyed in times gone past.

Hon. Wm. Aiken.

The Charleston Courier of the 12th inst., says of this distinguished individual: "We have the intense gratification of announcing this morning the full and complete pardon by President JOHNSON of our universally esteemed and honored fellow citizen, Hon. WM. AIKEN. The good news will be joyfully received in this community, although it has been a mystery and matter of surprise how any charge of disloyalty to the U. S. could have been brought against this venerable and beloved Ex-Governor."

We perceive by the Charleston Courier of the 12th inst., that the State Convention of Mississippi has adjourned sine die; having amended the Constitution in conformity to the new order of things; reorganizing and accepting with dignity and grace, that social consideration which the decrees of an irresistible fate has imposed upon her, and providing for the exigencies of an untried future, as far as human foresight enabled her.

The President has approved the action of the Convention, and expresses the belief, that all obstacles to the speedy restoration of that State to the Federal Union, with her constitutional rights and privileges, thus modified and established, are fast giving way.

A most pleasing episode in the Convention was a manly and dignified, yet tender and touching, appeal to the President, signed by every member of the Convention, for the pardon of the Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS, and other distinguished Southern gentlemen, now held in prison by the United States. We sincerely trust that President JOHNSON will, for his own lasting honor, as well as for that of the Government, do reprints, for the sake of humanity, as well as for the noble example to the age in which he lives, dare to do so proud and princely an act of magnanimity, so simple and cheap a deed of christian benevolence; commanding gratitude and fealty at the South, rebuking a malignant and turbulent fanaticism at the North, and challenging admiration and applause everywhere.

As a matter of reading to the public we publish the following extracts from a correspondence of the New York Herald, of the 13th, written from Charleston, S. C., Sept. 8. In reference to the recent election in Charleston, the correspondent says:

THE RESULT OF THE ELECTION

in this city for members of the Convention has been an overwhelming defeat of the "Union ticket," and the triumph of the old politicians. The aggregate number of votes polled was eleven hundred and ninety-two—about one-third of the votes usually cast at elections before the war. The highest number of votes received by any one candidate was eight hundred and eighty-one, which were polled for the Hon. Charles Macbeth, former Mayor of the city. Collector Mackey, the principal candidate on the "Union Ticket," received but one hundred and thirty-seven votes. A marked feature in the counting of the

votes was that nearly two-thirds of the tickets in the various ballot boxes were written, showing the personal preferences of the voters.

VIEWS OF THE CITIZENS ON THE ISSUES PRESENTED BY THE ELECTION.

Election day passed off very quietly. No soldiers were permitted about the polls. General Bennett's orders to the officers of the day were that no guard should be stationed at any of the ward precincts, unless special request was made necessary.

The citizens generally are very much pleased with the result, and deny that any issue of unionist or secessionist was raised in the selection and election of candidates. They claim that they are Union and nothing else, and that all will cordially support the views and policy of the administration. As an evidence of this intention they instance the election of P. J. Coogan, an open and avowed Unionist during the war, who received a respectable and successful vote.

On the other hand, the friends of Dr. A. G. Mackey and the "Union ticket" view the result as a complete triumph of the old hunkers and secessionists. The election of Mr. Coogan, they say, was effected by that candidate merging himself with the secessionists. The Union men and former friends of Mr. Coogan have no confidence in any good resulting from his election. They also say the most monstrous falsehoods, calumnies and slanders were heaped upon Dr. Mackey's personal character to effect his defeat. He was openly and uniformly denounced in street conversations as a traitor to his native State in her time of trouble and distress. Many of the Masonic brotherhood opposed Dr. Mackey on account of his visit North, which they characterized as a begging tour, notwithstanding that visit was made at the urgent solicitations of his Northern brethren. In fact, the Union men claim that all sorts of lies and tricks were resorted to for the purpose of keeping their candidate—the friend of Unionism, popular rights and progressive improvements—away from the convention, fearful of his intellectual abilities and influence in uprooting oligarchy and aristocracy.

Such are the statements you will hear from the two sides at the hotels, in the stores, on the streets, or at private residences.

