COLUMBIA.

Thursday Morning, Aug. 31, 1865.

Constitution-Making.

We have, more than once, drawn attention to the business, duty and policy of the Convention, about to assemble in this State; and we have been at some pains, already, to indicate what we conceive to be the duties and rights of that body, and the sanctions under which they will necessarily assemble. These sanctions are derived directly from the people, who are assumed to be virtually present and acting for themselves. The trust is a great and very sacred one, and it behooves the members of the body, thus endowed with such extraordinary powers and feeling such extraordinary responsibilities, to weigh well what they do and decide, as the destinies of a long future, the generations for a thousand years, may be affected for good or evil by their present action. There is a pressure upon them, external to the people, derived from the action of the United States Government. Their action must be determined by a due consideration of the powers and requisitions of the Government, irrespective of all other influences, precisely as they shall decide upon the value and importance to the people, of the return of the State to the folds of the Confederacy. The consideration prescribed, upon which the State is permitted to return, it is for them to estimate. While doing so, it may be well that they should refresh themselves, as we have already counselled, by a reference to the Constitutions of those States of the North which are usually regarded as free of all reproach, on the score of their anti-republicanism. New Hampshire is recognized as one of those States, hus pure in doctrine, and well-found- l in the right articles of faith as well practice. We give below certain racts from the Constitution of New apshire; and that of Massachusetts sundry others is like unto it; all ssing, as the good work of re- an liberty, the same vital prin- The Convention of South a should take care to shelter d the people whom it repre- om all future imputation of andoned any of these vital Here follow the extracts Constitution of New Hamp- ople of this State have the clusive right of governing as a free, sovereign and State; and do, and for- r shall, exercise and en- ower, jurisdiction and g thereto, which is not, after be, by them ex- l to the United States ongress assembled. "The pe sole and ex themselves independent ever hereafter enjoy every p right pertainin or may not her pressly delegate of America in C "All power re siding originally in and being deriv d from the people, all the magistrate s and officers of government are the ir substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them. "Government bei ng instituted for the common benefit , protection and security of the whole co mmunity, and not for the private in terest or emolument of any one man, family or class of men; therefore, who never the ends of government are perv erted, or public liberty manifestly end angered, and all other means of redres s are ineffectual, the people may, a nd of right ought to, reform the old or establish a new government, The doctrine of non-resistance against arbitr ary power and oppression is absurd, sla vish, and destructive of the good and h appiness of mankind. "Nor are the inhabitants of this State controllable by any other laws than those to which the ir or their representati body, have given their consent." As language suffers in perversion before men openly attempt the overthrow of moral as in that language has always been one of the great conservators for the security of all the essentials of a free people. It may be well in these loose, lax, and self-indulgent periods, to ascertain what is the true signification of some of the most vital words, in this embodiment of vital principles. We dare to say every public leader may hear Samuel Johnson an authority not yet overthrown by definitions, however amiss he may be to us to substitute a Yankee brogue, in place of the genuine Saxon English. What says Samuel Johnson of the several words, Liberty, Independence, Sovereignty, &c. We trust that our literary friends will pardon us, this, (to them), most gratuitous labor; satisfied, as we are, that they will perceive the propriety, in these times, of occasionally conducting the general reader and every day politician, back to the first principles, the laws of language as well as of the land; the faith that was in their fathers, and which they meant and contemplated in those days when a Constitution was held to be a palladium of safety—a very sacred thing. And now, for Sam. Johnson's definitions, from which even such unscrupulous authorities as Noah Webster, have not yet ventured to depart, and will not presume to deny.

Independence—Freedom; exemption from reliance or control; state over which none has power.

Independent—Not depending; not supported by any other; not relying on another; not controlled. It is used with on, of, or from, before the object; of which on seems more proper, since we say to depend on, and consequently dependent on.

Liberty—Freedom, as opposed to slavery; exemption from tyranny or inordinate government.

Sovereignty—Supremacy; highest place; supreme power; highest degree of excellence. "Nothing does so gratify a haughty humor as this piece of usurped sovereignty."

Plantation Bitters.

