

Thursday Morning, March 23, 1865.

**Gen. Johnston's Report.**

At length, by the resolute exactions of Congress, this document has been spread before the public. It has been extorted from the President as by a tooth-drawer. When you read it, you will fully comprehend the secret of our disasters, and will divine how it is we have been brought almost to the verge of national ruin, by the perverse wilfulness which first baffled all the plans of Gen. Johnston, withheld the required aid from him, and finally deprived him of his command, only to send his army to destruction.

The Governor of Georgia, in a recent letter, makes a sharp onslaught upon Mr. Seddon, Secretary of War, and over his shoulders upon President Davis. We have not seen the official communication of Mr. Seddon which provokes this reply. But, assuming the facts to be as stated by Governor Brown, the worthy Secretary may well be persuaded to bring the controversy to a close without any further shedding of blood. The Governor justifies himself in a manner, by the Constitution of the Confederate States, and by the laws of Georgia, for the course he has pursued in regard to the employment of the militia of that State, and he more than hints that Mr. Davis is as usurpatious as Lincoln, and more than affirms his resolution to resist the aggressions of the one, even to the use of arms, as steadily as he will the other.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.**—The message of President Davis, recently presented to the two Houses of Congress, is a well-written document which frankly acknowledges that we are now in the worst crisis of our fortunes. But it exhibits a calm and resolute temper; discourages apprehensions, counsels manly cheer and hearty determination, and indicates the possession, in the country, of resources still quite adequate to the maintenance of our cause and the assertion of our rights. He suggests certain amendments to the militia and conscription laws, and congratulates Congress on the passage of the bill for arming the negroes, though he expresses regret that the measure had not before been adopted. Our limits do not suffer us to republish the document, which is well conceived and expressed, and is calculated to have a beneficial influence on the public mind, in improving its tone, temper and confidence, and relaxing its

**Local Items.**

The office of the *Columbia Phoenix* is on Gates street, second door from Plain.

We note with pleasure the return of many of the absentees from our city, especially of Government officials, who, we are told, are about to resume their public duties here. Among these we see the head of the tax office.

Mr. Jos. Daniel Pope, State Collector for the Confederate States, of the War Tax. Welcome enough on his own account, his official aspect is scarcely so grateful to thousands whom the Yankees have left penniless.

**GARDEN SEEDS.**—We beg our friends at a distance to send us supplies, whenever they can spare them, of garden seeds. Something of provision for our people may be made throughout the year, if we can once get our gardens into bloom again. But this will depend wholly upon our distant friends. The entire stock of garden seeds in Columbia was destroyed by the fire. Green peas, cabbage, turnip, lettuce, okra, tomato, &c., will always be acceptable.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—We have received a communication from Mr. Edward Sill, and one from a lady, entitled "Three Days of Yankee Rule in Columbia." Both shall appear in due season. Our correspondents will please remember that our *Phoenix* is of small dimensions at present, and can carry out a limited freight. They will please condense as much as possible. At present, we must find place for our own narrative of the invasion of our State and city, and for the list of the special sufferers. Should any of these happen to be omitted, we beg the parties to inform us. We shall also be pleased to receive any incidents which may illustrate the advent of the Northern hordes.

**THE ISRAELITES IN COLUMBIA.**—We have heard from so many sources of the handsome conduct of the Israelites in Columbia, and, indeed, the subject is one of such general remark, that it demands our public acknowledgment. No people could have been more active in their efforts to assist the sufferers during the fire, to protect, shelter and provide for the destitute, the women and children, flying from the burning houses; none were more earnest in their expostulations with the enemy—none more successful in their efforts to save and succor, and since the fire, since the enemy's departure, none have been more benevolent, more bounteous to the hungry and naked, more charitable in their gifts, and more humane in their tenderness and sympathy. We may add, as in proof of this, that the very large donation from the Israelites in Augusta, specially sent to their brethren in Columbia, were freely and voluntarily given

up by the recipients for general distribution. We should remember all these things. Verily, the evil is not without its good. The cloud and storm have their golden linings; the rainbow follows the deluge; and if humanity has received a fearful blow at the hands of the brutal ravager, the Good Samaritan is still found to come forth, as in days of old, ready with the gifts of healing. The comforter takes the sting out of the curse.

**CHICKENS AND EGGS.**—It is suggested by a sage gastronome of our acquaintance, who knows as well as anybody the proper elements for a proper breakfast or dinner, that we forbear, as much as possible, in bringing eggs and chickens upon our tables in Columbia and those regions where the poultry has been destroyed. He thinks that we may well make the sacrifice of some of our animal comforts, in consideration of the vital importance of replenishing our stock. Hoe-cake and bacon and sorghum, it is thought, may supply our wants as fully as they are made to supply the needs of our gallant soldiers.

Henry Ward Beecher has received permission from the Federal Secretary of War to preach the Gospel in Charleston, when Beas Butler assumes the Governorship of South Carolina.

Frank Leslie's Comic Almanac says there will be six eclipses this year—two of the sun, two of the moon, one of Jeff. Davis and one of the rebellion.

\$190,000 in money and \$50,000 worth of provisions have been contributed in Augusta for the benefit of the sufferers in Columbia.

Gen. Waitting died at Governor's Island, New York, on the 9th, from wounds received at Fort Fisher.

Late Northern papers state that Sherman's army is quietly resting at Fayetteville, preparatory to another movement Northward.

The concerts given in Augusta for the benefit of the Columbia sufferers are meeting with great success.

Northern papers report the capture of Gen. Early, with 800 of his men, near Charlottesville, Va.

Jerome Clark, alias Sue Monday, was hung on the 15th.

Four hundred papers have given up the ghost at the North within a year.

It is stated that Gen. Sam. Jones recently defeated a strong Federal force in Florida.

Negro enlistments progress rapidly in Savannah and Charleston.

Sherman, it is said, has been progressing very slowly since he left Chester.

The actual loss of the Confederates in the fall of Wilmington was not over 300 men.

Small pox is prevailing in Savannah.