REPORT OF COLLECTOR MACKEY'S REMOVAL.

A report was in circulation that Collector Mackey was to be displaced from the Custom House and the former incumbent, Collector Calcock, reinstated. It was said that this report arose from a letter received here, written by a member of Congress, stating that Collector Mackey's nomination would not be confirmed by the Senate. This report, raised immediately before the election, also excited the indignation of the Doctor's friends, who regarded it as another trick to inflame popular prejudice against him. They believe in this case his enemies will be defeated. The greatest objection to Dr. Mackey by the old fogies, arises, his friends say, from the President having honored him with an office to which only the chivalry are entitled, forgetting that President JOHNSON, like the present Collector of Charleston, is a self-made man. As an evidence of this feeling, they still point to the language so freely used by the old party in reference to President JOHNSON as "a tailor" and President Lincoln "a rail splitter."

The following we also find embodied in the correspondence:

THE CHARLESTON MERCURY

is to be shortly re-established under the auspices of its former proprietor, R. B. Rhett, Jr. A flood of curiosity is felt to know what will be its particular line of politics and doctrines to be advocated. It is reported that the editor has already taken ground against the adoption by the State Convention of the constitutional amendment abolishing slavery.

AN OPPOSITION PAPER

called the Independent African, to be published by T. Hurley and John Bonum, the former a white man and the latter colored, is announced to appear almost at the same time as the Mercury. The proprietors have issued their circular and caused considerable of a sensation. Some of our more fiery tempered youths having resolved that it shall never have any other than a feeble and short lived existence.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Herald, writing under date of the 12th September, gives the annexed items:

SOUTHERNERS REALIZING AND ACCEPTING THE SITUATION.

Another illustration of the change going on in the minds of Southern men concerning negro labor and the best

methods of adapting themselves to the conditions by which they are surrounded, was revealed in conversation this morning with a gentleman of considerable wealth before the war began and the present owner of two large plantations in Georgia. He intends returning home immediately, subdividing his plantations into small lots containing from ten to fifty acres each, and leasing them out for a number of years to the most reliable and industrious of his former negro servants, at such rates as they will agree to give and can well afford to pay. In some instances he will give the right of purchase at the expiration of the lease. When the negroes are settled he will erect a cotton gin and open a country dry goods and grocery store for supplying them with necessaries, and he believes that in ten years his income will quadruple what it was before the war. He is too sensible to be long without followers. The true interest of large Southern landholders is in this direction.

THE SUBJECT OF PARDONS.

The reported project of establishing an executive bureau for the speedier transaction of business pertaining to pardons has given rise to considerable discussion concerning that business as at present discharged. But two opinions are held regarding it. One class of men feel vindictive, and believe no pardons should be granted until the people of the rebellious State have at least passed through a severe probationary period. The others are in favor of pardons, but believe the present laborious method of examining cases wholly impracticable. The President's life time would not suffice for a moiety of the work. Why, then, they ask, does he not submit to the irremediable necessities of the case, designate by name or by class the few whom he does not intend to pardon, and declare a sweeping amnesty for all the others? To this complexion must it come at last.

AFFAIRS IN GEORGIA.

An army officer, who has arrived here direct from Georgia, reports that while recently traveling from Atlanta to Savannah, he saw in all directions teams loaded with cotton on their way to points whence the staple could be transported to a market, either by rail or water. There were large quantities at Augusta, and the article was being conveyed thence by boat to Savannah for shipment North. He states that the people of the country, especially those who have severely suffered by the war, express an apparently sincere desire to conform to the changed condition of affairs, and sustain the general government, while in towns which have sustained comparatively little damage by the war, a spirit of dissatisfaction exists, principally confined to the young men, who assume to belong to a boasted better class of society, but few of whom have served in the rebel army.

COLORED TROOPS TO BE MUSTERED OUT.

Orders have been issued from the War Department of the commanding generals of the Departments of North Carolina, Virginia, Florida, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, directing the immediate muster out of all organizations of colored troops enlisted in the Northern States, the muster to be by entire organizations and under the regulations prescribed by General Orders No. 94.

