COLUMBIA.

Friday Morning, Sept. 1, 1865.

Letters on Slavery.

A Mississippian, signing himself "Clement," has begun a series of letters addressed to Henry Ward Beecher, in defence of negro slavery, in which he puts his propositions pertinently and with force. We have marked certain passages for extract, which the reader will find elsewhere in our columns. We shall probably confine ourselves to this single specimen. The further discussion of the subject may well be considered idle—a gratuitous waste of time, temper, thought—good capital, better employed in any other province. Negro slavery is as legitimate in morals this day as it was fifty or a hundred years ago, when Old and New England equally made their profit out of it. All that we need to say to these parties is that they are bound by every principle of morals to refund us the money which we paid them for the property which they now confess to have been stolen. And there we may let the matter rest, satisfied, at all events, to make the demand without the slightest notion that their tenderness of conscience will prompt them to make honest restitution of our money! Be it so! You may rest assured of this, that so long as the vanity, the self-esteem and the cupidity of the factions, improperly called fanatical, find their capital in making the subject of negro slavery their hobby, just so long will they pursue this interest, regardless of all right, all law, all argument, and the dicta equally of God and man. They will pursue the institution to the death in Brazil and Cuba, until they have converted everywhere the comparatively useful and moral slave into the licentious and worthless freedman. They do not care for the consequences, nor regard for one instant, the peace of the white man, or the comfort and safety of the negro. In his State of bondage, the negro was protected by his very bonds. Occupying his proper position as an inferior, he provoked no hostility. Elevated beyond his morals and his intellect, and challenging the contest with the superior race, as an equal, he is doomed, like the red man, to perish from before it. But all this has been already said a thousand times, and when argument was permitted without the intervention of the sword. Why argue now in defence of negro slavery, when, in order to attain the objects of passion and faction, the Northern people sacrifice all the securities of their own liberty, and deliberately deny, defy, set at nought, and fight against, the very principles upon which the Republic planted itself, when it shook off the despotic rule of England. Can we hope that they will consider any peculiar interest of the South, when, in order to punish the South, for daring to assert its independence, they blindly surrender their own to the will of a single man, and behold the hourly subversion of their most cherished social and State maxims. We are not astonished at any of these things. Has it not been the experience of the nations for six thousand years? All the confederacies of the world have been broken up by what is briefly called "Centralism," or "Centralization," which is simply the concentration of the whole power of the confederacy in few hands, in certain tribes or States, in the blended efforts of certain powerful States, against the feebler; and especially in the aggressive nature of commercial communities operating against the agricultural and the remote. But this, though incidental to what we have been saying, involves much greater length of argument than our space will admit. Enough that abolitionism has been the sole cause of the war; of our ruin; of the ultimate ruin of the North itself, and the destruction of that last hope for mortal confederacies which lay in the reserved sovereignty of the several members of the Confederacy. These, with their securities, are now all gone—are now reduced to mere municipalities; petty corporations, under the rule of a vast and powerful consolidated empire. The States, the people, the institutions, the interests—have nothing before them but to submit to what seems a destiny. It is but a vain thing to assume that any human societies, hereafter, can ever conceive any project or scheme for preserving small States from the aggressions of the greater. For these we must adopt the fate maxim of the Turk—much used by the Christian when engaged in any crusade requiring the sword—"*Deus vult.*" "It is the will of God! So be it! Let us submit, with what resignation we may, and forget all our vain dreams of the Republic.

The Trial of Wirz---Fourth Day.

The Judge Advocate asked that the prisoner plead.

Mr. Schade said he was the only counsel now for the accused. Those who had been his counsel had the case in hand for several weeks, and the Court knew why they dropped it.

The President (Gen. Wallace) said the Court did not know, and it was unnecessary for them to know.

Mr. Schade continued: He was an adopted citizen, as well as his client, and he could not, as Messrs. Hughes, Denver and Peck had done, desert the accused. He believed he was innocent. To leave him now would be to dishonor his profession. He was satisfied of his inability to cope with the brilliant array of talent on the other side. He would, therefore, respectfully ask for eight days, that the defendant might select additional counsel, and they have time to investigate the charges against the accused. He believed the Commission were disposed to give the accused a fair trial—that was all he asked.

The Judge Advocate thought the counsel had sufficient time to arrange for trial. He had been associated with the other counsel. The prisoner should at least plead, and the case be brought to an issue; then, if the Court deemed it proper to grant farther time, that the defence might prepare for a cross-examination, he would not object.

Mr. Schade appealed to the generosity of the Court. If he made mistakes in the course of the trial, they might spoil the case. He could not, like the Judge Advocate, in such an instance, have a power behind him to dissolve the Court, and thus fix up matters. He would, therefore, respectfully insist upon time being given.

The President replied that the Court had decided that the prisoner be required to plead immediately.

Wirz then pleaded that he had been previously arraigned on the same charge before a Military Commission on the 21st instant, his life and liberty imperilled, and that that Commission had been dissolved and broken up; that his life and liberty cannot, by the laws of the country, be jeopardized a second time.

