

The Lesson of the Day.

Four years ago, we were, in many ways, a great people, but in nothing greater than the way we boasted of our greatness. The Frenchman is showy, the Spaniard is haughty, the German is prolix, but no Gascon was ever half so vain, no Castilian half so proud, no Teuton half so tiresome, as the plain dealing, quick speaking son of the Great Republic, when the Great Republic was his theme. It was Goshen—a land flowing with milk and honey—and we were the saints to whom the Lord had given it for an inheritance. It was the Canaan of a new dispensation, and we were the blissful dwellers on its happy shores. Our country was the best country, our Government the best Government, our people the best people, the world ever saw. Europe was effete and the European a hide-bound stunkey, but America was Hercules in his cradle and the American Jove upon his throne.

So extreme was this national vanity (says the *Augusta Constitutionalist*) that it had almost sublimated us out of humanity. In Great Expectations, Pumblebuck and the undertaker speak of death as though they were themselves creatures notoriously immortal, and in some such far-off way did we regard the national calamities of others. Civil war we had read of, but so had we read of the plague of the Levant and the typhoons of the China Sea, and we had as little thought of ever suffering from the one as the other. From false doctrine and schism—from all heresy, privy conspiracy and rebellion—it was our daily prayer to be delivered; but the prayer was like the speech of the parrot—we knew not what it meant, and uttered it only because we had been taught so to do. But now we know it, and when today that prayer is altered, it will come from many a heart that never felt its significance before. No man now need define for us civil war. We have defined it for ourselves, and the lesson that taught us the definition is the lesson of the day. It has been a sharp one, and will not, we think, be easily forgotten. It will shock us back into common sense, and teach us what this country, North and South, has long needed to know—that it possesses no exemption from the infirmities of national existence; that if wrong be done, evil will follow, and that to live and to let live, to bear and to forbear, to remember mercy in judgment, and to render Caesar his own, is the whole civil duty of man—to be governor or governed.

Self Knowledge.

Making due allowance for the occasional fortunate chance, and we may always assume that success is due wholly to the fact that the individual has properly learned the lesson, "Know thyself." Of course, we must first, in order to determine the degree of success, ascertain what the individual has aimed at. The higher wisdom seldom looks for its successes along the highway, and grows rich in a condition which the world may despise for its seeming poverty. One's wealth may consist in the profitable use of his talent, though it never in any way adds to the number of his talents.

SOUTHERN CROPS.—It is stated that, in Alabama, there are immense fields of growing corn, with here and there a wheat field ready almost for the sickle; promise of an abundant yield. In Georgia, much corn has been planted, although not looking so well as in Alabama. Enough will be made, it is thought, to supply the people with bread, if the negro laborers can be retained. Cotton is almost a thing of the past; but very little planted.

Maj. Gen. Wilson has appointed Mr. J. R. Griffin to take charge of Government property at Andersonville, Ga., with instructions that the extensive prison stockade and grave-yard be enclosed with a fence, and that a book, containing a list of names, with descriptions, be kept for the relatives and friends—there being over 14,000 Federal dead at this noted place, representatives from every State of the Union, North.

COTTON AND GOLD.—The *Herald's* correspondent says that the United States officials found in Augusta about 100,000 bales of cotton, ten million dollars worth of ordnance, and other rebel stores, and forty-five thousand dollars worth of bullion. A part of Jeff. Davis' specie train was captured, and one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars in gold secured.

President Johnson's Amnesty Proclamation.

The *Chattanooga Gazette*, of May 30, contains the following important telegraphic report, containing the President's amnesty proclamation:

THE OATH.
I do solemnly swear or affirm, in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully defend the Constitution of the United States and union of the States, and will abide and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God.

PERSONS EXCEPTED.
All who have been civil, diplomatic or otherwise, domestic or foreign agents of the pretended Confederate States.

All who left judicial stations under the United States to aid the rebellion.

All military and naval officers above the rank of colonel in the army and lieutenant in the navy.

All who left seats in the Congress of the United States.

All who resigned or tendered the resignation of their commissions in the army and navy of the United States.

All engaged in any way in treating otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war persons forced (found) in the United States service.

All military and naval officers who were educated by the United States.

All the pretended governors in insurrectionary States.

All who left their homes within the Federal lines and passed into the rebel lines to aid the rebellion.

All who have engaged in the destruction of commerce on the high seas, and all who have made raids from Canada or engaged in destroying commerce on land and rivers.

All who at the time when they seek to obtain benefit hereof by taking the oath and remain in military, naval or civil confinement, or under bond of military or naval authorities as agents of the United States, prisoners of war, or persons detained for offences of any kind, either before or after conviction.

FORTS AROUND WASHINGTON.—All but four of the forts about Washington are to be immediately dismantled, their garrisons withdrawn and dismissed, and everything appertaining to this expensive branch of defensive warfare is to be put upon the general retrenchment path.

