

Situation of Affairs

Nothing very certain upon the situation of affairs within our precincts. We are told of gun-boats, or boats, along the Congaree, as far up as Fort Motte. The doubt is whether they can get farther, or whether they will find it profitable to make the attempt. There is very little plunder left for the Yankees, and perhaps less forage, whether for man or beast, on any nearer approach to Columbia. We take for granted that the Yankees seek nothing farther than the appropriation of hogs and cattle and contrabands from those plantations along the river which have not been stripped. Some of the reports tell us that the gun-boats have retired—gone homewards; but this is doubtful while any of their troops remain in the neighborhood of these. We learn nothing precisely. It is understood that the Government has been the chief sufferer by the raid upon Sumter—stores and other property, including rolling stock of railroads, having been destroyed, to the estimated amount of two millions of dollars. We take for granted that the citizens were plundered of all their most portable valuables, and that watches have fulfilled the design of their manufacture, and been found to go. The ladies have, no doubt, lost their ear-rings, the children their silver cups, and the triumph of Yankee patriotism has been made complete, by carrying off any quantity of silver forks and spoons. The force effecting these achievements, and bearing off these spoils, is estimated at 4,000 white and black troops—deduct one-half from this estimate, and you probably have the real number of the enemy in the field. As their transports are all open boats, a force of a hundred sharpshooters, properly distributed along the banks, and of the proper mettle, would probably have prevented their landing at all. A few scores of railroad operatives, we are told, effectually baffled and drove off a party, preventing their attempt to destroy the rolling stock of the South Carolina Railroad, which happened to be in some inconvenient propinquity to the assailants—but where, we need not mention. A little more pluck, good leadership, and enough of gunpowder and bullets, would suffice to arrest many of these foraging enterprises. While we write, we hear that our troops have encountered the enemy near Statesburg, and that fighting was in sharp progress on Friday. Should we learn more in season, we shall append a postscript to this summary. Since writing the preceding, we learn that, as was anticipated, the virtuous enemy, moved by intense patriotism, did most thoroughly plunder the town of Sumter, and in their progress, one of their sable ruffians murdered Mr. Robert Bee, an old man of sixty—possibly because he did not deliver his watch with sufficient promptness.

Adequate Forces at Proper Places.

Our exchanges frequently tell their readers, when they have to report an approaching raid of the enemy, that we have "adequate forces at the proper places," with which to

meet them. The assurance, however, when couched in language, has almost ceased to be adequately comforting. It happens, too frequently, that when the force is adequate, it is apt to fail to be at the proper place in season; and at other times it happens, when the proper place is reached, that the force does not prove to be altogether adequate. If we could only reconcile the two requisitions of adequate force and proper place, we should, no doubt, do much better; but really to be told, after all the preparation made, that our forces were compelled to fall back; or did not get up in time, is anything but consolatory to a patriotic stomach. The how, the when, the where, and the how much, are essential elements in all problems which need performance for due solution. This is especially true in military affairs.

STARLING CAUGHT STEALING.—The *Winnaboro News* reports a self-styled Confederate soldier, named Starling, who claims to represent this poor old town, as stealing a pair of mules from Mrs. Woodward; but the Starling was arrested in his flight by the town marshal of Winnaboro, who seems to bear the appropriate name of Smart. Now, Starling himself, while stealing, should have been smart. That he was not, proves him to be doubly criminal. However moody he may be now, while in prison, he is certainly no longer *malicious*; he is accordingly in proper condition to be wrought upon by the moral agencies which shall make him *smart* for his lack of smartness in the profession he has so witlessly undertaken.

THE OATH.—The *Augusta Constitutionalist* has been furnished, by an exile from Savannah, with the following oath, which is required of the citizens of that place:

I, _____, do solemnly swear, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will bear true and firm allegiance to the United States of America, and will faithfully support the Constitution and laws thereof, and that in this behalf, I will, to the utmost of my power, oppose and discountenance all secession, rebellion and disloyalty, and everything looking to a disruption of the national Union; that I utterly repudiate all allegiance to the so-called Confederate States of America, or any other power, State or sovereignty whatever; that I will not, by word or act, sign, letter or message, give aid or comfort to any person or persons hostile to the United States, nor hold any communication whatever with such person or persons, except through and with the consent of the properly constituted authorities.

I do further promise and swear that I will give to the nearest commanding officer of the United States forces immediate notice of the presence or near approach of any enemy, spy or disloyal person, and of all matters that may at any time come within my knowledge, in which the interest of the United States are concerned.

All this I do most solemnly and sincerely swear, without any hesitation, mental reservation or secret evasion of purpose in me whatever, pledging my sacred honor, my life and my property to the due and full observance of this my solemn oath of allegiance.

Description of person appended.

Engine, Boiler, &c., at Private Sale.

WILL be sold at private sale, a FIVE HORSE POWER ENGINE, a BOILER, 20 feet long by 3 feet in diameter, and SMOKE PIPE, &c., in very good condition. Apply to

A. R. PHILLIPS,
At Dr. Geiger's.
April 13 '65

Local Items.

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

The public will bear in mind that a large collection of very elegant household furniture, crockery and kitchen utensils will be sold this day, by F. Lance, corner of Bridge and Lincoln streets.

RECORDS OF THE COURT OF EQUITY.—We are pleased to learn that, by the exertions of D. B. DeSaussure, Commissioner of the Court of Equity of this District, the records of that court were saved from the fire. It is to be regretted that, by his devotion to this public object, Mr. D. incurred the loss of his own select professional and private library. We regret to learn that the records of the Court of Appeals, with the valuable library of that court, as well for Charleston as Columbia, were lost in consequence of a failure to find transportation. These volumes contained the long accumulated legal decisions of this State, and the loss is irreparable. It will be no small part of the duty and difficulty of the Legislature, at its approaching session, to digest some scheme which shall secure the owners of property in their rights; to establish some rule by which to adjust quitably the claims of unfortunates, thus-deprived of all their usual proofs of right and tenure.

THE BATTLE OF PETERSBURG.—An officer who left Richmond at nine o'clock on Monday morning last, informs us that at the time he left, the city was in flames from Cary to Canal streets. The Shockoe warehouse and other entrepots of supplies were burning. The bridges also had been fired.

No mob or violence of any kind had occurred up to the period when he left, so that the reports of a destructive mob on Sunday night are untrue. The enemy's cavalry entered the city as the train moved off that he came out in. The story of the mob, therefore, we hope is entirely erroneous. This officer describes the fighting on Saturday as terrific beyond description. The enemy forced column after column on our works, lapping our lines on the extreme right. They came nine columns deep. Eight lines faltered and were broken by the obstinacy of our defences, but the ninth broke over our forces like a whirlwind. He says the destruction of the enemy was immense. Our loss, we think, consisted mainly in the prisoners taken by the enemy. All the prisoners whom we captured were drunk, having been prepared, according to Yankee tactics, for this dreadful ordeal. On Monday, Sheridan attacked Fitz Lee and was handsomely repulsed.

[*Raleigh Confederate.*]

It is rumored that Montgomery has been evacuated.

Funeral Invitation.

The friends and acquaintances of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. L. Morrison, and of Mr. and Mrs. James Gohmert, are invited to attend the funeral of MARY MORRISON, eldest daughter of the former, from the residence of the latter, THIS (Monday) AFTERNOON, at 4 o'clock.

For Sale or Rent.

COTTAGE HOUSE containing five rooms and necessary out-buildings, with sixty acres of land attached, two miles and a half from the city. Inquire at this office.
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