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THE

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Selected Poetry.

THE DYEING CONFEDERATE

BY A VIRGINIA LADY.

I am dyeing! Hessie, dyeing!
Boils the kettle hot and fast,
With the bark of plum and walnut,
Gathered in the days long past.
Reach a hand; oh, Hessie, help me;
Cease thy giggle and look here;
Notice this great pile of garments
Thou and I alone would wear.

Though my torn and faded dresses
Lose their blackness more and more,
And my well-worn shawls and stockings
Tell how war has made me poor;
Though no glittering silks are with them,
Craved by every woman's will—
I must mend, and change and alter—
Dye my Sunday garments still.

Let not Fashion's heartless daughters
Mock this crape—this garb of wee;"
'Twas no woman's hand that tore it—
'Twas a Yankee soiled it so,
Haste, then, Hessie, bring your dresses;
First, like mine, they were, and gay;
Throw them into this big kettle,
They're too good to throw away.

Should the rich folks, who have plenty,
Sneer at bark dyes in the towns;
We will say, if they don't like them,
Let them send us better gowns.
I must dye my web of linsey,
To be worn for the spring;
Judy waiteth for her filling—
And the color is—"the thing."

So, be quick, my laughing Hessie!
Gather up our mourning pile;
Don't expect to light that dry wood
With the splendor of thy smile.
Hand me here those capes and dresses,
Take thy veil and traps with mine;
So, we'll be in style next Sunday—
Triumph in that cloak of mine!

This is dyeing, Hessie! dyeing!
Starts a tear-drop in thine eye?
Wipe it off, my bonnie Hessie!
Tatters are not worth a sigh.
See! that stick will break! that kettle!
Hessie, dear, this is the knell!
Cherished hopes the die is thrown!
"Reconstruction!" Let it go well!

THE HANGING OF REV. WIRZ!

Interesting Development by his Counsel.

A SHOCKING CASE OF SLANDER AND PERJURY.

Intending to leave the United States for some time, I feel it my duty, before I start, to fulfil in part a promise which, a few hours before his death, I gave to my unfortunate client, Captain Wirz, who was executed at Washington, on the 10th day of November, 1865. Protesting up to the last moment his innocence of those monstrous crimes, with which he was charged, he received my word, that, having failed to save him from a felon's doom, I would, as long as I lived, do everything in my power to clear his memory. I did that the more readily, as I was then already perfectly convinced that he suffered wrongfully. Since that time his unfortunate children, both here and in Europe, have constantly implored me to wipe out the terrible stains which now cover the name of their father. Though times do not seem propitious for obtaining full justice, yet, considering that a man is mortal, I will, before entering upon a perilous voyage, perform my duty to those innocent orphans and also to myself.

I will now give a brief statement of the causes which led to the arrest and execution of Captain Wirz. In April 1865, President Johnson issued a proclamation stating that, from evidence in possession of the "Bureau of Military Justice," it appeared that Jefferson Davis was implicated in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and for that reason the President offered a reward of $100,000 on the capture of the then fugitive ex-President of the Southern Confederacy. That testimony has since been found to be entirely false and a mere fabrication, and the suborner Conover is now under sentence in the jail of this city, the two perjurors, whom he suborned, having turned State evidence against him, whilst the individual, by whom Conover was suborned, has not yet been brought to justice.

Certain high and influential enemies of Jefferson Davis, either then already aware of the character of the testimony of those witnesses, or not thinking their testimony quite sufficient to hang Jeff. Davis, expected to find the wanting material in the terrible mortality of Union prisoners at Andersonville. Orders were issued accordingly to arrest a subaltern officer, Capt. Wirz, a poor, friendless and wounded prisoner of war, (he being included in the surrender of General Johnson,) and, besides, a foreigner by birth. On the 7th of May he was placed in the Old Capitol prison at Washington, and from that time the greater part of the Northern press was busily engaged in forming the unfortunate man in the eyes of the Northern people into such a monster that it became almost impossible for him to obtain counsel. Even his countrymen, the Swiss Consul General, publicly refused to accept money to defray the expenses of the trial! He was doomed before he was heard—and even the permission to be heard according to law, was denied him. To increase the excitement and eclat to the proceeding, and to inflame still more the public mind, the trial took place under the very dome of the Capitol of the nation. A military commission, presided over by one of the most arbitrary and despotic generals in the country, was formed, and the paroled prison of war, his wounds still open, and so feeble that he had to recline during the trial on the sofa, carried before the same. How that trial was conducted, the whole world knows. The enemies of generosity and humanity believed it then to be a sure thing to get Jeff. Davis.