The beverage, or dictitic drink, so called, is a very good tonic. We can answer for it; but, according to the New York *World*, the name might be much more appropriately applied. See the following:

PLANTATION BITTERS.—The famous hieroglyphics—S. T.—1860—X—which have been blazoned upon every fence and rock throughout the land, will henceforth be entirely supererogatory in the South, for undoubtedly every planter will find *Plantation* enough at his hand in the

It is impossible, in an to enumerate the variety of ents in the Plantation Bit "the Herald" has given may here enough, on any plantation to be satisfied that they s very hard to swallow. Your favorite mare, o mule is stolen on Saturday night. She forms an ingredient in your Sunday's beverage. Your buggy is carried off the next day. The wheels stick in your throat long after you have swallowed your morning draught. Here and there a planter or overseer is murdered, and he forms a powerful ingredient for the drinking of the community. Your freed hirelings are denied a share in the fodder crop. They refuse to strip and cure it. You must drink an infusion of rotten fodder. Your crop is overrun with grass: you must feed on grass next season instead of corn. Your hogs and cattle disappear nightly. Very bitter is the cud of thought which you must chew for the loss of pork, and beef, and milk and butter. Your store-room lock, though of the best patent, is broken open during the small hours. You may swallow the useless key in your coffee. The contents of the store-room disappear at the same time. You have nothing left to swallow. Your hired freedman refuses to work, yet refuses to depart the plantation. You expel him. He reports you to the Provost Marshal, and he says: You must continue to swallow Cuffee and make out with him as well as you can. You must not, however, cuff Cuffee, for Cuffee, as a freedman, insists that he is also above working. You must swallow your bitters still. There is no help for it. And—but there is no end to this chapter of domestic bitters to be swallowed, will he, nell he, on every plantation, as a condiment or stimulus, which takes from you all appetite for any sort of food.

Of the massacre of the Indians at Sand Creek by Col. Chivington, a correspondent of the Atchison (Kansas) *Champion* says: "It was an indiscriminate, wholesale murder of men, women and children, accompanied by the disfigurement of the bodies of both sexes, in every revolting and sickening form and manner. Infant babes were torn from the wombs of dying mothers, and children of the most tender with pieces of the bodies and the flag of the United States was

NEW ORLEANS, August 2.—This is a startling question. It intimates that there is to be a new rebellion—a resort to arms to redress civil wrongs, real or imaginary, by force—another war for independence or mastery. You may imagine that Beauregard, or Benjamin, or John Slidell, or Dick Taylor, is the restless spirit who has asked this rebellion-indicating question; but you are mistaken.

That you may understand fully what it means, I give you the article entire which asks and answers this question, and which appears in the *Tribune*, of this city, of Sunday last, a paper published by a colored man, which is the official organ of the universal suffrage party, and is said to be chiefly edited by Hon. Thomas J. Durant, a gentleman who seems as much in bond with both the religious, or irreligious, and political spirit of the French revolution of 1787 as was Egalite, the Duke of Orleans. Read for yourself:

SHALL WE HAVE A SECOND WAR?

The show that the South is now allowed to make of their policy must have, by this time, convinced the most incredulous mind that the spirit of secession is still rife. The political power has once more fell into the hands of the class of men who seized the forts and arsenals, and who passed the ordinance of secession in the several States. These people cling to States rights, and are ready to nullify the United States laws at the first opportunity. The situation is the same as it was in 1861, with only that difference, that the forts, arsenals and other Federal property are better protected, and will be more faithfully defended.

But our Federal armies, inactive as they are amidst that Southern people, always plotting and rampart, seem to be the conquering victors.

With the State legislative power in their hands, the Southern oligarchy will at once retrace the influence they were fighting for. They already rule [illegible]. It is true that there is a kind of jurisdiction that they are [illegible] because they have [illegible] were set at defiance [illegible] victory. As far as the political organization is concerned, the North by this time, is actually worsted.

There is no doubt about it. The idea of social reform is opposed and set at naught by the governing class of the Southern States. The results of the war are opposed, and every progress prevented by the resistance and ill-will of that governing class. It is not the liberal policy of the North, it is not the policy of the victors, which now rule the South; it is the policy of the slaveholders, resisting inch by inch every attempt at progress.

