

THE FREE SOUTH.

BEAUFORT, S. C., JULY 4, 1863.

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

Agents wanted in the different Regiments of this Department, for the FREE SOUTH.

Political.

The Democracy of the north are fast being brought into an attitude of positive resistance to the further prosecution of the war. The proceedings of the conventions of that party in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Pennsylvania are apparently the result of mature deliberation on the part of the leaders, and they go into the fall campaign upon the distinct issue of a bitter opposition to the administration and a desire for a speedy peace.

The nomination of Valandigham as Governor of Ohio, shows a willingness to accept the gage thrown down by the administration in his arrest and deportation. His nomination has been endorsed as a wise party act by every democratic convention held since its occurrence.

The twenty-third resolution of the Illinois convention reads as follows:

Resolved, "That the further offensive prosecution of this war tends to subvert the constitution and entail upon the country all the evils of anarchy and misrule."

The Ohio convention was no less clear in the expression of similar views, and though that of Pennsylvania was more cautious, it nominated, in Judge Woodward, a man who has quietly but fearlessly and frankly shown his sympathy with the south from the commencement of the war. The contest is therefore to be frankly conducted on both sides, for of course, the Unionists will shirk no responsibility, and will adopt for their platform "sustain the administration and vigorously prosecute the war."

In Ohio the Union Convention was large and enthusiastic. John Brough, a democrat of life-long standing, was nominated on a war platform—and there seems to be a great confidence in his success.

The Pennsylvania Union convention assembled on the first of this month. Governor Curtin is pressed for a renomination, but it is thought he will decline. Much depends upon the character of the nominee. The democrats have chosen probably their strongest man, and the Union convention must do likewise or be beaten.

Iowa, Illinois and New Hampshire have held their conventions and are evidently prepared for a vigorous canvass. With decent success in the field, the success of the Unionists may be considered certain, but without that, the prospect is unfavorable.

Colored Soldiers.

The war department has authorized Col. Wm. Birney, a brother of Major-General Birney, to raise three Regiments of colored men from Pennsylvania and the adjoining States. Every officer appointed is subjected to a rigid examination to ascertain his qualifications for the position sought. The question of protecting these soldiers against the rebel barbarities threatened, has been under consideration, and it has been decided that no other code than that of the war code of the national army is needed.

This code declares that as soon as a man is armed by a sovereign Government, and takes the soldiers' oath of fidelity, he is a belligerent, and his acts of war are not individual offences. The law of nations knows of no distinction of color, and if an enemy of the United States should enslave and sell any captured persons of their army, it would be a case for the severest retaliation, if not remedied upon complaint. The United States cannot retaliate by enslavement; therefore, death must be the retaliation for this crime against the law of the nation.

Col. Thomas H. Grierson has been appointed a Brigadier-General for gallant and distinguished services.

Justice to the Blacks the Interest of the Nation.

At the present time the great question for this nation to solve is, not whether the Union shall be preserved, for the Union is indissoluble; not when the war is to be finished, for the war will end when rebellion ceases; nor is it any question about constitutional rights or natural liberties,—but it is the old, the tiresome, the heretofore ill-answered question of the position and treatment of the black race. The answer given to this question will be the touchstone of American principles, and the prophecy of national prosperity or decline. We have tried one way of treating them,—that of slavery, which has plainly been a wrong one, and has resulted in national corruption, dishonor, and suffering. Slavery is very near its end. The Proclamation of the first of January, 1863, is not a dead letter. It is working like yeast to leaven the whole lump of the Southern social system. Already as we learn, upon unquestionable authority, in the heart of the blackest States, of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia,—the slaves are no longer coerced to work. Nor is the Proclamation a lie,—“to keep the word of promise to the ear, and break it to our hope.” It is to be maintained according to its spirit, and to its full intention, with the whole force of the government, and the entire support of the nation. The new policy that it inaugurated commends itself daily more and more, no less to the intelligence than to the conscience of the people. The enlisting of negroes in North and South Carolina, in Louisiana, and in the Western Slave States, the enrollment of black volunteers in Massachusetts, Kansas, and other free States; the employment of freed men on abandoned or confiscated plantations under governmental authority and inspection, are evidences of the practical operation of emancipation, and of the sincerity of the administration and of the people in the work of freedom.