He further states that he had complied with the terms of the convention between Sherman and Johnston, and was even now willing to renew his obligation in writing.

Mr. Schade said he would not discuss the pleas now, but let them go over to the final argument.

The Judge Advocate granted that they could all go over but the plea to the jurisdiction, which should be decided now.

The counsel then agreed to waive the pleas, and put in a plea of not guilty, if the Court would consent that the pleas should go over to the final argument.

The Judge Advocate moved that the pleas, except the one as to jurisdiction, be overruled, and argued that there were but four questions involved, (excepting the one of jurisdiction:) 1st. The vagueness and indefiniteness of charges and specifications, which he would leave with the Court to dispose of. 2d. The plea of being once arraigned and his life jeopardized, and that he could not be placed on trial on the same charges again. He would simply read a letter from the Chief of the Bureau of Military Justice, Judge Holt, who decided that a party has not been tried until his acquittal or conviction has been formally announced. As to the plea of personal liberty being promised by Capt. Noyes, it was not valid, as Gen. Wilson knew nothing of the particulars of the affair. It was his duty to annul a pledge after a discovery of the crimes charged on the prisoner. Such crimes could only be absolved by the special pardon of the Executive.

Mr. Baker pleaded that the accused was an humble servant under the orders of his superiors, and could not justly be held accountable for what he had done. Mr. Baker spoke at some length in defence of the accused in reply to the argument of the Judge Advocate.

The Court overruled all the pleas, except the one as to jurisdiction not yet argued.

A plea of "not guilty" to all the charges was made. Col. Chipman then offered in evidence a letter from Wirz to Gen. Wilson, asking protection. The letter admits the mortality of the prisoners at Andersonville and their sugerings, but states that it was owing to inadequacy of supplies, etc., and states that he (Wirz) was not responsible for it.

Col. S. C. Gibbes was examined as to the number of prisoners, etc., at Andersonville. He stated the prison was built of hewn timber; the dead line ran parallel with the stockade, and at a distance of about twenty feet; the prisoners were badly off for clothing, and badly off for shelter; accused told witness between twelve and fourteen thousand had died; several batteries were posted around the prison, two with guns—some with twelve-pound howitzers and six-pound guns; the accused informed him that there were thirty-three thousand prisoners there confined.

The accused was there on duty, except, perhaps, a few days sickness, for six months, to the knowledge of witness; there was food enough for prisoners; did not know that they got what the accused drew for them: meat, corn meal, peas, molasses and flour were issued to the hospital; did not know when the dead-line was established; did not know of Capt. Wirz shooting any prisoners; a nurse was put in the stocks by order of Capt. Wirz; printed orders were in the prison, signed by Capt. Wirz, to shoot those who passed the dead line.

Dr. John C. Bates, Acting Assistant Surgeon at Andersonville, was examined; he stated that the prison was in a very filthy condition. Gangrene, scurvy and dropsy were very frequent.

The Court adjourned.

Headq'rs Assistant Commissioners.

BUREAU REFUGEE, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS, SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA AND FLORIDA.
Beaufort, S. C., August 16, 1865.
Circular No. 2.

To the Freedmen of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida:

In entering upon that portion of my duty which relates to your welfare, I deem it proper to address to you a few words of counsel. By the Emancipation Proclamation of President Lincoln, the laws of Congress and the will of God, you have been declared "forever free." At the outset of your new career, it is important that you should understand some of the duties and responsibilities of freedmen. Your first duty is to go to work at whatever honest labor your hands can find to do, and provide food, clothing and shelter for your families. Bear in mind that a man who will not work should not be allowed to eat. Labor is ennobling to the character, and, if rightly directed, brings to the laborer all the comforts and luxuries of life. The only argument left to those who would keep you in slavery is, that in freedom you will not work; that the lash is necessary to drive you to the cotton and rice fields; that these fair lands which you have cultivated so many years in slavery will now be left desolate. On the sea islands of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, where your brethren have been free for three years, they have nobly shown how much better they can work in freedom. Over forty thousand are now engaged in cultivating the soil, their children are being educated, and they are self-sustaining, happy and free. Some are working for wages, others are cultivating the land on shares—giving one-half to the owners.

The Agents of the Freedmen's Bureau will aid you in making contracts to work for fair wages for your former masters or others who may desire to hire you, or will locate you on small farms of forty acres, which you can hire at an easy rent, with an opportunity to purchase at low rates any time within three years. These are splendid opportunities. Freedmen, let not a day pass ere you find some work for your hands to do, and do it with all your might. Plough and plant, dig and hoe, cut and gather in the harvest. Let it be seen that where in slavery there was raised a blade of corn or a pound of cotton, in freedom there will be two. Be peaceful and honest. Falsehood and theft should not be found in freedom; they are the vices of slavery. Keep in good faith all your contracts and agreements, remembering always that you are a slave no longer. While guarding carefully your own rights, be as careful not to violate your neighbor's. "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you."