CONTRACTS FOR CARRYING SOUTHERN MAILS.

The Post Office Department to-day ordered a contract with Arthur Leary, of New York, to convey the mails by steamships from that city to Charleston, S. C., and back twice a week also.

SUFFRAGE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

From highly intelligent gentlemen, direct from South Carolina, we learn that the question of suffrage may prove somewhat embarrassing to the South Carolina politicians in settling the basis of representation in that State. A strong party will be in favor of fixing it on the white basis, while the low country interests have heretofore controlled the legislation of the State by the preponderance in slaves. To insist now upon the negro forming any portion of the basis of representation will be more or less compromising upon the question of negro suffrage.—New York Times.

Bella's comet, now approaching its perihelion, will soon be visible. It is now distant about 110,000,000 miles. On the first of November next, it will be close to Alpha Pegasi Markab, one of four bright stars forming the well-known square of Pegasus. It then pursues a southerly course, crossing the celestial equator about the middle of December. It then crosses its old path in 1856, near where it separated into two comets. At the end of February its distance from the earth will be less than 20,000,000 of miles. This comet's period is about six and three quarter years.

Letter from President JOHNSON.

JACKSON MISS., Sept. 5, 1865.

Governor Sharkey publishes the following correspondence:

It is believed there can be organized in each county a force of citizen militia to preserve order and enforce the civil authorities of the State, and of the United States, which would enable the federal government to reduce the army, and withdraw, to a great extent, the forces from the State, thereby reducing the enormous expenses of the government.

If there was any danger from an organization of the citizens for the purpose indicated, the military are there to suppress, on the first appearance, any move insurrectionary in its character. One great object is to induce the people to come forward in defence of the State and federal governments. General Washington declared that the people, or the militia, was the arm of the Constitution, or the arm of the United States, and, as soon as it is practicable, the original design of the government should be resumed under the principles of the great charter of freedom handed down to the people by the founder of the republic. The people must be trusted with their government, and if trusted my opinion is that they will act in good faith and restore their former constitutional relations with all the States composing the Union. The main object of Major General Carl Schurz's mission to the South was to aid, as much as practicable, in carving out the policy adopted by the government for restoring the States to their former relations with the federal government. It is hoped such aid has been given. The proclamation authorizing the restoration of State government requires the military to aid the Provisional Governor in the performance of his duties as prescribed in the proclamation, and in no manner to interfere or throw impediments in the way of the consummation of the object of his appointment, at least without advising the government of the intended interference.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

NO CONFISCATION UNLESS FOUND GUILTY OF TREASON.—I have just learned a very important recent declaration made by the President to the Alabama delegation, who complained to him of the blighting effect of the proceedings in confiscation in that State, and he replied to them that no confiscation could take place, or have a legal effect, except after a legal conviction of the parties for treason. You will at once realize the effect of such a decision, for it will upset and render null and void every act of confiscation that has been enforced at the South, as I do not believe in any one case have parties been previously tried and convicted of treason.

I have this information from a friend, who says he was told it by one of the delegation to whom it was made, all of whom are highly gratified by it. It is certainly the only proper and legal course; for, by what rule, precedent or law can we punish a man as a traitor, without first having proved him to be such? It is like hanging a man for an alleged murder, and then trying him. I also understand that Chief Justice Chase expressed the same opinion. [Wash. Cor. of the N. Y. Express.]

THE MAILS AGAIN.

According to a Northern paper, Governor Percy has addressed a letter to Postmaster General Dennison, in which he states "that the railroad companies in South Carolina are in a condition to carry the mails by their roads to the towns and villages of the State." On the basis of such information as this, the Post Office Department has contracted with the Greenville and Columbia Railroad, one hundred and sixty-seven miles long, to carry the mails three times a week, to the twenty-five offices on its line, for thirty dollars a mile per year.

