

The Latest Tidings.

News or rumor? Fact or fable? Which? We know not exactly. Everything is in the clouds. Events, now-a-days, tread so rapidly on each other's heels, that one has need of a fast courser, a very Pegasus, to keep pace with them. It seems to be a confirmed thing that Lincoln has been assassinated, and Seward nearly so—whether by a Virginian, revenging his country's wrongs—a patriot after the type of Brutus—or whether the deed be done, as is somewhere conjectured, by creatures of a Northern faction, with whom Lincoln had survived his uses, and who were anxious for a new change of dynasty—Grant or Sherman being the coming man—must be mere matters of conjecture, and it matters not much to us in what way we resolve our doubts and settle our conjectures. But, on the heels of this pretty catastrophe, we learn that the fleet of the French—on *dit*—have been battling that of the Yankees off New Orleans into fragmentary considerations. This comes to us by way of Greensboro. *Pari passu*, the Northern papers renew the story of French intervention, and with additional plausibilities. We are told, by a Paris correspondent of the *New York Times*, dated February 28, that the relations of France with the United States are those of increased uneasiness; and the *New York* correspondent of the *Savannah Herald* gives us the following *mor-*

ceau: "Foreign intervention is again talked of—this time the interfering gent being the fellow who once occupied a cell in our tombs as a drunken midnight brawler, but now the Emperor of France. He has appointed M. Monthon as French Minister to Washington, who is known to have been, when French Consul at this port, a sympathizer with the abettor of rebels. It is argued that this obnoxious personage is thus sent to this country to pave the way for an imbroglio, the upshot of which shall be the claiming of Texas as part of the old French domain on this continent, fortified by the special plea that thecession of Louisiana did not carry Texas with it, the latter having been originally colonized by Frenchmen. As at present planned, the programme is that Magruder shall declare Texas an independent republic, and asking shall receive the protection of France. Many profess to see in this a well-concocted plan to carry out the favorite idea of European monarchs to divide this Union into little principalities, and thus break the strength of that unity in which lies our power."

Couriers and soldiers arrived in this city report President Davis as in Charlotte; and, in a speech to the people, holding forth encouraging assurances of our future, with a special reference to the certainty of French and armed intervention. He denied that the army of Northern Virginia had made any surrender; and asserted that the surrender, though including Gen. Lee himself, was only that of a portion of the army. In partial confirmation of this, we are told by the *Augusta Constitutionalist*, of the 21st, on the authority of an officer, just from the army, and of unquestionable authority, that Lee capitulated with but 12,000 men; that he had previously sent off 18,000, who were ordered to report to Gen. Johnston. From private sources, we learn that Johnston's army is

fully equal in numbers to that of Sherman, and is in most excellent spirits for a fight. It does not appear that President Davis or his Cabinet are at all downcast. They express themselves hopefully, and, we may add, as the most significant of all signs to some minds, that gold has declined, and Confederate money is once more looking up. We give these details without any assurances of the vital facts in any instance. People must take them at their due worth, as the currency of loose report and rumor. Another day may enable us to be more precise. All we would add, briefly, is that we are not subdued—not likely to be subdued; that we have only to hold on tenaciously for a few months, perhaps weeks, and we may see a bright cure to an otherwise dismal day. It is very sure that the Yankees are exceedingly anxious; just now, to hurry us to a conclusion of the game. But we must not suffer ourselves to be hurried. A little more endurance in the trough of the sea, and we shall weather the gale and make our port. Despondency does not become us. A long pull, a strong pull and a pull altogether, and the haven of independence will be reached, as surely as our cause is just. We shall try to give copious details from other papers in our next, tending to the fuller information of our readers.

We may add a postscript to all this, by condensing some of the reports freely circulated in town yesterday. These seem to concur, and are plausible in aspect. We are told that a despatch from Secretary Breckinridge to the President, announces that the Emperor of France has declared war against the United States. A young man, just arrived from Charlotte, reports that he was present at a conversation in which Adjutant-General Cooper asserted the same fact positively, and added that we should have peace within a brief period, based either on the recognition of the Confederate States, *per se*; or as integrals, upon the old footing, slavery being restored, of the former Union; or—and the third alternative remains in a cloud. The only condition of these concessions being an alliance of the Confederacy with the United States, offensive and defensive, against France and other European powers. Briefly, we are to ally ourselves with the Yankees, whom we loathe, against the French and English, with whom we have no quarrel. This would be a very Christian proceeding on our part, no doubt; and, if conceded, would only prove that our morals are too feeble to maintain themselves against our appetite for peace on any terms.

THE CHESTER CAROLINIAN.—We are told that the *Carolinian*, published at Chester, has been temporarily suspended; the supposed cause being the threatened approach to the town of the Yankee raiders. These evil days press heavily on the editorial tribes. No people are more obnoxious to the Yankees than our representatives of the press; and a short shrift and sudden cord is as unpleasant an alternative in hours as in the cases of all other people. We are clear that an editor, above all others, would be ready to act upon the French proverb *le diable qui prend*; which translated into vulgar idiom, means the "Devil take the hindmost!"

Local Items.

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

We are indebted to the courtesy of Major I. C. Duncan for Augusta papers of the 21st, for which he will please receive our thanks. They have afforded us some material of interest. Mr. Wigfall's speech, reviewing Hood's report, is given at full length. It is a vigorous performance, exhibiting much familiarity with army statistics.

A COOL SNAP.—For the last two days, winter seemed disposed to look back and loiter in his flight, as if resolved to linger in the lap of May. The air has been as nipping and chilly as that which Hamlet encountered pursuing the ghost along the heights of Elsenore. The farmers, South and West of us, must have had a hail-storm somewhere; and the strawberries look pale this morning in consequence. But the roses flourish—at least, on the cheeks of our damsel, and they go abroad, with more elastic steps, as if eager to improve the crop, and give it healthy circulation in the markets. Luekily, Jack Frost keeps aloof, and the peach trees profess to feel no apprehension whatever from the campaign of the enemy, thus suddenly re-opened.

Counter Revolution.

If Lincoln be really slain, as we believe, and Seward *hors du combat*, then the probability is that the North is now agitated with the progress of a counter revolution, which will overthrow the present Abolition faction, in power, and which has so long brutally controlled the country. What shape this revolution will take, is only of moment to us as it shall affect the prospects of the party at the North which urges peace unreservedly. Whatever party shall aim at power, it will seek to fortify itself by putting at its head the most conspicuous military chieftain. It is highly probable—nay, we should say most certain—that Grant and Sherman are both in Washington at this moment. What Grant may think, in political matters, cannot well be said—that Sherman is insanely sworn to maintain the old Union, without regard to the feeling or opinion of the people of the seceding States, is sufficiently well known. Perhaps we shall have nothing to hope for, of justice, from either of these, unless controlled by personal ambition, or under the exacting requisitions of the party by which they may be lifted into power. Under all aspects of the case, it is our policy to be chary of any concessions, to be reserved in all communications, to keep aloof from all hasty alliances, and be prepared to struggle on, arms in hand, for six months more.

NOT A VERY HIGH OFFICER OF CAVALRY INTERESTS.—The *Athens Watchman* says a rumor has gained circulation there, that the Confederate seat of Government is to be removed to that place. That paper says:

"We have many objections to such a step—the greatest is that we have known no place within our day, where a State, Federal or Confederate Government has been located, which did not become in a short while very corrupt. It is one of the evils we pray to be delivered from."