

THE COLUMBIA DAILY PHOENIX.

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By J. A. SELBY.

COLUMBIA, S. C., THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 25, 1865.

VOL. I.—NO. 46

THE COLUMBIA PHOENIX,

PUBLISHED DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAY,

BY JULIAN A. SELBY.

TERMS (SPECIE)—IN ADVANCE.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Six months, \$5

One month, 1

ADVERTISING.

One square, (ten lines,) one time, 50 cts

Subsequent insertions, 35 cts

The Sabbath.

The following sonnet was pronounced by Sidney Smith to be one of the most beautiful in the language:

With silent awe, I hail the sacred morn
Which slowly wakes while all the fields
Are still;

A soothing calm on every breeze is borne,
A graver murmur gurgles from the rill,
An echo answers softer from the hill,
And softer sings the linnet from the thorn;
The skylark warbles in a tone less shrill,
Hail! light serene; hail! sacred Sabbath morn.

The rooks float silent by, in airy drove;
The sun a placid lustre shows;
The gales that lately sighed along the grove,
Have hushed their downy wings in sweet repose;

The hovering rack of clouds forgot to move,
So smiled the day when the first man arose.

President Johnson's Speech to the Colored Clergymen.

The following appears as an editorial in the New York Herald, of May 13:

In the speech of President Johnson, on Thursday last, to a visiting deputation of colored clergymen, we have some sound views, indicating his part a careful and humane policy in the transfer of the blacks of the South from slavery to liberty. First, on the emancipation question there can be no mistaking his position. He holds that 'man cannot hold property in man,' and he reminds the colored race that he was the first man who stood up in a slave community and announced the fact that the slaves of Tennessee had as much right to be free as those who claimed them as their property.' This is equivalent to an official declaration that President Johnson, in his policy of reconstruction, will start from this initial landmark; that throughout the rebellious States, by the rebellion and the events of the war, slavery is abolished. Next comes the question of the treatment of the blacks in their transition state from the impediments of bondage to the practical enjoyment of the advantages of freedom. Upon this subject President Johnson says: 'There is a difference in the responsibility which persons residing in the slave States had to take from those who reside out of them; that it was very easy for men who lived beyond their borders to get up sympathy and talk about the condition of colored persons, when they knew nothing about it; that there were men in the South, occupying the position of masters, who had done much to ameliorate the condition of the colored men, and who felt a deep interest in their welfare, and that the experience and knowledge of such men must be respected in this important work of clothing the slave in the garments of freedom. President Johnson admonishes him that he must not expect to fall back on the Government for support, and live in idleness and debauchery; that freedom simply means liberty to work and to enjoy the product of a man's own toil; and that he means this in its most extensive sense. Much work will be required to get this system of freedom into a good, practical shape, as the President evidently comprehends from his suggestion to these visiting colored clergymen that, in commencing their task of reform, they should proceed to correct that 'open and notorious system of concubinage' which, under slavery, has contributed so much to the degradation of the four millions of the black race of the Southern States.

President Johnson promises to do all in his power to secure their protection and ameliorate their condition,

and he 'trusted in God that the time may come when all the colored people would be gathered together in one country best adapted to their condition, if it should appear they could not get along together with the whites.' Now, from these views and suggestions, we have a very careful and humane policy in regard to the African race of the South in the re-organization of the rebellious States. The Government will doubtless make some provisional military arrangements for putting the liberated blacks to work, and probably some such system of labor and compensation as that adopted by Gen. Banks in Louisiana, and approved by President Lincoln, may become the general rule. In regard to the question of negro suffrage, we infer that President Johnson will follow up his policy, adopted as Military Governor of Tennessee, in the re-organization of that State. First, under this system the Military or Provisional Governor will provide for the election of a loyal State Convention and appoint the time and place for its meeting. This Convention will frame a new State Constitution, declaring slavery abolished and interdicted, but will leave the question of negro suffrage at the discretion of the Legislature. The Provisional Governor will then, under this new Constitution, call for the election of a regular Governor and other State officers and members of Congress, and with these elections the State will be fully re-established for business as a loyal member of the Union, after the model of Tennessee, as reinstated under President Lincoln's Military Governor, Andrew Johnson.

With regard to the planting the blacks in a country to themselves, we should not wonder if the experiment initiated by Gen. Sherman in regard to the free colony at Hilton Head were to settle the question. That experiment contemplates the removal of the white supervisors, middlemen and hucksters, so that the blacks may manage their own affairs for themselves, and put the profits of their labor in their own pockets, and be a self-sustaining black community, under the common protection of the General Government. Very likely, in the course of time, all that rich and extensive lowland country from the Northern line of South Carolina to the Mexican border, embracing the sea island cotton, rice and sugar regions of the South, will be densely populated by blacks, and with very few whites among them. We think so because of the climate in these regions, which gives health and strength to the black man, but is almost as fatal to the white in outdoor labor as the coasts of Africa, where the negro was planted by the laws of nature, and where he attains his highest physical development.