Therefore, the first charge was that of conspiracy between Wirz, Jefferson Davis, Seddon, Howell Cobb, R. B. Winder, and a number of others, to kill the Union prisoners. The trial lasted for three months, but, unfortunately for the blood thirsty instigators, not a particle of evidence was produced showing the existence of such a conspiracy; yet Captain Wirz was found guilty of that charge! Having thus failed, another effort was made. On the night before the execution of the prisoner, a telegram was sent to the Northern press from this city, stating that Wirz had made important disclosures to General L. C. Baker, the well known detective, implicating Jefferson Davis, and that the confession would probably be given to the public. On the same evening, same parties came to the confessor of Wirz, Rev Father Boyle, and also to me, one of them informing me that a high Cabinet officer wished to assure Wirz that if he would implicate Jefferson Davis with the atrocities committed at Andersonville, his sentence would be commuted. He, the messenger, or whoever he was, requested me to inform Wirz of this. In presence of Father Boyle I told Wirz, next morning, what had happened. The Captain simply and quietly said: "Mr. Schade, you know that I have always told you that I do not know anything about Jefferson Davis. He had no connection with me as to what was done at Andersonville. If I knew anything of him I would not become a traitor against him, or anybody else, even to save my life." He likewise denied that he had made any statement whatever to General Baker. Thus ended the attempt to suborn Captain Wirz against Jefferson Davis. That alone shows what a man he was. How many of his detractors would have done the same? With his wounded arm in a sling the poor paroled prisoner mounted, two hours later, the scaffold. His last words were that he died innocent—and so he did. The 10th day of November, 1865, will indeed be a black stain on the pages of American history.

To weaken the effect of his declaration of innocence, and of the noble manner in which Wirz died, a telegram was manufactured here and sent North, stating that Mrs. Wirz, (who actually was nine hundred miles on that day from Washington,) had been prevented by that Stantonian *deus ex machina*, Gen. L. C. Baker, from poisoning her husband. That, on the same day, when the unfortunate family lost their husband and father, a cowardly and atrocious attempt was made to blacken their character also. On the next day I branded the whole as an infamous lie, and since then I never have heard it again, though it emanated from a Brigadier General of the United States army.

All those who were charged with having conspired with Captain Wirz have since been released, except Jefferson Davis, the prisoner of the American Castle Chillon." Captain Winder was let off without trial; and if any of the others have been tried, which I do not know, certainly none of them have been hung. As Captain Wirz could not conspire alone, nobody will now, in view of that important fact, consider him guilty of that charge. So much, then for charge No 1.

As to charge No. 2, to wit: Murder, in violation of the laws and customs of war, I do not hesitate to declare what about a hundred and forty-five out of a hundred and sixty witnesses on both sides declared during the trial—that Captain Wirz never murdered or killed any Union prisoners with his own hands, or otherwise. All those witnesses (about twelve Rebels) who testified that they saw Captain Wirz kill a prisoner, have sworn falsely, abundant proofs of that assertion being in existence. The hands of Captain Wirz are clear of the blood of prisoners of war. He would certainly have at least intimated to me a knowledge of the alleged murders with which he was charged. In most all cases no names of the alleged murdered men could be given, and where it was done, no such persons could be identified. The terrible scene in Court, when he was confronted with one of the witnesses, and the latter in being that Wirz was the man who killed a certain Union prisoner which irritated the prisoner so much that almost fainted, will still be remembered. That man (Grey) sworn falsely, and God alone knows what the poor innocent prisoner suffered at that moment! That scene was depicted and illustrated in the Northern newspapers as if Wirz had broken down on account of his guilt. Seldom has mortal suffered more than that friendless and forsaken man.