Therefore, we have a right to say that, by this time, the North is politically worsted. But the military forces retain the control of the insurrectionary States, and a single word from the President and General Grant may bring about a prodigious change. The backbone of the military power of the South is broken. The new organizations will lack of confidence, strength and unity. The Central Government of the rebellion is no more. Any attempt to armed resistance to our soldiers will soon be put down.

This second war, if ever incited by the folly of the slavocrats, will be a war in the towns, in the villages, in the houses. There is no fear at present for the Union. The first victory, now accomplished, has restored it forever. The war will be for the immortal principles of the Declaration of Independence—a war for political equality—a war against aristocracy.

The African race will now fight for all that is dear to man. The black and colored men will rise throughout the land, not by thousands, but by hundreds of thousands and by millions. They are no longer kept inside the enemy's lines. They are free to come from every State, every county, and every plantation. They have fought before the battle of their country. They will [illegible] their own [illegible] and save the "chivalry" and the universal dominion of the African race. This would be "an incendiary sport," and be instantly suppressed, were it not published in the name and under the especial patronage of the negro, and did it not favor the ruin of the white man for his elevation.

Not long ago this paper suggested the employment of black troops alone as provost guards. At another time it suggested the disarming of the whites and the arming of all the negroes as a militia force. It now comes out to urge negroes to open rebellion, and to wage an exterminating war against the white people.

[*Cor. N. Y. News.*

Southerners in Mexico.

LETTER FROM AN EX-REBEL OFFICER.

The St. Louis *Republican* publishes the following:

ST. LOUIS, August 10.—Having seen various reports as to the names and number of those officers of the Confederate army who went to Mexico, I submit the following, having been one of the party, and returned to this city yesterday from Monterey:

Gen. Magruder, upon whose staff I was when the war closed, determined to take his parole and join his family in Europe. With this view, he went to Galveston with his staff, June 9th, where he met President Johnson's proclamation, and being exempted from the amnesty, from having been a graduate of West Point, he at once determined to leave the country by the way of Mexico. We left Houston on the 11th, on horseback, having with us three pack mules, and reached San Antonia on the 18th, where we met Gen. Shelby, with a force of about three hundred men; also Gens. E. K. Smith, Price, Wilcox, (of Mississippi) Haws, Frank Gordon, Jackman; Governors Allen and Moore, of Louisiana, and Governor Murrah, of Texas. The whole party left San Antonia on the 20th, and traveled without interruption, reaching Eagle Pass on the 25th. We were treated civilly, yet were closely watched by the Liberal party, who were in possession of Piedras. From here we pushed rapidly to Monterey. Some of the party report having been stopped by robbers, though I saw none.

We reached Monterey, July 3, and found the place occupied by the French, one thousand strong; the liberal general having fallen back upon Monclova, with five thousand men. He was in possession of four of the strongest passes in the mountains, and intended to dispute the French upon the approach of the French he fled rapidly to Monclova. The French treated us with great kindness, and they seemed to look upon their trip to the mountains as a summer excursion. They kept no pickets nor guards in the city. Every other night the grand band plays in the Plaza till midnight, where all Monterey assembles and enjoys itself. The odd nights the theatre is opened, and again all Monterey is present.

At Monterey, we found Gen. Preston, of Kentucky; Gen. Hindman and Gen. Hardiman, of Texas; F. C. Reynolds, of Missouri; Col. Broadwell, of the Cotton Bureau; besides many colonels and officers of lesser note. At this place the party dissolved. General Smith went to Havana, Gen. Magruder to Germany, where his family is; Gen. Price to Rio—all by the way of the city of Mexico, as the roads to Tampico and Matamoras were in the possession of robbers. Besides, there is a weekly line of steamers from Vera Cruz to Livefpool, by way of Havana.

Ex-Governor Trusten Polk left San Antonio on the 25th of June, and I heard of his reaching Eagle Pass in safety. Gen. John B. Clark, Sr., in company with an ex-Senator from Louisiana, also passed through San Antonio a few days after Governor Polk.