But although all these and other facts afford evidence of the destruction of slavery, and of the establishment of a new policy toward the black race, there is yet need of something more. The treatment of the blacks in the long run must be based not on the necessities of war, or any emergency of transient circumstances, but should be founded on principles of universal application, and of eternal force. The nation,—that is, the individuals who compose the nation,—must learn to treat the blacks on the simplest principle of even justice. They are to be treated neither with harshness nor with softness; not as a servile class, not as natural inferiors, not as a degraded race,—but simply as men. The nation, if it would secure its own prosperity and happiness, must conquer the prejudice, which has led, and, if indulged will lead to outrageous and calamitous injustice. We put in no plea for compassion and kindness to a long suffering, deeply wronged, and blameless race. It is not on any ground of pity or of compensation that we rest our claim for the blacks, but we claim justice for them as their right and therefore as the only rule of treatment which will not endanger and enfeeble the life of the nation itself, and expose it to inevitable penalties. Self-interest on our part, on the part of the white race, requires justice to the blacks. Their work is to be paid for like the work of other men, if they do a full days work,—full wages, not half wages are their due. If they are idle let them suffer the consequences. The system of apprenticeship, or of forced labor, is to be applied to them, no more than to white men,—that is, it is to be applied only when there is danger of their becoming a burden on the community, and then they deserve pay for their forced labor in the same proportion as white men would receive it.

There is no blinding ourselves to the fact that, whether we like it or not, the blacks are part of the nation for weal or for woe. If they are treated fairly, like men, with equal, democratic justice, they

will as a race soon learn to take care of themselves, and soon raise themselves from the depths of slavery to honest independence. More than this they will become a class of immense importance to the country, both as producers and consumers. They will form a laboring class of freemen such as no other nation possesses, and their rise from bondage into the enjoyment of freedom and justice, will involve a constant and steady increase in the sources of national prosperity, security and power.

The same free and equal justice that each one of us demands for himself, is demanded by the negro. He has as good a right to it as we have. It is the duty of every man who loves his country, who believes in the inalienable rights of man and who would serve God to help him to secure it. N.

We are pleased to see, as the hot summer weeks are upon us, that our watchful Provost Marshal, Capt. Greenleaf, has placed the city of Beaufort, its streets, alleys and environs, its wharves, ware-houses and public buildings in the most healthful sanitary condition.

A strong corps of negro laborers have, for many days, been engaged in removing all the garbage and refuse matter which, even in the best regulated cities rapidly accumulates during the winter and spring months. It is but truth to say Beaufort, at this moment, with the single exception of the dilapidated and defaced appearance of many of its mansions, owing partly to the neglect of their original proprietors and partly from their occupation by armed soldiers, who could not be expected to be very tender in their treatment of rebel property—especially when fires were to be made, food cooked and no cord wood or coal on hand to feed the flame and keep the pot boiling—is one of the most inviting little cities in the country. Dyspeptic, homesick officers who have as much dread of mounting a spirited horse as they could have of crossing the back of an alligator; who have been here many months and still know nothing of the attractions of the island, of which this city is but a picture in miniature; who fear the night air of these Islands of the sea as the “dread simoon,” and who will probably return to their northern homes pronouncing everything in and about the great bay of Port Royal, “stale, flat and unprofitable,” are the only persons who are insensible to the charms of Beaufort and its delightful environs.

But two years since much of the intellect, culture and beauty of South Carolina dwelt in these large old mansions, strolled along the shore of this beautiful bay, and under the pale light of the moon, upon spirited blood horses, dashed up the long avenues and beneath the arched oaks, to be found in almost every direction on this island. What South Carolina enjoyed so intensely and so rationally it is now the privilege of Massachusetts to cultivate if she will.