IMPORTANT TREATY.—The Columbian Government has granted in perpetuity to the United States Government the exclusive privilege of using the Panama Railroad for military, naval and other governmental purposes, other nations can only use it commercially.

Gen. Sheridan, who so greatly distinguished himself in Virginia, has been sent to Texas. It is understood that he has authority to collect such troops as may be made available in the Western Department, and transfer them to Galveston, and thence to march upon Kirby Smith's force.

TRUTH DISCOVERABLE.—Sherman concludes a published letter of complaint with the declaration: "There is consolation in knowing that though truth lies in the bottom of a well, the Yankees have perseverance enough to get to that bottom."

FORTRESS MONROE.—The strictest regulations respecting persons visiting the fortress are still rigidly enforced. No person, either officer or civilian, is allowed to enter the fortress, unless duly provided with a pass.

EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.—In Richmond, April 30, the Episcopal churches which had been two weeks closed to avoid praying for the President of the United States offered their devotions as prescribed by law, military and canonical.

Misogri guerillas have sacked the towns of Kingsville and Holden, and threatened Lexington. The St. Louis night express train was stopped and robbed by armed men, on its way from Cincinnati.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON.—The Philadelphia *Ledger* correspondent says Mr. Johnson will give the radicals a wide berth. Excepting a few leaders, a general amnesty will be tendered to the whole people.

Nassau has collapsed with the failure of the blockade running business—everybody leaving, goods selling at auction at merely nominal prices, and the principal hotel closed.

The Philadelphia *Inquirer's* Washington correspondent says it will probably take three months for the board of examination to get through the trials of the conspirators.

Mr. Seddon has been arrested and imprisoned on the gun-boat in James River, with Hunter and Campbell. It was believed that Lee would also be in custody, also Gov. Smith.

GEN. BRECKINRIDGE.—It is rumored that Gen. Breckinridge and several other gentlemen have made their escape in a vessel sailing from the coast of Florida.

The new Atlantic cable will be laid in July, if the weather permits. Weight 400 pounds per mile; progress 25 miles per day.

TRUE BILLS.—The Grand Jury of the District of Columbia found true bills of indictment against Mr. Davis and General Breckinridge.

THE GRAND REVIEW.—The army at Washington was two miles long, marching sixty abreast.

Local Items.

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

Mr. Grinwald, will please accept the thanks of the employees of the *Phoenix* for a basket of fine plums.

Gen. Hartwell is expected to arrive in this city to day, to arrange matters concerning paroles.

We are again under obligations to that useful institution, the Southern Express Company, for copies of the *Augusta Constitutionalist* and *Evening Transcript*, of late dates.

Messrs. Fisher & Heintsh advertise, in this morning's issue, a large assortment of drugs, medicines, &c. These gentlemen contemplate shortly resuming their usual wholesale and retail business.

The proprietor of the *Phoenix* left for the North, yesterday evening, to procure a supply of material for the purpose of enlarging and otherwise improving his paper. During his absence, Mr. John A. Elkins will attend to all business connected with the paper.

LETTERS BY EXPRESS.—We are pleased to state that the Southern Express Company, as will be seen by a notice in another column, with a commendable desire to serve the public in all possible ways, has arranged, during the present suspension of mail facilities, to carry letters to all points on its lines of communication, as well as those at the North reached by the Adams' Express Company.

About a month ago, during a heavy shower of rain, an officer on horseback was caquering along one of our streets, holding over himself a handsome silk umbrella. He met a lady running rapidly to get out of the rain, and dismounting, accosted her, telling his name, handed her the umbrella, mounted and rode on. He has not heard of the lady or the umbrella since. If he were again to see the lady he would not know her; but if the umbrella were sent to this office, he would gratefully recognize that much-needed article of his property.

PERSONAL.—All subscribers to the *Phoenix* whose subscriptions have expired, will please come forward and renew, in specie or provisions; otherwise their papers will be stopped.

We wish it distinctly understood that our terms are *cash*. No advertisements will, therefore, be inserted unless paid for in advance.

We present the following schedule of rates, in the case of the most obvious commodities. For one month's subscription to the *Phoenix*, we will receive either of the following, viz:

- 1 bushel corn. 1 1/2 bush. peas or potatoes
 - 5 pounds butter. 25 lbs. flour.
 - 7 " lard. 4 lbs. candles.
 - 7 " bacon. 9 qts. rice.
 - 8 dozen eggs. 4 head of chickens.
- Wood, vegetables and provisions generally received at fair market rates approaching the specie standards.

Benjamin F. Wade, James R. Doolittle and Simon Cameron have jointly purchased one of the great cotton plantations of South Carolina.

MOBILE.—A terrific explosion of powder took place in Mobile, destroying a thousand lives, and prostrating the business part of the city.

