

THE FREE SOUTH.

BEAUFORT, S. C., APRIL 18, 1863.

Agents for the Free South.
TAYLOR & Co. Hilton Head, and St. Helena Island.
C. C. LEGG, No. 1 Mercer street, New York.

Abolition—How will it affect the North.

In days gone by, when the abolition of slavery was urged upon the attention of the people, one of the commonest expedients resorted to by the pro-slavery party, to resist the influence of the growing anti-slavery sentiment of the north, was the assertion that the pecuniary interest of the north was so dependent upon the slave system, that the abolition of the latter would inevitably result in commercial ruin and bankruptcy. In spite of the millions of dollars that have slipped through the fingers of northern men in consequence of the rebellion, which, to a great extent, was a consequence of the bankruptcy of the south, there are still to be found men who think that with the destruction of slavery must come serious loss to the manufactures and trade of the north. With people who believe in God and in the equal justice of the laws which he has established for the government of the world, no argument is needed to show that the perpetration of wrong toward one class of men, must result in loss to all others; and that the doing of justice, however much it may seem to interfere with the accustomed avenues of trade, must really, by restoring things to their natural and true relations, increase the prosperity and happiness of all concerned.

The natural and sufficient answer to those persons who anticipated ruined trade as the result of freedom, was, that by making the four million slaves free and independent laborers, with all the wants and desires that go with that condition, the demand for all those articles the manufacture and sale of which have increased the wealth of the north to so great an extent, would be increased tenfold. The owner of three hundred slaves, bought, we will say, one hundred pairs of shoes in the course of a year, (and this, be it remembered, is rather above than under the average,) now in a state of freedom, instead of one, there will be three hundred pairs of shoes needed. And so it will be with all the necessities of life, while there will be a corresponding demand for the comforts and luxuries of life also. Any man who spends his money in the purchase of this department spend their money in the purchase of the necessities of life, can have no doubt of the really immense opportunities which will be opened to northern enterprise by the abolition of slavery. Just as rapidly as they acquire the means, they will desire to possess themselves of those things that are supposed to mark in a peculiar manner the condition of a superior and a free people.

With all the talk about southern hospitality, it is evident to us that a large proportion of the planters of the south lived in a style which would have been scarcely tolerable to a fourth-rate Pennsylvania farmer. Now let these planters be freed from the incubus of slavery, or let northern men get the control of the plantations, and then with the spirit of enterprise which freedom will infuse into all departments of labor, a new and entirely satisfactory state of things will soon appear. Where there is one decent and habitable house, a dozen will be needed, with the furniture and other things that belong to a decent house. In fact, there is scarcely a single article manufactured at the north which will not find a ready and profitable market at the south; and in addition to this, the wealth of the south being founded upon something real, the labor of a free and intelligent people, commercial reverses, bankruptcy and repudiation may be considered among the things of the past.

Elections.

The most vehement and intensely excited political canvass that ever agitated a state, closed in Connecticut on the 6th inst., and the result is a substantial and gratifying triumph. Gov. Buckingham and the whole republican-union state ticket are re-elected by handsome majorities, three of the four members of congress, (one gain,) and a legislature overwhelmingly right. Connecticut stands by the government and the union. The state officers elected are as follows: William A. Buckingham, of Norwich, governor; Roger Averill, of Danbury, lieutenant-governor; J. H. Trumbull, of Hartford, secretary of state; Gabriel W. Coite, of Middletown, treasurer; Leman W. Cutler, of Water-town, Comptroller. Members of next congress: Col. Henry C. Denning, of Hartford, district I; *Hon. James E. English, of New Haven, district II; Augustus Brandegee, of New London, district III; John H. Hubbard, (gain,) of Litchfield, district IV. The senate is 15 to 21, and the house at least two-thirds republican-union.

ECHOES FROM THE WEST.

St. Louis, the great free heart of Missouri, held her charter election on the 6th, and the result is a glorious radical unionist (or charcoal) triumph, Chauncey J. Filley, their candidate for mayor having 1,500 majority over his uncle, Oliver D.

Filley, moderate emancipationist (clay-bank), and 3,000 majority over Joseph O'Neil, copperhead.

Jefferson City also elected a radical emancipationist mayor on the same day.

And to this magnificent record, we must add that in Indiana, where township elections were held, we have on every hand most gratifying gains for the unconditional union cause.

*Member of the late House.

The Copperheads Seeking the Intervention of England.