To return to our efficient Provost Marshal; we thank you Capt. Greenleaf for restoring to us much of the original beauty and attractiveness of Beaufort.

Valuable Prizes Taken.

Two more valuable prizes laden with sea island cotton have just entered Port Royal harbor. The *Britannia* from Charleston and the *Victory*, from Wilmington, bound for foreign ports, were overhauled by the gunboat *Santiago De Cuba*, a few days since, on the coast of Florida, after a sharp chase of a few hours. These vessels both run the blockading fleets at their respective ports without the least difficulty, but like many others, when once out to sea, slackened their vigilance and soon fell into the clutches of our watchful gunboats.

The cotton found on these prizes, is estimated to be worth several hundred thousand dollars.

“Captin,” said Jack, “one of your mockumbird’s dead—toder too. Fraid to tell you of boff at once fear you couldn’t bore it.”

The Invalid Corps.

Much importance is attached by military men to the proposed organization of an Invalid Corps, and many inquiries have been made from various parts of the country concerning it. In order to facilitate the organization, and to supply the required information, the assistant provost marshal generals as general superintendents of the various States, will soon be furnished with all the necessary instructions and blanks.

This corps, though a novelty in our service, promises beneficial results both to invalid soldiers and the Government. The term of enlistment is to be for three years, unless sooner discharged. The corps will be required to perform all duties within the limit of their physical capacity, but for the convenience of service they will be selected for three grades of duty. Those who are most efficient and able-bodied, and capable of using the musket and performing guard duty, light marches, etc., will be assigned to companies of the first battalion. Those of the next degree of physical efficiency, including all who have lost a hand or an arm, to the companies of the second battalion. Those who are least effective, and all who have lost a foot or a leg, to the companies of the third battalion. These two classes are to be armed with swords.

In all cases where the physical infirmities of officers or enlisted men come within the provisions which do not disqualify enlisted men for service in the corps they will be recommended for transfer or enlistment therein, but no one will be admitted whose previous record does not show that he is meritorious and deserving, and that he has complied with the provisions authorizing an invalid corps.

While the Government is most anxious to provide for and employ, to the best of its ability, those faithful soldiers who, from wounds or the hardships of war, are no longer able to perform active duty in the field, yet it can, upon no account, permit men, undeserving, or totally disabled, to re-enter its service. Those faithful soldiers whose physical infirmities are too great to admit of their being of any use in the Invalid Corps, will, nevertheless, receive the pensions and bounties provided by law. It is further announced that no officer or enlisted man shall be entitled to receive any pension, premium or bounty for enlistment, re-enlistment, or service in the Invalid Corps. They will receive all other pay and allowances now authorized by law for the United States infantry, excepting the increased pay for re-enlistment. Claims for pensions or bounties which may be due for previous service will not be invalidated by enlistment in the Invalid Corps. But no pensions can be drawn or accrue to the benefit of any man during his service in the corps.

It is thought that there are twenty or thirty thousand soldiers now performing such duties as could be discharged by men coming within the provisions of the act creating the Invalid Corps. Besides, it is believed there are over one hundred and fifty thousand soldiers who have been discharged for disabilities; many, however, of the slightest character. The provisions of the law extend to marines.

Colonel R. H. Rush is in charge of the bureau appropriated to business pertaining to the Invalid Corps, under the general direction of Colonel Fry, Provost Marshal General.

In addition to the advantages to the invalid in being placed, in every respect, on an equality with all other soldiers, he can feel that he is still in the discharge of duty to the extent of his physical capacity; and can be usefully employed—as a guard, nurse, etc.—with a feeling of pride and satisfaction that he is rendering an equivalent for the pay and allowances he receives from the Government, in the maintenance of which he became an invalid.

Why a dog waggles his tail. Because the dog is stronger than the tail. If he wasn't, the tail would waggle the dog.