Fearing lest this communication will be too long, I will merely speak of the principal and most intelligent of those false witnesses, who testified to individual murder on the part of Captain Wirz. Upon his testimony the Judge Advocate in his final argument laid particular stress on account of his intelligence. This witness prepared also pictures of the alleged cruelties of Wirz, which were handed to the commission, and are now on record, copies of which appeared at the time in Northern illustrated papers. He swore that his name was Felix de la Baume, and represented himself as a Frenchman, and a grand nephew of Marquis de Lafayette. After having so well testified and shown so much zeal, he received a recommendation signed by the members of the commission. On the 11th day of October, before the taking of the testimony was concluded, he was appointed to a clerkship in the Department of the Interior. This occurred whilst one of the witnesses for the defence (Duncan) was arrested in open Court, and placed in prison before he had testified. After the execution of Captain Wirz some of the Germans of Washington recognized in de la Baume a deserter from the Seventh New York (Steuben) Regiment, whose name was not de la Baume, but Felix Oeser, a native of Saxony. They went to Secretary Harlan, and he dismissed the impostor and important witness in the Wirz trial on the 21st November eleven days after the execution. Nobody who is acquainted with the Conover testimony, in consequence of which the President of the United States was falsely induced to place a reward of $100,000 upon the head of an innocent man, will be astonished at the above disclosures of the character of testimony before Military Commissions. So much for charge No 2.

If from twelve to fifteen witnesses could be found who were willing to testify to so many acts of murder on the part of Wirz, there must certainly have been no lack of such who were willing to swear to minor offences. Such was the unnatural state of the public mind against the prisoner at that time, that such men regarded themselves, and were regarded, as heroes, after having testified in the manner above described; whilst on the other hand, the witnesses for the defence were intimidated, particularly after one of them had been arrested.

But who is responsible for the many lives that were lost at Andersonville, and in the Southern prisons? That question has not been fully settled, but history will tell on whose heads the guilt for those sacrificed hecatombs of human beings is to be placed. It was certainly not the fault of poor Captain Wirz, in consequence of medicines having been declared contraband of war by the North, the Union prisoners died for the want of the same. How often have we read during the war that ladies going South, had been arrested and placed in the Old Capitol prison by the Union authorities, because some quinine and other medicines had been found concealed in their petticoats. Our navy prevented the ingress of medical stores from the seaends, and our troops repeatedly destroyed drug stores, and even the supplies of private physicians in the South. Thus, the scarcity of medicine became general all over the South. Surgeon J. C. Pilot writes, September 6, 1864, from Andersonville, (this letter was produced by the Judge Advocate in the Wirz trial): "We have but little more than the indigenous barks and roots with which to treat the numerous forms of disease to which our attention is daily called. For the treatment of wounds, ulcers, etc., we have literally nothing except water. Our wards, some of them, are wild with gangrene, and we are compelled to fold our arms and look quietly upon its ravages, not even having stimulants to support the system under its depressing influence; the article being so limited in supply that it can only be used for cases under the knife."

That provisions in the South were scarce will astonish nobody, when it is remembered how the war was carried on. General Sheridan boasted in his official report, that, in the Shenandoah Valley alone, he burned two thousand barns filled with wheat and corn, and all the mills in the whole range of country; that he destroyed all forms of cloth, and killed or drove off every animal, even to the poultry, that could contribute to human sustenance. And those desolations were repeated in different parts of the South, and that so thoroughly that last month, two years after the end of the war, Congress had to appropriate a million of dollars to save the people of those regions from actual starvation. The destruction of railroads and other means of transportation, by which food could be supplied by abundant districts to those without it, increased the difficulties in giving sufficient food to our prisoners.