Post Offices are being re-opened in different parts of the State, though we have heard of no action with reference to any in our own District. An exchange says: "Postmasters who were in possession of offices when the war commenced have had drafts or notices served upon them for a settlement of their arrearages. Some few have liquidated their indebtedness, while others express a willingness to pay so soon as they can obtain the means for that purpose."—Yorkville Enquirer.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.—Some ten or fifteen soldiers stationed at Bristol, as a guard, about the 1st instant, became so disorderly that their officer, a Lieutenant, called the citizens to his assistance, and with them disarmed and arrested the guard and sent them to Lynchburg for trial. One of the soldiers had struck the officer.

The political troubles in the region

about Knoxville are driving many of the citizens of that section to Bristol and its neighborhood. This influence, together with the fertility of the surrounding country, and its rare facilities of communication, must rapidly build up the town of Bristol.

The corn in the whole of Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee is magnificent. The crops of sorghum and buckwheat are also large and fine. We regret to have to state that this region, usually prolific of pork, will this year not produce more than enough for home consumption. The cholera has killed the greater portion of the hogs. [Richmond Times.]

OX-DIT.—It was currently reported on the streets yesterday evening, that parties, not of northern birth, designed establishing in Raleigh a daily paper to be devoted to the advocacy of negro suffrage.

We do not vouch for the truth of the report, though there are individuals in our midst willing to engage in such an enterprise we verily believe. This is an age of free discussion, and if the newsboys should soon be crying out, "Here's your journal of negro suffrage," it would not astonish us, however premature such publication would be thought. [Raleigh Progress.]

Of course friend Pennington will not object to the enterprise, for a short time since the Progress thanked God that the institution of slavery was abolished—that the slave-owner would now be compelled to go to work, &c. Under these circumstances we have concluded that the Progress was in favor of conceding the largest measure of liberty to the new made freedman of the South, and of course ought to be privileged to see and be seen, to hear and be heard. Did we "thank God," &c., we would go the whole hog.—Charlotte Times.

POLITICAL MOVEMENT IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

A gentleman who arrived here from Hilton Head last evening, says the Savannah Herald of the 31st ult., informs us that the people of South Carolina are now actively engaged in the adoption of preliminary measures to secure a full representation in the approaching State Convention, which is to assemble, we believe, in the early part of next month. He represents the dominant sentiment as being in perfect accord with the great purpose of the contemplated organic reconstruction upon an out and out Union basis. The views and sentiments promulgated in the speeches and proclamations of their newly appointed Provisional Governor are accepted, without reservation, as constituting the true policy of transformation to be observed in the construction of the new political fabric by the approaching Convention.

It would appear from this that the leading secession State of the South will wheel rapidly into line with Mississippi, animated by an honest desire to recover her political rights and privileges under the mended Constitution of the United States.

There has been a dash of excitement at Fortress Monroe, a few days past, over a suspicious little steamer called the Effort, dodging about among the tortuous windings and shallows of the eastern shore. Gen. Mills sent two expeditions after her but without success. Various were the rumors that a rebellious expedition was being hatched to release Jeff. Davis and take him to Europe, but the probability is the Effort was only engaged in smuggling. The event, however, made the military and naval folks brush up for any sudden emergency.

THE BELLS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

Many inquiries, of late, having been made of the fate of this beautiful chime of bells, whose sound attracted the attention of all strangers who ever heard them on the Sabbath, and whose notes upon the ears of those who were raised within the hearing of them never can be forgotten, we have to reply, that after being taken down from the steeple they were removed to Columbia, and there placed upon the railroad platform, where they remained until Gen. SHERMAN'S entry into that city in February, when they were broken up and destroyed by his troops.

These bells had been taken down before the evacuation of Charleston by the British in 1781, and sent to England by Major Tralle, of the Royal Artillery, who claimed them as a military perquisite. They were there sold at auction to a Mr. Rybenew, who shipped them back to this city as a commercial adventure; but when they were landed on the wharf the overjoyed citizens took possession of them, and replaced them in their former positions in the steeple. This gentleman shortly after became bankrupt, and nothing further was ever heard of the transaction. [Charleston News.]