MURDER.—The overseer of Mr. Chevis, near Abbeville, has been murdered by negroes, who are getting quite disorderly in that region.

FOUND DEAD.—Fifteen dead negroes were drawn out of the river just below Macon. The bodies were buried on the river bank. Cause of death unknown.

EX GOV. LETCHER.—Ex Gov. Letcher was arrested at his home, Lexington, Va., on Sunday, and has arrived in Washington in custody.

Application for national banks at Richmond, Petersburg, Savannah and Charleston, have been made to the Treasury Department.

A Federal soldier was shot and killed in Macon on Thursday night, while attempting to enter a private house.

Gen. Lee, it is said, will be indicted for treason. The moment he is indicted, his parole will be of no use to him.

The Postmaster General has started South, to make arrangements for postal communications.

Mrs. Davis and family are in Savannah, permission to go North having been refused by the War Department.

A \$200,000 diamond is offered for sale in London.

A ninety-five pound cat fish was caught on Monday last, near Burlington, Iowa.

Some planters are trying to raise cotton in California.

Council Proceedings.

COUNCIL CHIEF, CLERK,
COLUMBIA, June 6, 1865.

Present—His Honor the Mayor; Aldermen Bates, Blakely, Glass, Glaze, Harris, Hope, Leaphart and Stork.

On motion, it was ordered that the Committee on Scales be directed to have the city scales repaired.

It was also ordered that the matter of the salaries of officers be referred to the Committee on Guard House and Police.

Alderman Glaze was appointed Chairman of the Committee on Water Works, and Alderman Hope added to the same Committee.

An election for Alderman in Ward No. 3, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the election of Alderman Gibbes to the Mayoralty, was ordered to be held at Dr. Geiger's office on the 19th inst. Managers—A. R. Phillips, A. L. Solomon and A. D. Hiitt.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the reasons which heretofore existed for not granting licenses to retail spirituous liquors, do not exist; and that the City Council will, to proper applicants and a due compliance with the law upon that subject, grant licenses, provided the same meet the approval of the Commandant of the Post.

The Committee of Ways and Means presented the following amendment to the "Ordinance to raise supplies for the year 1865:"

Whereas the taxes imposed by the ordinance of the City Council, ratified on the 3d day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, entitled "An Ordinance to raise supplies for the year 1865," were payable in the Treasury notes of the Confederate States of America; and whereas some persons have heretofore paid their taxes for the year 1865 in said currency, while others are still in arrears; and whereas the said Treasury notes are no longer current and having become wholly valueless, and therefore can no longer be received in payment of the taxes still remaining unpaid; and whereas the necessities of the municipal authorities of the city are such as to require the laying of an additional tax upon all sales of merchandise and sales at auction, made for specie or its equivalent, since the first day of April, 1864:

Be it, therefore, ordained by the Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Columbia, in Council assembled, and by the authority of the same, That in all cases where the taxes imposed by the said ordinance, ratified on the 3d day of January, 1865, have not already been paid upon real estate and other things heretofore mentioned, the following taxes shall be paid by such persons in arrears for the period beginning on the 1st day of January, 1865, and terminating on the 1st day of January, 1866, as well as the following additional taxes on sales of merchandise, and on sales at auction for specie or its equivalent made during the year 1865, which said taxes shall be paid in specie or its equivalent, and shall be placed in the city treasury for the use of said city, viz:

SEC. 1. That is to say, one fourth of one per cent. on every hundred dollars of the assessed value of all houses and tenements occupied as dwellings, stores or places of any business whatever; the value of such houses of tenements to be assessed by the City Clerk. Vacant lots, or lots whereon buildings have been destroyed by fire, to be free from this tax.

SEC. 2. One per cent shall be levied upon every hundred dollars of sales for specie or its equivalent of goods, wares and merchandise, embracing sales of all articles of trade for barter or exchange, except cotton, which have been or may be made by resident merchants, traders and dealers within the city of Columbia, from the first day of April, 1865; which said tax shall be paid at the end of each quarter, beginning on the first day of April last.

SEC. 3. And whereas many persons set up temporary shops or stores for the sale of merchandise after the time fixed for assessing taxes, and close the same before the return of tax thereon, so as to avoid the payment of taxes to the city altogether; Be it further ordained, That all such dealers shall, upon opening shops or stores in the city of Columbia, pay to the City Clerk the sum of twenty dollars, which shall be allowed him in the next settlement for taxes; and the overplus, if any, be returned to him. On failure to pay after being notified, the Mayor shall forthwith issue an execution against the defaulters, and collect the money in the usual way.

SEC. 4. There shall be levied one and one-half per cent. upon sales at auction of all goods, wares, merchandise, real estate or other property; Provided, nevertheless, that no tax shall be levied upon sales at auction made by order of court or process of law. The tax imposed by this section shall be collected at the end of each and every month, commencing with the first day of May, 1865.