The Confederate authorities, aware of their inability to sustain their prisoners, informed the Northern agents of the great mortality, and urgently requested that the prisoners should be exchanged, even without regard to the surplus which the Confederates had on the exchange, left from former exchanges, that is, man for man. But our War Department did not consent to an exchange. They did not want to "exchange skeletons for healthy men." Finally, when all hopes of exchange were gone, Col. Guild, the Confederate Commissioner, offered, early in August, 1864, to deliver unarmed Federal sick and wounded, without requiring an equivalent in return, and pledged that the number would amount to twenty fifteen thousand, and, if it did not, he would make up that number with well men. Although this offer was made in August, the transportation was not sent for them (to Savannah) until December, although he urged and implored (to use his own words) that haste should be made. During that very period the most of the deaths at Andersonville occurred. Congressmen Cavody, who lost two sons in Southern prisons, will do well if he inquires who the "skeletons" were which the Honorable Secretary of War did not want to exchange for healthy men. If he does, he will hereafter be perhaps less bitter against the people of the South.

But has the North treated her Southern prisoners so well that she should lift up her hands, and cry "anathema" over the South. Mr Stanton reports to Congress, July 19th, 1866, that of Southern prisoners there died in the North 26,436, and of Northern prisoners in the South 22,576. What a fearful record! Over 26,000 of prisoners dying in the midst of plenty! Mr. Stanton gives the total number of prisoners in the North at 220,000, and in the South at 126,943. Suppose this to be correct, though this statement come certainly from no impartial source, there died of prisoners in the South, without medicines and provisions, the fifth part, and in the North, with medicines and provisions, the eighth part. But in the number of Southern prisoners in the North are probably included the paroled prisoners of Lee's, Johnson's and Smith's armies, who never entered a Northern prison. If that be so, the mortality of Southern prisoners in the North will be even greater than that of the Federal prisoners in the South!

We used justly to proclaim in former times that ours was "the land of the free and the home of the brave." But when one half of the country is shrouded in a despotism, which now only finds a parallel in Russia-Poland; and when our generals and soldiers quietly permit that their former adversaries in arms shall be treated worse than the Rebels of old, brave soldiers though they may be, who, when the forces and resources of both section were more equal, have not seldom seen the backs of our best generals, not to speak of such as Butler and consorts, then we may well question whether the "star-spangled banner still waves over the land of the free and the home of the brave." A noble and brave soldier never permits his antagonist to be culminated and trampled upon after an honorable surrender. Besides, notwithstanding the decision of the highest legal tribunal in the land, that military commissions are unconstitutional; the earnest and able protestations of President Johnson, and the results of military commissions, yet such military commissions are again established by recent legislation of Congress all over the suffering and starving South.

History is just, and, as Mr. Lincoln used to say we cannot escape history. Puritanical hypocrisy, self-adulation, and self glorification will not save those enemies of liberty from their just punishment.

Not even a Christian burial of the remains of Captain Wirz has been allowed by Secretary Stanton. They still lie side by side, with those of another acknowledged victim of Military Commissions, the unfortunate Mrs Surratt, in the yard of the former jail in this city.

If anybody should desire to reply to this I politely beg that it may be done before the first of May next, as then I shall leave the country to return in the fall. After that day letters will reach me in care of the American Legation or Mr. Benedetto Bolzani, Leipzig, street No. 38, Berlin, Prussia.

LOUIS SCHADE,
Attorney-at-Law.

Washington, April 4, 1867.

The Faber family have been making lead pencils since 1570.

Circular.

HEADQUARTERS,
SECOND MILITARY DISTRICT,
Charleston, S. C., April 12th 1867.

In reply to several communications to these Headquarters, in reference to the proceedings of the civil authorities of South Carolina in the collection of taxes, the following letter of instruction from his Excellency the Governor, to the Comptroller-General, is published for the information of all concerned:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, S. C.,
Columbia, 19th February, 1867.

Hon. S. L. Leaphart, Comptroller-General:

SIR: Upon conference with several of the Tax Collectors, as well as the Attorney-General, I am satisfied that the enforcements of the Acts of the General Assembly, according to their technical import, will be very oppressive to the poor who are unable to pay their taxes and have no property, and who, in such contingency, are required to be arrested and confined in jail until they do pay the execution; and it will impose a ruinous burthen on the State to pay for dieting all who may be arrested. When once placed in jail, there is no power to release the delinquent until the Legislature meets. In the present straightened condition of the finances of the State it must be avoided, and you are hereby directed to issue a notice to the Sheriffs of the several Districts, instructing them not to arrest and put in jail any delinquent in a tax execution, unless such Sheriff, upon inquiry, shall be satisfied that he or she is fraudulently concealing property, or withholding money belonging to him or her; and that in every case where he believes the delinquent is unable, for want of means, to pay, that the execution shall be so endorsed, and no proceedings further taken upon it.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,
JAMES L. ORR, Governor.