For the present, however, we find in this speech of President Johnson to his visiting colored clergymen the opinions and suggestions of an experienced statesman, who, in working out his programme of reconstruction of the Southern States and Southern society, for the whites and blacks, and for the great cause of the Union, will be strengthened by the cordial support of the whole country.

An Interview with Gen. Hardee.

A correspondent of the New York Herald, writing from Greensboro, N. C., under date of May 24, says:

This morning Gen. Hardee's party left Raleigh at 5 o'clock, and reached Durham's at 7 1/2. By invitation they breakfasted with Gen. Kilpatrick, after which they continued on to Greensboro. I accompanied the party from Durham's. Gen. Hardee received me in a very cordial, generous, unreserved manner. Him and I talked freely on all subjects of interest at the present time. In speaking of the war he made this remarkable assertion: 'Sir, I accept this war as the providence of God. He intended the slave to be free. Slavery was never a paying in-

stitution. I have often told my friends so. For instance, my wife owned about one hundred negroes; forty of the hundred were useless for work, yet she had to feed these forty for the work of the other sixty. The negro will be worse off for the war. Will any of you Abolitionists of the North feed and clothe half a dozen little children in order to get the work of a man and woman? Sir, our people can pay the country negroes a fair compensation for their services and let them take care of their own families, and then have as much left at the end of the year as we had under the old system.'

'General, do you think we will soon have real peace?'

'I do. I think the people of the South are anxious for it. They wanted it two years ago. I then saw our cause could not succeed.'

'Will we not have guerilla warfare?'

'So help me God, sir, if we do, I am willing and ready to fight to put an end to it.'

'Is the same sentiment entertained by the other general officers who have been in the Confederate service?'

'It is. I have not the slightest doubt but that they will use every means they can command to bring quietness and security again in the land. They will in no wise support those who do not obey the laws.'

'How will it be in South Carolina?'

'South Carolina is the worse whipped State in the Union.'

'But will not her leading spirits control the masses?'

'They, too, are crushed. She has no leading spirits now. Let me impress it upon you that the people of the South want to live in peace with the people of the North, and you will find that they will do it. They will do it cheerfully, provided your Government do not resort to harsh measures. If it does resort to such measures, I cannot answer for the consequences. We staked our all on the success of our arms, and they failed us, and we are willing to return and live under the laws of the United States as we find them, although they may not be as we would desire to have them.'

'Your officers have no money. What are they going to do?'

'They must go to work. The prospect before them is gloomy indeed. It will be very hard on old men like me. I cannot now commence a profession.'

'Do you think Jeff. Davis was pleased with the assassination of President Lincoln?'

'I do not think he was. The people of the South do not like Andy Johnson. How can they, compared to Lincoln? Lincoln has been in office four years and knew who he could trust. He had also learned to govern. He had made a name. He could have done many things in the South that Johnson cannot. I do not think that Lincoln was a party man—that is, that he was particularly for Johnson. Johnson is a party man. He is now, and the fear is he will be radical. I hope he will not, for the good of the country and the welfare of the people.'

'It is said that Jeff. Davis went off with several millions specie. Is it so?'

'I cannot particularly say whether it is or not. I knew that Gen. Johnson asked Mr. Davis to order some of the troops to be paid off in gold, and he replied he had no control over the money. He said that most of it had been taken from the Virginia banks, and that when these were again able to receive it he would see that it was properly returned.'

'Is there much cotton in the South, General?'

'Oh, yes. And by-the-way let me tell you that it will oppress the people of the South very much if the Government of the United States confiscates the cotton belonging to private individuals. These people need the cotton and tobacco to commence busi-

ness on. They are the only articles they have to sell. Give them a chance to sell their cotton and tobacco and there will be greenbacks introduced and trade revive. The cotton which the Confederate Government owned I believe to be the rightful property of the United States, and further believe that the people of the South should be benest and turn the property over to the agents authorized to receive it. One man told me he had some Confederate cotton on his plantation, and that he intended to burn it before the enemy should get possession of it. I told him he would be doing very wrong in committing such an act. On my wife's plantation in Alabama I have some cotton that belongs to the Confederate Government, and which I am well guarding, and will turn it over whenever the United States agents are ready to receive it.'

Important Orders.

HEADQ'S MIL. DIV. OF THE JAMES,
RICHMOND, VA., May 3, 1865.

I. A court of conciliation, consisting of three arbitrators, will be established in the city of Richmond.

II. This court will arbitrate such cases as may be brought before it in regard to the right of possession of property, both personal and real, and to the payments of rents and debts, where contracts were made upon the basis of Confederate currency, which now has no legal existence. This court will take no jurisdiction of questions of titles to property, nor will its decision be any bar to legal remedies when the civil laws and civil courts are re-established.