The French admire Shelby very much, and were anxious he should join their service. From what I saw, and from what the Duke of Ecklenghen told me, I think Shelby will be offered a Brigadier-General's command, if he will accept it. They offer enlistments for one year and upwards, in the cavalry, and give them fifty dollars per month.

Goods were high in Monterey, owing to the blockade of the roads, and at Matamoras "dirt cheap." Fine boots were five dollars, and clothing for any thing you would give. I reached [illegible] on the 15th, after a four days' trip from Monterey, in the [illegible] having been robbed three times by [illegible] by Cortinas within [illegible] of Matamoras.

[illegible] was stationed at Cor- [illegible] and eight men in the fight with [illegible]. I should think there were [illegible] Confederates, officers and men, in Matamoras, when I left, and I have heard of several parties [illegible].

PYTHON.

Local Items.

To insure insertion, advertisers are requested to hand in their notices before 4 o'clock p. m.

Attention is invited to the sale at auction, this morning, by Mr. Jacob Levin, of drugs, medicines, dry goods and clothing; also, a fine piano.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published for the first time this morning:

C. F. Harrison—Furniture at Auction.
Messrs. Jeffers—Forwarding Business.
Jacob Levin—Drugs, &c., at Auction.
C. F. Janney—Election Notice.
R. Q. Pinckney—Commission Merchant.
Mrs. H. K. Steele—Private Boarding.
H. S. Ravenel—Wagon for Hire.
E. H. Heintsh—Notice.
G. T. Berg—Architect.
C. P. Pelham—House to Rent.

Council Proceedings.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
COLUMBIA, S. C., August 29, 1865.

Present—His Honor J. G. Gibbes, Mayor; Aldermen Bates, Blakely, Fisher, Guignard, Glaze, Harris, Hope, Leaphart, Stork, Wells and Waring.

F. H. Elmore, having received a majority of votes of Council for City Clerk, was announced as duly elected.

On motion of Alderman Glaze, the election of Superintendent of Water Works and City Surveyor was postponed.

The letters of Drs. Sylvester and Scarborough, in relation to City Physician, were laid on the table for the present.

On motion, the Committee on City Scales was instructed to have the scales put in order.

On motion, Council adjourned.

J. G. GIBBES, Mayor.

About Pardons.

A very strange doubt or misconception exists in regard to the effect of the President's pardon upon the property rights of the party pardoned. The language of the proclamation seems to be as explicit as possible on this point. It is as follows:

"To the end, therefore, that the authority of the Government of the United States may be restored, and [illegible], order and freedom may be [illegible], Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do proclaim and declare that I hereby grant to all persons who have, directly or indirectly, participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, amnesty and pardon, with restoration of all rights of property except as to slaves, and except in cases where legal proceedings under the laws of the United States providing for confiscation of property of persons engaged in rebellion, have been instituted; but upon the condition, nevertheless, that every such person shall take and subscribe the following oath," &c.

This is the general pardon, which tens of thousands have taken. The following is the tenor of the special pardons, granted in conformity with the same proclamation, under the list of exceptions, viz:

That I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, divers other good and sufficient reasons me thereunto moving, do hereby grant to the said —— —— a full pardon and amnesty for all offences by him committed, arising from participation, direct or implied, in the said rebellion, conditioned as follows, viz: this pardon to begin and take effect from the day on which the said —— —— shall take the oath prescribed in the proclamation of the President, dated May 29, 1865, and to be void and of no effect if the said —— —— shall hereafter at any time acquire any property whatever in slaves, or make use of slave labor, and that he first pay all costs which may have accrued in any proceedings hitherto instituted against his person or property.

These pardons, special and general, are granted in conformity with a clause of the Confiscation Act itself, approved July 17, 1862, and entitled "An Act to suppress insurrection, to punish treason and rebellion, to seize and confiscate the property of rebels, and for other purposes." The clause is as follows:

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That the President is hereby authorized, at any time hereafter, by proclamation, to extend to persons who may have participated in the existing rebellion in any State or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions and at such time and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare.

It thus appears that the President has the authority of Congress for granting amnesty and pardon for all offences against the United States committed during the late rebellion, and that he has excised the power thus conferred by restoring all property rights to the parties, even where legal proceedings had been instituted; but not consummated.—*Wash. Chronicle.*