A remarkable letter, written by Lord Lyons, English minister at Washington, to Earl Russell, has just been published. It throws no little light upon the schemes and plottings of the copperhead leaders, and ought to convince every patriot that these men are the worst enemies of their country. The letter was written in November last, and gives some account of the consultations held by Lord Lyons with sundry democrats of New York, whom he styles the "conservative leaders." It appears that these copperheads were anxious to put an end to the war by means of the intervention of European nations, and it was with reference to this matter that they sought an interview with the English minister. They were only embarrassed in their scheme by a knowledge of the feelings of the American people toward England, and a fear that attempted intervention on the part of the English government would only kindle to fury the patriotic enthusiasm of the loyal people. Hear Lord Lyons on this point. He says:

"Several of the leaders of the democratic party sought interviews with me, both before and after the arrival of the intelligence of Gen. McClellan's dismissal. The subject uppermost in their minds while they were speaking to me was naturally that of foreign mediation between the North and South. Many of them seemed to think that this mediation must come at last; but they appeared to be very much afraid of its coming too soon. It was evident that they apprehended that a premature proposal of foreign intervention would afford the radical party a means of reviving the violent war spirit, and of thus defeating the peaceful plans of the conservatives. They appeared to regard the present moment as peculiarly unfavorable for such an offer, and, indeed, to hold that it would be essential to the success of any proposal from abroad that it should be deferred until the control of the executive government should be in the hands of the conservative party."

"I gave no opinion on the subject. I did not say whether or not I myself thought foreign intervention probable or advisable; but I listened with attention to the accounts given me of the plans and hopes of the conservative party. At the bottom I thought I perceived a desire to put an end to war, even at the risk of losing the southern states altogether; but it was plain that it was not thought prudent to avow this desire. The conservative party also ill-received that a strong declaration in the contrary sense was deemed necessary by the democratic leaders."

Lord Lyons goes on to state that the desire of the "conservatives" was, by means of this foreign mediation, to secure an armistice, and if possible have a convention of all the states, for the purpose of settling all our difficulties. He adds, however, that these men were well aware that "the more probable consequence of such an armistice would be the establishment of southern independence." And it is noticeable in this connection that these "conservatives" desired to put it out of the power of the nation to avoid granting the rebel states their independence, in case they utterly refused to return to the Union, for they proposed to have this refusal backed by the whole power of England and other foreign nations.

Lord Lyons listened to the plans of these conspirators to break up the Union, and not exactly liking the prospective result of an attempt on the part of England to interfere in favor of the south, gave his own opinion on the subject as follows:

"All things considered, my own opinion certainly is that the present moment is not a favorable one for making an offer of mediation. It might embarrass the peace party, and even oblige them, in order to maintain their popularity, to make some public declarations against it, and this might make it difficult for them to accept a similar offer at a more propitious time."

Throughout his letter Lord Lyons manifests a thorough sympathy for the rebels—as most English aristocrats naturally do—and yet he is shrewd enough to see that the "conservative leaders," as he calls them, could never induce their followers to act hand in hand with their old enemy England, for the purpose of breaking up this glorious republic. He therefore most firmly advises his government to keep out of a bad scrape, and defer their intervention to a more promising occasion.

This letter of the English minister is a most valuable document in this crisis, as showing the disunion tendencies of the copperhead leaders.

CROMWELL ON DESTRUCTIVE CONSERVATISM.—In a speech to Parliament in 1656, the Great Protector, defending his administration, touched upon a doctrine which is popular just now with the friends of secession and the enemies of the national life, and exposed its fallacy, almost as if by anticipation:

"If nothing should ever be done," said he, "but what is 'according to law' the throat of the nation may be cut while we send for some to make a law! Therefore, certainly it is a pitiful beastly notion to think, though it be for ordinary government, to live by law and rule, yet if a government in extraordinary circumstances go beyond the law, even for self preservation, it is to be clamored at and blattered at. When matters of necessity come then without guilt, extraordinary remedies may be applied. And I must say I do not know one action of this government, no, not one, but it hath been in order to the peace and safety of this nation."

Heroes and Martyrs.

In April, 1862, an expedition to destroy the communications on the Georgia State Railroad between Atlanta and Chattanooga was undertaken at the suggestion of J. J. Andrews, a Kentuckian, and under the authority and direction of Gen. Mitchell. It was proposed, says the *Tribune*, to reach a point on the road where they could seize a locomotive and train of cars and then dash back toward Chattanooga, cutting the telegraph wires and burning the bridges behind them as they proceeded until they reached their own lines. The expedition consisted of twenty-four men, selected for their courage and discretion. They succeeded in reaching Marietta in small parties, wearing citizens' dress and carrying only side arms.

