

breaking out of the fire, in the heart of the city, and in the suburbs in twenty places. Besides, should conclude all doubt. The attempt to lie it away, is as atrocious in its recklessness, as the deed which the falsehood is meant to palliate.

There are hundreds of witnesses who heard the explicit assertions to this effect from the common soldiery, and the detailed facts as already given, confirm their avowals. They were, as an army, completely in the hands of their officers. Never was discipline more complete—never authority more absolute.

1. Enough that Sherman's army was under perfect discipline.

2. That the fire was permitted, whether set by drunken stragglers or negroes, to go on, and Sherman's soldiers prevented, by their active opposition, all efforts of the firemen, while thousands looked on in perfect serenity, seeming totally indifferent to the event.

3. That hundreds of soldiers, quite sober, were seen in hundreds of cases busily engaged in setting the fire, well provided with all the implements and agencies, such as the most expert of city felons could conceive or devise.

4. That they treated with violence the citizens who strove to arrest the flames.

5. That, when entreated and exhorted by citizens to arrest the felons and prevent the catastrophe, at the very outset, the officers, in many cases, treated the applicants cavalierly, and gave no heed to his application.

6. That, during the raging of the flames, the act was justified by a reference to the course of South Carolina in originating the secession movement.

7. That the general officers themselves held aloof until near the close of the scene and of the night; were not to be found; and that Gen. Sherman's guard was not within the city; and yet no person could be ignorant of what was in progress. That Gen. Sherman knew what was going on, yet kept aloof and made no effort to arrest it, until day-light on Saturday, ought, of itself, to be conclusive.

8. That, with his army under such admirable discipline, he could have arrested it at any moment; and that he did arrest it, when it pleased him to do so, even at the raising of a finger, at the tap of a drum, at the blast of a single trumpet.

But, what need of these and a thousand other suggestive reasons, to establish a charge which might be assumed from a survey of Sherman's general progress, from the moment when he entered South Carolina. Every subsequent step was taken in plunder and confiscation. The march of his army was a continued flame, the tread of his horse was devastation, the presence of his troops was significant of robbery and all brutalities. On what plea was the picturesque village of Barnwell destroyed? We had no army there for its defence; no issue of strength in its neighborhood had excited the passions of the combatants. Yet it was plundered—every house—and nearly all burned to the ground; and this, too, where the town was occupied by women and children only. So, too, the fate of Blackville, Graham, Bamberg, Buford's Bridge, Orangeburg, Lexington, &c., all hamlets of most modest cha-

acter, where no resistance was offered—where no fighting took place—where there was no provocation of liquor even, and where the only exercise of heroism was at the expense of woman, infancy and feebleness. Such, too, was the fate of every farm-house—of six in seven, at least; those only being spared which held forth no temptation to lust and cupidity; or which were hurried by in the hopes of yet better prizes beyond. Surely, when such was the fate and treatment in all cases, there need be no effort now to show that an exception was to be made in favor of the State capital, where the offences charged upon South Carolina had been necessarily of the rankest character; and, when they had passed Columbia—greatly bemoaning the cruel fate which, under stragglers and whiskey-drinkers and negroes, had brought her to ruin, in spite of the tears and entreaties of their tender-hearted General—what were the offences of the villages of Allston, Pomaria, Winnsboro, Blackstocks, Society Hill and the towns of Camden and Cheraw? That weeping over the cruelty which so unhappily destroyed Columbia, was it that she should enjoy fellowship in woe and ashes, that they gave all these towns and villages, to the flames, and laid waste all the plantations and farms between? But enough. If the conscience of any man be sufficiently flexible on this subject to coerce his understanding even into a momentary doubt, all argument will be wasted on him.

Our task has ended. Our narrative is drawn by an eye-witness of much of this terrible drama, and of many of the scenes which it includes; but the chief part has been drawn from the living mouths of a cloud of witnesses, male and female, the best people in Columbia.