The instructions of the Governor will be carefully observed by Sheriffs and all other officers. Sheriffs or other officers charged with the execution of process for the collection of taxes, will be required to report to the Commanding Officer of the Post in which their duties are performed, the names of all parties imprisoned for the non-payment of taxes, the amount of tax due, and the amount of costs and fees, together with the evidence showing that he or she is fraudulently concealing property or withholding money belonging to him or her."

Post Commanders will see that the requirements of this circular are observed.

By Command of Maj. General D. E. Sickles:

J. W. CLOUS,
Captain 28th Infantry,
A. D. C. & Act. Asst. Adjt. Gen.
Official—J. W. CLOUS, Aid-de-camp.

Important Order from Gen. Sickles.

HEADQUARTERS
SECOND MILITARY DISTRICT,
CHARLESTON, S. C. April 11th, 1867.
[GENERAL ORDERS, No. 10.]

The general destitution prevailing among the population of this Military District cannot be relieved without affording means for the development of their industrial resources. The nature and extent of the destitution demand extraordinary measures. The people are borne down by a heavy burden of debt; the crops of grain and garden produce failed last year; many families have been deprived of shelter; many more need food and clothing; needful implements and auxiliaries of husbandry are very scarce; the laboring population in numerous localities are threatened with starvation, unless supplied with food by the Government of the United States; the inability of a large portion of the people to pay taxes leaves the local authorities without adequate means of relief; and the gravity of the situation is increased by the general disposition shown by creditors to enforce, upon an impoverished people, the immediate collection of all claims.

To suffer this to go on without restraint or remedy is to sacrifice the general good. The rights of creditors shall be respected; but the appeal of want and suffering must be heeded. Moved by these considerations, the following regulations are announced: They will continue in force, with such modifications as the occasion may require, until the civil government of the respective States shall be established, in accordance with the requirements of the Government of the United States.

The Commanding General earnestly desires and confidently believes that the observances of these regulations, and the co operation of all persons concerned in employing justly and justly the advantages still remaining to them, will mitigate the distress now existing; and that the avenues of industry, enterprise, and the organization thus opened, will contribute to the permanent welfare and future happiness of the people.

I. Imprisonment for debt is prohibited; unless the defendant in execution shall be convicted of a fraudulent concealment or disposition of his property, with intent to hinder, delay and prevent the creditor in the recovery of his debt or demand. And the proceedings now established in North and South Carolina, respectively, for the trial and determination of such questions, may be adopted.

II. Judgments or decrees, for the payment of money, on causes of action arising between the 19th of December, 1860, and the 15th of May, 1865, shall not be enforced by execution against the property or the person of the defendant. Proceedings in such cases of action, now pending, shall be stayed; and no suit or process shall be hereafter instituted or commenced, for any such causes of action.

III. Sheriffs, Coroners, and Constables, are hereby directed to suspend for twelve calendar months the sale of all property upon execution or process, on indebtedness contracted prior to the 19th of December, 1860, unless upon the written consent of the defendants, except in cases where the plaintiff, or in his absence, his agent or attorney, shall upon oath, with corroborative testimony, allege and prove that the defendant is removing, or intends fraudulently to remove his property beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the court. The sale of real or personal property by foreclosure of mortgage is likewise suspended for twelve calendar months, except in cases where the payment of interest money accruing since the 15th day of May, 1865, shall not have been made before the day of sale.

IV. Judgments or decrees entered or enrolled, on causes of action arising subsequent to the 15th of May, 1865, may be enforced by execution against the property of the defendant; and in the application of the money arising under such executions regard shall be had to the priority of liens, unless in cases where the good faith of any lien shall be drawn in question. In such cases the usual mode of proceeding adopted in North and South Carolina, respectively, to determine that question shall be adopted.