Next morning they took the return train to accomplish their plan. At Big Shanty, while the engineer and passengers were breakfasting, they detached the locomotive and three cars from the train, and started at full speed for Chattanooga. "By the time schedule which Mr. Andrews had obtained they ought to have met only one train, but they were encountered by two extra trains which delayed them an hour and brought their pursuers close upon them. They were unable to shake them off, and after running a hundred miles, their wood, water, and oil were exhausted and the rebels in sight behind them. They had no alternative but to abandon the train and fly to the woods, and they were soon afterward hunted down by bloodhounds and every one captured.

The narrative of Judge-Advocate General Holt and the depositions of five of the party who escaped, describe the tortures and murders with which rebel barbarity punished the heroic attempt of these noble soldiers. The details are horrible in the extreme, but they deserve to be read by whoever cares to understand the spirit of this rebellion and the characters of its leaders. The enterprise which was undertaken was perfectly justified by military law, and those who attempted it, were entitled when captured, to the ordinary treatment of prisoners of war. Instead of which, seven were murdered outright, merciless flogging was employed to extort a confession from one, and all of them were the victims of more than savage cruelties. Six escaped, and six were finally exchanged. All the rest are supposed to have perished.

This expedition was an original conception and intrepid in its execution as any effort which this war has seen of immense importance, probably destroying the possibility of prolonged resistance by the rebels in the south west. It failed from no want of foresight or courage, but from an accident impossible to be anticipated. Let the nation generally honor and reward the heroes who survive, and gratefully remember the martyrs who died in its service.

The New Postal Law.

The new bill passed by congress makes many important changes in the rates of postage, rules, and regulations which govern the post office department. We make a brief summary of some of the most important.

The new law goes into effect on the 1st of July next.

Letter carriers are to receive salaries, and no charge will be made for the delivery or collection of letters.

Postage on local or "drop letters" is raised to two cents, to be invariably paid in advance, and by postage stamps. The postage is two cents when the weight does not exceed half an ounce, and an additional rate is to be charged for every additional half ounce or fraction of an ounce.

The regulations respecting soldiers' letters remain the same as heretofore.

On all mail matter required by law to be prepaid, and which shall reach its destination unpaid, double the usual rates must be collected on delivery, and insufficient payment is to be disregarded.

The fee for the registration of letters is left optional with the postmaster general; but it is not to exceed twenty cents per letter.

Unsealed circulars, not exceeding three to one address, are to be charged with two cents postage, and in that proportion for a greater number.

Newspaper postage will undergo considerable change. No papers will be permitted to go free in the mails, except in the county where published, as heretofore.

Weekly papers five cents per quarter, semi-weekly ten cents, tri-weekly fifteen cents, six times per week thirty-five cents. At those rates the weight must not exceed four ounces—in each case payable in advance per quarter of year, either at the mailing or delivery office.

No extra charge is to be made for a card printed or impressed upon a circular or letter, envelope or wrapper. Circulars to be prepaid by stamps.

Postmasters will not be allowed to exercise the franking privilege as heretofore.

Postmasters can only frank official letters to other officials—the former license to the smaller class of offices heretofore enjoyed, of franking on their own private business, having been abolished.

All foreign postage is to be paid in coin.

Your wife cannot have been too dearly won, if you and she are dearly one.

NEWS.

We have seen Savannah papers of the 14th, which contain but meagre accounts of the operations of our fleet and land forces before Charleston. From the absence of boasting with regard to the impregnability of the defenses of the city, and from the reticent tone of the articles upon the subject, we infer that the results of the reconnaissance, and the effect of the few shot thrown by the iron-clads by way of feelers, have not increased the confidence of the rebels. The little that they do give us is in the main correct. They have, however, fallen into a trifling error with regard to the Keokuk. They infer that as she disappeared from view beneath the waters, she was sunk by one of their shot. Nothing but the fact that "the wish is father to the thought" could have blinded the eyes of sane men to the exceeding improbability of the sinking of a ship by a single shot, making a hole that an old hat would stop.

It will at this time do no harm to reveal some peculiarities in the construction of the "Keokuk," that have not heretofore been made public. Lest some of the officers of the navy should be suspected of an indiscretion in communicating to us these important facts, we premise that no officer connected with the army or navy in this department gave us this information, but we have received it from an altogether independent source.