**DOUBLE REFUGEES.**—We hear, every now and then, of parties who have taken the oath to Lincoln, returning among us with Yankee papers in their pockets. Yankee papers are of no authority in this Confederacy. They are absolutely valueless, and ought not to be suffered to carry the owners anywhere in our precincts. These parties ought to be made to give some good reasons for being here or elsewhere in the Confederacy. If not with us, they are against us. If they cannot so commend themselves to our authorities as to obtain proper passports, they are to be considered as spies, and to be put under lock and key by the first provost marshal or guard which they encounter. Something ought to be done to persuade these parties that, unless they put themselves *rectus in curia*, their aspects are doubtful—their purposes doubtful—and that we can tolerate no doubtful or double faces.

**TERRIBLE OIL.**—The manufacture of this oil, so important now to the people of Columbia, has been resumed by D. D. Hocott, in Camden. We trust that he will contrive to consign a few wagon cargoes to this city, where we need light, especially when the ancient farthing candles (each) now require us to fly a Confederate Eagle.

Military matters beyond the Mississippi are entirely at a stand still. Our troops hold the lower portion of Arkansas, along the Washita River, and command the greater portion of the line of Red River.

## Local Items.

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

**PUBLIC MEETING.**—Our citizens will notice the call for a public meeting, at the Odd Fellow School House, this day, at 12 o'clock. We entertain a general attendance of all those citizens who share in our fortunes, and who are anxious to effect something for the general relief. The object of this meeting is to appeal to the Legislature, shortly to assemble in Greenville, for advice, and to suggest and to devise those measures by which success may best be obtained. We trust that a full attendance may be had, and that each reflecting citizen will come duly prepared, by previous reflection, to contribute his share of thought and wisdom to the common stock, so that our objects may be adequately presented to our Legislature, enforced by such arguments as shall prove satisfactory to that august body. Let no one be absent who can bring thought and wisdom to council; let none come unprepared fully to sympathize with the wants of a suffering community.

**CASUALTIES.**—Among the casualties reported to have taken place among the South Carolinians, at the battle of Bentonville, we find the names of Lieut. J. P. Hancock, 5th S. C., flesh wound in arm; Lieut. John Meddleton, 1st S. C. artillery, slightly; Lieut. E. S. Sauls, 10th S. C., gun-shot.

The Yankees have established a negro recruiting office at Summerville, twenty-two miles above Charleston, and a negro brigade garrisons the town.

The *Rebel*, which has changed its base several times since the war, got away safely from Selma, but the other newspapers were lost.

Despatches received announce that Commodore Hollins was not shot; he has arrived safe in Richmond.

### Public Meeting.

THE citizens of Columbia are requested to attend a meeting, in the Odd Fellow's School Room, THIS DAY, April 10, at 12 o'clock.  
April 10 T. J. GOODWYN, Mayor.

### True Brotherhood Lodge No. 24.

AN extra communication of the above Lodge will be held THIS AFTERNOON at 8½ o'clock, in the Hall in the College Campus. The Second and Third Degrees will be conferred. All Master Masons in good standing are fraternally invited to attend.  
By order of the W. M. April 10

### A Card.

THE subscriber having returned to the city, will resume the Auction and Commission business; and would respectfully solicit a continuation of the patronage formerly bestowed upon him. Orders left at the residence of the subscriber, Washington street, or Joseph Samson's residence, Richardson street, (Mayrant's house, below State House,) will be promptly attended to.  
I. T. LEVIN.  
April 10

### Headquarters.

COLUMBIA, S. C., APRIL 8, 1865.  
CIRCULAR.

ALL Officers on Post Duty at this place will make a report to these Headquarters of all men attached to their respective departments, who are entitled to draw rations at this post. All provision returns must be made out at the departments and approved at these Headquarters. By order

A. F. RUDLER, Col. Com'dg.  
W. J. MERRILL, A. A. G. April 10.