V. All proceedings for the recovery of money under contracts, whether under seal, or by parole, the consideration for which was the purchase of negroes, are suspended. Judgements or decrees entered or enrolled for such causes of action, shall not be enforced.

VI. All advances of moneys, subsistence, implements and fertilizers, loaned, used, employed or required for the purpose of aiding the agricultural pursuits of the people, shall be protected.—And the existing laws which have provided the most efficient remedies in such cases for the lender will be supported and enforced. Wages for labor performed in the production of the crop shall be lien on the crop, and payment of the amount due for such wages shall be enforced by the like remedies provided to secure advances of money and other means for the cultivation of the crop.

VII. In all sales of property under execution or by order of any court, there shall be reserved out of the property of any defendant, who has a family dependent upon his or her labor, a dwelling house and appurtenances and twenty acres of land for the use and occupation of the family of the defendant; and necessary articles of furniture, apparel, subsistence, implements of trade husbandry or other employment, of the value of five hundred dollars. The homestead exemption shall inure only to the benefit of families—that is to say, parent or parents and child or children. In other cases, the exemption shall extend only to clothing, implements of trade or other employment usually followed by the defendant, to the value of one hundred dollars. The exemption hereby made shall not be waived or defeated by the act of the defendant. The exempted property of the defendant shall be ascertained by the Sheriff, or other officer enforcing the execution, who shall specifically describe the same and make a report thereof in each case to the court.

VIII. The currency of the United States, declared by the Congress of the United States to be a legal tender in the payment of all debts, dues and demands, shall be so recognized in North and South Carolina. And all cases in which the same shall be tendered in payment, and refused by any public officer, will be at once reported to these Headquarters or to the Commanding Officer of the Post within which such officer resides.

IX. Property of an absent debtor, or one charged as such, without fraud, whether consisting of money advanced for the purposes of agriculture, or appliances for the cultivation of the soil, shall not be taken under the process known as: "Foreign Attachment;" but the lien created by any existing law shall not be disturbed, nor shall the possession or the use of the same be in any wise interfered with, except in the execution of a judgment or final decree, in cases where they are authorized to be enforced.

X. In suits brought to recover ordinary debts, known as actions *ex contractu* bail as heretofore authorized, shall not be demanded by the suitor, nor taken by the Sheriff or other officer serving the process. In suits for trespass, libel, wrongful conversion of property, and other cases known as actions *ex delicto*, bail as heretofore authorized may be demanded and taken. This prohibition of bail in cases *ex contractu*, shall not extend to parties about to leave the State; but the fact of intention must be clearly established by proof.

XI. In criminal proceeding, the usual recognizances shall be required and taken by the proper civil officers heretofore authorized by law to take the same, *Provided:* That upon complaint being made to any magistrate or other person authorized by law to issue a warrant for breach of the peace, or any criminal offence, it shall be the duty of such magistrate or officer to issue his warrant upon the recognizance of the complainant to prosecute, without requiring him to give security on such recognizance.

XII. The practice of carrying deadly weapons except by officers and soldiers in the military service of the United States, is prohibited. The concealment of such weapons on the person will be deemed an aggravation of the offence. A violation of this order will render the offender amenable to trial and punishment by Military Commission. Whenever wounding or killing shall result from the use of such weapon, proof that the party carried or concealed a deadly weapon, shall be deemed evidence of a felonious intent to take the life of the injured person.

XIV. The punishment of death in certain cases of burglary and larceny, imposed by the existing laws of the provisional government in this Military District, is abolished. Any person convicted of burglary; of larceny, when the property stolen is of the value of twenty-five dollars; of assault and battery with intent to kill; or of any assault with a deadly weapon, shall be deemed guilty of felony, and shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for a term not exceeding ten years nor less than two years, in the discretion of the Court having jurisdiction thereof. Larceny, when the value of the property stolen is less than twenty-five dollars, shall be punished by imprisonment at hard labor for a term not exceeding one year, in the discretion of the Court.