It has, of course, been evident to the least observant of our readers, who have had an opportunity of seeing this vessel as she lay in the harbor of Port Royal, that she was altogether different in plan from the well-known "Monitors." Instead of the revolving turrets, her armament is placed in stationary towers; and instead of a flat deck, she presents to the view a rounded top, which is most correctly described by the term "turtle-back." In truth, we may say that this animal suggested the principle upon which she was constructed in other and more important particulars than mere outward resemblance. In our youthful days we have trod the shore of a quiet lake, in the drowsy summer afternoon, and in the presence of other game, amused myself by shooting at the turtles, quietly sunning themselves upon some floating log; and though they oftentimes, we might say, slipped into the water, and unconcernedly paddled off, just beneath the surface, to some safer haunt, we never really believed that we had sunk a turtle. In truth we ever had a dim suspicion that the turtle had been too much for us. So in the case of the Keokuk. No doubt most of our readers, as well as our enemies, will be surprised to learn that by a simple yet ingenious contrivance, receiving into her compartments a sufficient amount of water to diminish her buoyancy, she quietly crept off, near the bottom, making the explorations with which she was charged, and actually bringing away, when she crawled out of the harbor, quite a number of torpedoes and infernal machines.

We may be allowed to add that the reconnaissance toward Charleston was mainly, we suspect, undertaken for the express purpose of obtaining the information about the torpedoes and other obstructions which has been so successfully procured by the "Turtle."

We are informed that one of the shot from the iron-clads walked into Fort Sumter just merely to pass the time of day, and not finding the door open, knocked a little hole for its passage about as big as the side of a house. Our own preparations are nearly completed for removing our office to Charleston. Our readers at Port Royal will not, however, suffer on that account, as constant communication will enable us to continue to furnish our subscribers with the latest and most reliable intelligence.

The steamer James F. Freeborn arrived on Thursday last, forty-eight hours from Hampton Roads, bringing very important despatches from Washington to Commodore Dupont and General Hunter. She brought papers to the 11th. The news contained in them was unimportant, with the exception of the rebel accounts of the fight at Charleston. The withdrawal of our forces from the harbor produced no perceptible effect on the money market and but little excitement. The Freeborn sailed on Thursday afternoon with a mail for Washington and the north.

Four deserters came down on Wednesday to Fort Pulaski and delivered themselves up. They brought papers to the 14th. The most important news in them is a report from the army in Tennessee, that Van Dorn had been attacked by a portion of the federal army under Rosecrans, and completely routed, with great losses in killed and wounded. Two batteries, army stores, camp equipage, etc., were captured, and a Brigadier General was killed.

The precise locality of the battle is not stated, but we presume it was in the vicinity of Duck river, where Van Dorn had a corps for some time, watching an opportunity to flank Rosecrans and come in behind him, to attack Nashville. It is probable that by a sudden movement this design has been frustrated and Van Dorn surprised and beaten.

From Vicksburg we have nothing very definite. It seems that all attempts to

take the place by strategic movements are likely to prove failures. The numerous cut-offs are always on the point of being completely successful, but there they stop. Our forces seem to be about as far as ever from flanking the rebel position. The old "Father of Waters" is not to be turned from his course by Yankee ingenuity. Full of twists and turns as the crankiest of old gentlemen of property and standing, he has more than a large share of stubbornness when he finds you taking advantage of his peculiarities.

On Monday afternoon last, two rebels came in a small boat to a point near Barnwell's plantation, where they hid themselves in the marsh. About 5 o'clock a colored man left the shore in a dug-out, intending to fish in Broad river. As soon as he was anchored the rebels left their hiding-place and went toward him. When quite near they fired upon, probably wounding him, as he was heard to cry out. He was then transferred to the rebel boat and carried off to Dixie. The whole movement was witnessed from the shore by our pickets, but the tide was so low that a boat could not be sent to his rescue.

The unfortunate man formerly belonged to the Boland estate, situated nearly opposite the Campbell place, where he has lived since his escape last November from the main. It is thought that Tom Boland, his former master, was one of the captors, if so, God help poor Absalom. The negroes who witnessed the capture were anxious to go to his assistance but were destitute of cartridges.

About 12 o'clock on Monday night two boat-loads of men attempted to land near the same place, but were driven off by the negro pickets. The enemy seem to have been unusually active during the past week, and our pickets are consequently on the qui vive.

It has been reported that the Patapsco monitor, which returned to the harbor, was seriously injured by the fire of the rebel batteries. We learn that such is not the case. The Patapsco is in excellent condition, and will probably ere long give the rebels a taste of her quality. Her gallant commander is anxious to convince the most skeptical rebel of the power and endurance of his craft.

