

COLUMBIA PHOENIX.

Daily Paper \$40 a Month.
Payable in Advance.

"Let our just censure
Attend the true event."—*Shakespeare.*

Tri-Weekly \$30 a Month.
Payable in Advance.

By J. A. SELBY. COLUMBIA, S. C., WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1865. VOL. I.—NO. 30.

THE COLUMBIA PHOENIX

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BY JULIAN A. SELBY.

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Richmond.

The Richmond *Whig* publishes the following details of the evacuation:

THE CITY ON FIRE.

The evacuation of Richmond commenced in earnest Sunday night, and closed at daylight on Monday morning with a terrific conflagration, which was kindled by the Confederate authorities wantonly and recklessly applying the torch to Shockoe warehouse and other buildings in which was stored a large quantity of tobacco. The fire spread rapidly, and it was some time before the Fire Brigade could be gotten to work. A fresh breeze was blowing from the South, and the fire swept over a great space in an incredible short space of time. By noon the flames had transformed into a desert waste that portion of the city bounded between Seventh and Fifteenth streets, from Main street to the river, comprising the main business portion. We can form no estimate at this moment of the number of houses destroyed, but public and private they will certainly number six or eight hundred.

At present we cannot do more than enumerate some of the most prominent buildings destroyed. These include the Bank of Richmond, Traders' Bank, Bank of the Commonwealth, Bank of Virginia, Farmers' Bank, all the banking houses, the American Hotel, the Columbian Hotel, the Equizer building on Twelfth street, the Dispatch Office and job rooms, corner of Thirtieth and Main street; all that block of buildings known as Devlin's Block, the Examiner Office, engine and machinery rooms; the Confederate Post Office Department buildings; the State Court House; a fine old building situated on Capitol Square, at its Franklin street corner; the Mechanics' Institute, vacated by the Confederate States War Department, and all the buildings on that square up to Eighth street and back to Main street; the Confederate Arsenal and Laboratory, Seventh street.

At sunrise, on Monday morning, Richmond presented a spectacle that we hope

never to witness again. The last of the Confederate officials had gone; the air was lurid with the smoke and flame of hundreds of houses weltering in a sea of fire.

The streets were crowded with furniture and every description of wares, dashed down to be trampled in the mud or burned up where it lay. All the Government store-houses were thrown open, and what could not be gotten off by the Government was left to the people, who everywhere ahead of the flames, rushed in, and secured immense amounts of bacon, clothing, boots, &c.

Next to the river, the destruction of property has been fearfully complete. The Danville and Petersburg Railroad Depots, and the buildings and shedding attached thereto, for the distance of half a mile from the North side of Main street to the river, and between Eighth and Fifteenth streets, embracing upward of twenty blocks, presents one waste of smoking ruins, blackened walls and smoking chimneys.

After the surrender of the city and its occupation by Gen. Weitzel, about ten o'clock, vigorous efforts were set on foot to stop the progress of the flames. The soldiers reinforced the Fire Brigade, and labored nobly, and with great success. The flames East on Main street were checked by the blowing up of the Traders' Bank about noon. The flames gradually died out at various points as materials failed for them to feed upon; but in particular localities the work of destruction went on until towards three or four o'clock, when the mastery of the flames was obtained, and Richmond was safe from utter desolation.

We regret to learn that a serious loss of life resulted from the blowing up of the powder magazine on the suburbs early on Monday morning. The shock was tremendous, jarring every house in the city, extinguishing the gas, and breaking a great quantity of glass in dwellings. It is said that thirty or forty persons, residents of the immediate neighborhood of the magazine, were either killed or wounded, but at this writing we have been unable to obtain particulars or names.

The fire made sad havoc with the saloons, and none of any account remained. We enumerated Henry Smith's, Cary and Virginia streets; Charles Hunt's 'Our House'; Tom Griffin's 'Congress Hall'; 'The Place'; 'The Chickamauga'; and a score of others. The burning of the saloons is very distressing, as hundreds of people rendered homeless by the fire will be unable to obtain food.

Of course we cannot be expected at this time to enter into an estimate of the losses, but they are immense, and will amount to hundreds of millions of dollars.

When it was made known on Sunday morning that the evacuation of Richmond was a foregone conclusion, the City Council held a meeting, and in secret session passed an order for the destruction, of all the liquor in the city. Accordingly about the hour of midnight the work commenced, under the direction of committees of citizens in all the wards. Hundreds of barrels of liquor were rolled into the streets and the heads knocked in. The gutters ran with a liquor feshet, and the lumes filled and impregnated the air. Fine cases of bottled liquor were tossed into the street from third-story windows, and wrecked into a thousand pieces. As the work progressed some straggling Confederate soldiers, retreating through the city, managed to get hold of a quantity of liquor. From this moment law and order ceased to exist; chaos came, and a Pandemonium reigned.

Drunk with vile liquor, the soldiers roamed from store to store on Main street, followed by a reckless crowd, drunk as they. With the butts of their muskets they dashed in the plate glass of the store doors, and entering, made a wreck of everything with the celerity of magic. Jewelry stores, clothing stores, boot and hat stores, and confectionary stores were objects of special attention to these pillagers, who, be it remembered, were not Federal soldiers, but Confederate stragglers.

About daylight on Monday morning the city was shaken to its foundations by the explosion proceeding from the blowing up of the Confederate iron-clads in the river. The Patrick Henry was in flames at Rockets, and the Navy Yard and all the public buildings therein situated were in process of destruction. Several of the smaller vessels were burned at the city wharves.

At six o'clock, the evacuation having been completed as far as the Confederate army was concerned, fire was set to Mayo's bridge and the Danville railroad bridge, and these structures were soon in flames and fell into the river.

THE PUBLICATION OF THE WHIG RESUMED.

The publication of the *Whig* is resumed this afternoon, with the consent of the military authorities. The editor and all who heretofore controlled its columns, have taken their departure. The proprietor and one of the editors of the recent editorial corps remain. The former has had a conference with Gen. Shepley, the Military Governor, who assented to the publication of the paper on conditions which will be cheer-