XV. Nothing in this order shall be construed to restrain or prevent the operation of proceedings in bankruptcy, in accordance with the Acts of Congress in such cases made and provided, nor with the collection of any tax, impost, excise or charge levied by authority of the United States or of the provisional government of North and South Carolina; but no imprisonment for overdue taxes shall be allowed. Nor shall this order, or any law of the provisional governments of North or South Carolina, operate to deny minor children, or children coming of age, or their legal representatives, nor to suspend, as to them, any right of action, remedy, or proceeding against Executors, Administrators, Trustees, Guardians, Masters or Clerks of Equity Courts, or other officers or persons holding a judiciary relation to the parties or the subject matter of the action or proceeding.

XVI. Any law or ordinance heretofore in force in North or South Carolina inconsistent with the provisions of this General Order, is hereby suspended and declared inoperative.

By command of Major-General D. E. Sickles.

J. W. CLOUS,
Captain 28th U. S. Infantry,
A. D. C. & A. A. A. G.
Official: J. W. CLOUS, Aid-de-Camp.

SINGULAR AND TERRIBLE AFFAIR.—A correspondent writing from Highland Falls says:

Michael Finnan, of this place, who has been in the employ of the professors at West Point for many years, having a large family of small children, conceived the idea of more easily supporting them by the aid of a cow, which he purchased in New York, and brought her home on Friday night by the James Baldwin. Having a rope on her head, the cow readily followed to his house. His wife being in a delicate condition, and over-anxious to see and inspect the animal that was to give so much relief to her hard-working husband, unsuspectingly stepped from the door, and noticing a little dog by her side, the cow became infuriated, made a plunge at the dog, which took shelter behind Mrs. F. She was gored by the animal in a shocking manner. A male infant and her intestines protruded to the ground, and the woman and child, with the help of bystanders, were removed to the house. The skill of the surgeons of West Point, who were early on the spot, were of no avail. She died about two hours after the occurrence. Unusual sympathy is felt for the family, and the additional fact that this infant is still alive and apparently doing well intensifies this feeling. The funeral was attended by a large concourse of people. The lamentations of the relative and six small children were heartrending in the extreme.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Journal* writes: "I conclude with a little story, which is as true as Watts' hymns. Lord X. Y. Z., an English peer, was dining last night at the Cafe Pauvre, and was, having finished his dinner, ruminating over his tooth pick. Enter an American, quite a stranger, who had evidently been liquoring up and using the "new bar." "You're British, I calculate," says the American gentlemen. No answer. "You're British, I guess," (louder) "Don't know you, Sir," (with dignity.) "Don't know you, neither, stranger; but I thought, perhaps, you might tell me where I live!"

THE MURDER NEAR MARION.—The Marion *Star* gives the following account of the murder committed near Marion on Monday last:

A cold-blooded murder was perpetrated last Monday upon the person of a freedman by the name of Cobb Bradley near the residence of Mr. W. J. Baker, about three miles from the village, by a man by the name of McDonald, *alias* Butler. McDonald came to Marion some three or four weeks ago, said that he hailed from Fayetteville, N. C., represented himself as a "still setter," and we believe, obtained a situation on the turpentine farm of Mr. J. H. Watson. He came to the village on last Monday and soon got under the influence of spirits and was heard to say in the presence of several gentlemen that he "wanted to kill a d—d rebel." Late in the afternoon he left here and met up with the deceased at Mr. Baker's, demanded of him his gun, which he readily gave up, and as soon as he had gotten possession of the gun, drew a revolver and without any provocation whatever, shot the unfortunate man through the head. He afterwards, we are informed, sold the gun taken from the deceased for three dollars. A warrant was issued for his arrest, and we learn that the Deputy Sheriff with a number of Reliables followed him to Dog's Bluff Ferry, but he had crossed Pee Dee in the ferry boat an hour before the deputy arrived. He doubtless is a desperate fellow, and we trust will meet the fate he deserves.

From the above war in type, we have been informed that the verdict of the jury of inquest was in accordance with the above facts, and that McDonald, *alias* Butler, has been recognized by some of our freedmen as one of the Federal soldiers who garrisoned this place in 1865-66. The fact that he was a Federal soldier is corroborated by statements that he recently made to discreet gentlemen. McDonald, *alias* Butler, is rather under medium size, has the appearance of one of foreign extraction, wears a black mustache, and has the United States flag and a ship's anchor tattooed on one of his hands and wrists.