The wreck of the George Washington has been a bone of contention during the last ten days between the rebels and our forces. On Saturday it was evident that an attempt was being made by the rebels to obtain her guns. The wreck was visited by parties from the opposite shore, who probably obtained the clothing of the crew and soldiers formerly on board. A battery was sent out on Saturday evening which threw shell upon the wreck and soon made her deck too hot for comfort. From the position of the boat it will be a matter of some difficulty for either party to work at her, as she lies within range of both batteries.

The circumstances of her loss are being investigated by a court of inquiry.

From a friend in Key West, we learn that the clerk of the United States Prize Court has skedaddled with about \$90,000 of government funds. He obtained permission to visit Havana for the alleged purpose of procuring a sword, which was to be presented to Col. Good by certain parties in Key West who were allowed to remain after the arrival of that officer to take command. The clerk himself was a noted copperhead, and has been retained in office by Judge Marvin in spite of the protests of loyal men. The whole civil administration of Key West is rotten to the core, and ought to be purified.

Members of the recent Kentucky Convention, who have lately arrived in Washington say that a large majority of its members were as heartily and unconditionally loyal as those of any political convention that has assembled in any State this year. There were no fulminations against Abolition; no denunciations of the Administration; no talk about "nigger." During the session, Messrs. Wickliffe, Mallory, Wadsworth, and Yeardon, so noisy in the House of Representatives last winter, were silent at home. And when Mr. Cravens of Indiana sought to express his Copperhead sentiments in unseasonably mild phraseology, he was hoisted down. Their colleague, Mr. Casey, on the other hand, the only member from Kentucky that voted for every war measure, was told by Garrett Davis, shortly before the adjournment, that he would be hung by the loyal citizens if he dared to come home, found almost every county represented by men in thorough sympathy with him, some of them among the largest slaveholders in the State.

Fred. A. Mitchell, son of the late lamented Gen. Mitchell, recently enlisted as a private in the regular army, which fact coming to the knowledge of the president and secretary of war, he was at once promoted to a second lieutenancy in the 16th United States Infantry. Lieutenant Mitchell served eighteen months as a captain and aid-de-camp on his father's staff, on whose death he was mustered out of service when lying at death's door with the yellow fever at Port Royal, S. C. Being a chip of the old block, and inheriting his father's nervous activity and restless energy, he determined to enlist, as there is now no provision of law by which he could receive a commission.

Parties at a dead-lock should extricate themselves with a skeleton key.

Why is the letter U a most uncertain one? Because it is always in doubt.

IRONICAL MEM.—An "old file" is preferable to an "old screw."

A PROCLAMATION.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Whereas, the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the supreme authority and just government of Almighty God in all the affairs of men and nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation;

And whereas, it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truths announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord;

And, inasmuch as we know that, by his divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring with the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer. And I do hereby request all the people to abstain from their ordinary secular pursuits and to unite, at their several places of public worship and their respective homes, in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope, authorized by the divine teachings, that the united cry of the nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this thirtieth day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

By the President:
WILLIAM H. SEWARD, Sec'y of State.

THE YANKEE.—No other man is like him. It has been said of him, that he was made for all stations, and manages to work his way in all places. Place him upon a rock in the middle of the ocean, with a penknife and a bunch of shingles, he would work his way on shore. He sells salmon, from Kennebec, to the people of Charleston; haddock, fresh from Cape Cod, to the planters of Matanzas; raises coffee in Cuba; swaps mules and horses for molasses, in Porto Rico; retails ice from Fresh Pond in Cambridge, in the East Indies; takes mutton from Brighton, to New Orleans and to South America; manufactures mutchals for the governor of Jamaica; becomes an admiral in a foreign nation; starts in a cockle-shell craft of fifteen tons, loaded with onions, mackerel, and "notions," for Valparaiso; baits his trap on the Columbia; catches wild beasts in Africa, for Macomber's caravan; sells granite on contract, to rebuild St. Juan de Ulloa; crosses the Rio Grande, and dagger-types dead Mexicans; he is ready, like Ledyard, to start for Timbuctoo, tomorrow morning—exile himself for years from home, to sketch in their wilderness the wild men of the woods, and astonish the refined Europe with the presence of the untutored savage. Introduced to Metternich, he asks, "what's the news?" Says "how do you do, mamma?" to Queen Victoria. Prescribes Thompson's eye water to the mandarins of China, and if he pleases, makes the scouting southerners rich with cotton inventions. He is found foremost among those who sway the elements of society—is the schoolmaster of his country, and missionary for the heathen world. He is unequalled, in fact, and instead of going round-about ways, starts across lots for any desired point.—If perpetual motion is ever discovered, he will be sure to be the lucky contriver—for he is the factum for the whole world.—Exchange.