III. The court will issue the usual process for the attendance of parties and witnesses and the execution of its decisions; appoint its clerks and other officers, and adopt rules for its proceedings. The fees charged will be simply sufficient to pay its expenses. Any surplus will be given to the poor. All parties bringing suit in this court, and all attorneys and agents appearing for them, will be required to take the amnesty oath. No fees will be charged to the poor.

IV. In its decisions the court will be governed by the principles of equity and justice. All alike, white and colored, will be allowed the benefit of its jurisdiction. All proceedings will be simple and brief, and directed solely to ascertaining and assuring exact justice.

V. The Provost Marshal will refer to the court all questions which come properly within its jurisdiction, and will adopt its decision so far as concerns the disposition of property belonging to private parties, now in his hands.

VI. As soon as the civil courts are re-established the court of conciliation will cease its functions.

By order Maj. Gen. HALLECK,
J. C. KELTON, A. A. G.

HEADQ'S DIST. OF EASTERN VA.,
Norfolk, Va., April 19, 1865.

To those erring and misguided persons who have been allowed to return to their homes, and to all to whom it may be applicable, this order is promulgated. Many of you have been madly attempting the destruction of our common country, but a just God has defeated your efforts. You have experienced the might of your Government; you are now permitted to enjoy its clemency. You are again at home with the loved flag of the nation waving over you, to defend, succor and protect. You are received into this district in the belief that, truly penitent for the past, will become good citizens in the future. That you will in return for the confidence bestowed, show yourselves worthy that confidence. In that belief you may rely upon fair and impartial treatment. Upon a proper manifestation of allegiance, you shall seek your own living, as you may choose, and be subjected to no excessive restraints. You shall share

equally all the privileges that can with safety be bestowed on any. Thus will you be trusted. With yourselves and your families remains your future of happiness or misery. As you give, so shall you receive. With what measure you mete out your loyalty, shall protection and pardon be meted out to you. A surly and dogged obedience, a traitorous lip service and a sneering worship in God's holy temple, with treason in the heart, will not assure such happiness to the male or female subject that joy will be born therefrom. Let there be thanks to God that the heart of the nation has been turned to pardon rather than to punishment, but take heed that offence cometh not again. By order of

Brig. Gen. GEO. H. GORDON,
T. H. HARRIS, Ass't Adj't Gen.
C. P. BROWN, Lt. and A. A. C.

AN HISTORICAL LOCOMOTIVE—A letter from Goldsboro, N. C., says:

'Among the locomotives secured by Gen. Terry in his overland movement from Wilmington to Goldsboro, is one that possesses some historical interest. The engine 'Job Terry' first came to the possession of the United States military authorities by the occupation of Alexandria, Virginia, in May, 1861; was recaptured by Stonewall Jackson at Front Royal, in the famous Banks' retreat down the Shenandoah, in the Summer of 1862; recaptured soon after by the Union forces near Martinsburg, and found slightly damaged; was, however, soon put in running order; run for us but a short time, again falling into rebel hands at Warrenton Junction, Virginia, at the time of Pope's disastrous campaign, doing the rebels service until repossessed for Uncle Sam last week, by her namesake, General Terry. It is fair to presume that the military vicissitudes of this locomotive are at last over, and that while there is steam in her iron lungs it will be repaired for her exclusive benefit of the United States Government.'

COTTON.—At a meeting of the New York Chamber of Commerce, on the 27th ultimo, a report was made of the subject of confiscated cotton at the South, which closed with a very notable recommendation. It was, in substance, that the Government should not appropriate proceeds of the sale of the cotton to the public treasury, but should pay the money over to the merchants whose Southern debts were unsatisfied when the civil war broke out. The World, of the 18th, says: 'This modern scheme of robbing rebel Peters to pay Northern Pauls, did not strike the Chamber favorably, and Messrs. Grinnell & Marshall denounced this selfish and most unmercantile proposition as it deserved. The person who wrote the report would have profited by the scheme were it to be adopted by the Government. The problem for the Chamber to solve is, not the best way of robbing the Southern people of their cotton, but how trade can best be opened for the mutual benefit of both North and South.'

To do things on an immense scale is a matter of course in the great West. Speaking of the lumber business on the Upper Mississippi, a Minnesota paper records the movement of a vast amount of logs, just after the ice gave way. It says: 'The spectacle now presented is grand. It is estimated that there are from fifteen to twenty million feet of lumber, piled in every imaginable way, in some places towering up twenty or thirty feet, and reaching to the bottom of the river.'

Some curious cattle, of African breed, imported by Gen. Wade Hampton, consisting of a bull, cow and calf, which was captured on his plantation, near Columbia, South Carolina, has been carried North and delivered over to Gen. Meigs, who will forward them to New York to be placed in the Central Park.