EUROPEAN VIEWS OF WAR IN EUROPE.—The following statement is made by the Belgian Minister of War:

France is having 180,000 muskets made, on the chassepot system, not only in France, but in Belgium and England, and the greater part of them are to be ready by the 1st of March, 1868. In Prussia the arsenals are busily occupied in the manufacture of arms, and 1,100 steel cannon, loading at the breach, having been ordered. Austria is transforming 600,000 muskets into Wendl's system—half of them to be ready by the end of the year. Baden, Bavaria, Wurtemburg and Hesse-Darmstadt are adopting the Prussian musket, and are casting a considerable quantity of cannon on the Prussian model.

England has already transformed 150,000 Enfield muskets on Snider's plan, and will have 350,000 ready by the end of the year; she will also by that time have 426 rifled cannon. Russia is transforming 600,000 muskets on Carle's system, and half of them will be ready by the first of 1868; she is also making 1,000 cannon. In Denmark the Chambers have voted funds for the changing of muskets into breech loaders. Holland is transforming hers on the Snider system. Switzerland has got 40,000 muskets on Amsler Milbratt's system, has ordered 20,000 on Winchester's, and has made, or is having made, 200 breech loading cannon. Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece are transforming their muskets, and Spain and Greece have commanded cannon of Mr. Krupp, the celebrated cannon founder of Prussia. Lastly, Belgium has got rifled cannon on the Prussian plan, and is about to adopt the Prussian musket.

The joint resolution for the relief of the destitute in the Southern and South Western States does not contain a specific appropriation of $1,000,000 as originally supposed, but was passed in the following form:

That the Secretary of War be and is hereby empowered and directed to issue supplies of food sufficient to prevent starvation and extreme want, to any and all classes of destitute or helpless persons of the people in those Southern and South-Western States where failure of the crops and other causes have occasioned widespread destitution, that the issues be made through the Freedmen's Bureau under such regulations as the Secretary of War shall prescribe, and to that end the Secretary of War is hereby authorized and directed through the Commission of the Freedmen's Bureau to apply so much as he may deem necessary for the purpose aforesaid of unexpended moneys heretofore appropriated to supply Freedmen and refugees with provisions, rations, provided that the expenditure shall not extend beyond the present appropriation already made for the Freedmen's Bureau.

THE FLORIDA AND CUBA TELEGRAPH.—The early completion of this work seems to be not improbable from the energy already displayed by the contractors. The Fernandina *Courier* of the 17th says:

The steamer Sylvan Shore brought to this port from Savannah last week from fifty to a hundred coils of telegraph wire for the Florida and Cuba (International) Telegraph Company, to be put up between Lake city and Punta Rosa at the mouth of the Caloosahatchie River. The whole line including the submarine cable from Havana to the Florida coast, will probably be in operation by the first of June next, as all the material has been shipped from New York, and a large force of men is employed pushing the work on at various points. Success to the enterprise.

PAINFUL DISAPPEARANCE.—We regret to learn that Mr. Wm. Langha, a German by birth, and for many years a resident of this District, left his home, near Grove Station, last Saturday afternoon, and has not since been heard of, notwithstanding diligent search has been instituted by his neighbours. He has been suffering for some time from ill health. Mr. Langha is about 52 years of age, near 6 feet in height, and spoke the English language with an accent peculiar to his nationality. Any information concerning him will be gratefully received by his wife, or may be left at this office. Our friends of the press are earnestly requested to extend this notice.—*Greenville Mountaineer.*

A society for carrying on systematically the business of stealing and secreting and selling stolen goods has just been unearthed and broken up at Norwalk, Conn. It was regularly organized, with President, Secretary and Treasurer, and was composed mainly of clerks in all branches of trade. A strict account was kept of the stealings of each member, and the value accredited to him on the society book. Profit enough had been already secured to enable two families connected with it to visit the Paris Exposition.