SEC. 5. And be it further ordained, by the authority aforesaid, That a tax of one and one-half per cent. shall be paid on the premiums received by each and every insurance company, or agent or agency thereof, doing business in this city; and it shall be the duty of every such insurance company, or the officers or agents thereof, to make quarterly returns under oath to the City Clerk of the amount of premiums

for the quarter preceding, under a penalty of ten dollars for each and every day that such company or agent or agency may neglect or refuse to make returns and pay such tax, to be collected by execution as in other cases provided for the collection of fines and forfeitures.

SEC. 6. And be it further ordained, by the authority aforesaid, That two dollars shall be paid on each and every horse, mare, stallion, gelding and mule kept or used within the city of Columbia, besides the tax on vehicles, as follows: Ten dollars shall be paid on each and every four-wheeled pleasure carriage or barouche drawn by two or more horses; five dollars on each and every one-horse carriage, buggy, barouche, gig or sulky not used for hire; fifteen dollars on every vehicle used for the breaking or exhibiting of horses and mules; \$20 on each hack or carriage drawn by two horses, and run for the conveyance of passengers for hire; \$7 on each and every one-horse buggy, gig or sulky kept or used for hire; \$7 on each and every wagon, cart or dray; \$20 on each and every omnibus or stage. And all persons commencing to use or run any carriage or other vehicles after the time for the payment of taxes, shall pay from the time they commence to use or run such carriage or vehicle to the end of the year, in proportion to the rate of taxes per annum. Provided, That nothing herein contained shall extend to any of the above enumerated vehicles not used, although kept within the limits of the city. And provided, also, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to wagons, carts, drays or carriages going to or from market, and owned by non residents of said city.

And be it further ordained, That a tax of \$5 shall be paid on each and every horse, mare, stallion, gelding and mule sold in this city by or on account of any horse trader or livery stable keeper; and the keeper of every livery stable shall make quarterly returns on oath of such sales at his stable and pay the tax thereon, under a penalty of \$10 per day for failure to make such returns and payments at the end of the quarter.

SEC. 7. And be it further ordained, that no person shall let to hire any wagon, cart or dray or other carriage, or run any omnibus, stage, hack or other carriage for the transportation of goods or passengers within the limits of said city, without first having obtained a badge from the City Clerk, to be placed on some conspicuous part of the vehicle; also a badge with the number by which he may be known and identified, to be worn on a conspicuous part of his person by the driver of such omnibus, wagon, cart, dray or other carriage, under a penalty of five dollars for each and every day that such vehicle shall so run, to be recovered by information before the Mayor or any one of the Aldermen of said city.

SEC. 8. Whereas all male inhabitants between the ages of sixteen and fifty years, residing within the limits of the city of Columbia, are required by the laws of this State to work upon the streets of said city for full twelve days in each and every year; be it, therefore, ordained, That each and every person liable to work upon the streets of the said city of Columbia may and shall be excused from the performance of said duty upon the payment of two dollars to the City Clerk; and each and every person so liable, who shall fail to pay the said sum of two dollars within the time hereinafter specified, shall, when summoned to do so, be required to work upon the streets of the said city for full twelve days, under the direction of the overseer of streets; and if any such person or persons shall neglect or refuse to work upon the streets at the time when summoned, such person or persons shall be fined one dollar for each and every day that he or they shall neglect or refuse so to work, to be recovered by information before the Mayor and Aldermen in Council assembled. And it shall be the duty of the City Clerk and of the Chief of Police to report to the said Mayor and Aldermen all defaulters under either of the clauses of this section.

SEC. 9. One per cent. upon the income of brokers and professions—the income of ministers of the Gospel and schoolmasters excepted.

SEC. 10. And be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid, That no equestrian or theatrical performance, or other exhibition for gain, shall be held in the city of Columbia, without a license from the Mayor, first had and obtained, and the payment in advance to the City Clerk of fifty dollars per day, for equestrian exhibitions, and such sum as the Mayor may assess for theatrical or other exhibitions for gain; and each and every person exhibiting for gain, without first having obtained such license, and the payment of said tax in advance, shall be fined in a sum of not less than double the amount of said tax, in the manner heretofore provided for the imposition of fines and forfeitures.

SEC. 11. And be it further ordained, That an annual tax of twenty-five dollars shall be paid on each and every bagatelle, pool and keele table, and upon every bowling saloon, nine-or-ten-pin alley or pistol gallery kept within the limits of the said city; and the sum of one hundred dollars shall be paid in advance for a license to keep or have a cock-pit within the limits of the said city; and no license for such cock-pit shall be granted for any time within the fiscal year for a less sum than one hundred dollars. Provided, That no person or persons shall open any one of the places of amusement mentioned in