In cases where you feel you have been wronged, it is neither wise nor expedient to take redress into your own hands, but leave the matter to be settled by three impartial friends of both parties. In cases of difficulty between white men and yourselves, you should appeal to one of the Agents of this Bureau in your vicinity, who may appoint one referee, the other party one, and you should appoint a third, and the decision of the majority should be considered final. By this easy mode of settling difficulties, much trouble may be avoided.

In slavery you only thought of to-day. Having nothing to hope for beyond the present, you did not think of the future, but, like the ox and horse, thought only of the food and work for the day. In freedom, you must have an eye to the future, and have a plan and object in life. Decide now what you are to do next year—where you are to plant in the spring and how much—and in the autumn and winter prepare your land and manure for the early spring planting. After being sure that you have planted sufficient corn and potatoes for food, then put in all the cotton and rice you can, for these are the crops which will pay the best. Bear in mind that cotton is a regal plant, and the more carefully it is cultivated, the greater will be the crop. Let the world see ere long the fields of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida white with this important staple, cultivated by free labor.

In slavery, the domestic relations of man and wife were generally disregarded. Virtue, purity and honor among men and women were not required or expected. All this must change now that you are free. The domestic altar must be held sacred, and with jealous care must you guard the purity of a wife, a sister or a daughter, and the betrayer of their honor should be punished, and held up to universal condemnation. You are advised to study, in church and out of it, the rules of the marriage relation issued from these headquarters. Colored men and women, prove by your future lives that you can be virtuous and pure.

No people can be truly great or free without education. Upon the education of your children depends, in a great degree, the measure of your success as a people. Send your children to school whenever you can. Deny yourselves even the necessaries of life to keep your boys and girls at school, and never allow them to be absent a day or an hour while it is in session.

Your liberty is a great blessing, which has been vouchsafed to you, and you should be patient and hopeful. The nation, through this Bureau, has taken your case in hand, and will endeavor to do you ample justice. If you do not obtain all your rights this year, be content with part, and if you act rightly, all will come in good time. Try to show by your good conduct that you are worthy of all, and whatever may happen, let no uneasy spirit stir you up to any act of rebellion against the Government. Strive to live down by your true and loyal conduct the wicked lie and weak invention of your enemies, that in any event you would rebel against that Government and people which have sacrificed so many precious lives and treasure in your cause. Could you rise even against those who oppress you, or against a Government which has given you a right to yourselves, your wife and children, and taken from you the overseer, the slave trader, the auction block, and broken the driver's whip forever? I have no fears on this point, and trust you to show those who have, how groundless they are, and that you are willing to leave your cause in the hands of the Government. Ever cherish in your hearts the prayerful spirit, the trusting, childlike faith in God's good providence, which has sustained so many of you in your darkest hour.

The Assistant Commissioners and Agents of this Bureau will publish this circular to the freedmen throughout these States, and ministers of the Gospel are requested to have it read in all the churches where the freedmen are assembled.

R. SAXTON,
Brevet Maj. Gen., Ass't Com

HEADQUARTERS,

MIL. DIST. OF CHARLESTON,
CHARLESTON, S. C., Aug. 26, 1865.
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 90.

IN compliance with Special Orders No. 11, from the Headquarters of the Department of South Carolina, the undersigned relinquishes to Brevet Brig. Gen. W. T. Bennett the command of this District.

JOHN P. HATCH,
Sept 1 2 Brevet Maj. Gen. U. S. Vols.

Headq'rs Mil. Dist. of Charleston.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Aug. 21, 1865.
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 88.

I. SURGEON Charles T. Reber, U. S. Vols., having reported in accordance with Special Orders No. 6, Headquarters Department South Carolina, is hereby announced as Chief Medical Officer of this District, relieving Surgeon John O. Bronson, U. S. Vols. He will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

II. Captain H. E. Lord, C. S. V., having reported for duty, is hereby announced as Chief Commissary of Subsistence for this command, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly. By command of

Brevet Maj. Gen. J. P. HATCH.
LEONARD B. PERRY, A. A. G.
Sept 1 2

Local Items.

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

Our readers will notice the advertisements of Zealy, Scott & Bruns, who offer to sell for cash as low as any store in the city. It would be well for purchasers to give them a call.

Brevet Brigadier-General Ely, Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau, returned to this city yesterday, after a brief visit to the coast. We are indebted to his polite attention for a variety of newspapers, from which we make copious extracts. He sends us also the circular of Gen. Saxton, addressed to the freedmen, which the reader will find in another column, and which should command the perusal of white and black alike.

SOUTH CAROLINA RAILROAD.—We had yesterday the pleasure of a meeting with Mr. President Magrath, of the South Carolina Railroad, who reports his complete success in procuring the iron and other materials essential to the entire reconstruction of the road, in all its length and breadth, in all directions. The work on the Columbia Branch will be the first to be done, and we may confidently conclude, that, by the first of October, the communication between the capital and the metropolitan city will be fully re-established. Nor will the Hamburg road be neglected. Even now the iron is on its way to Branchville, for the line from that place to Augusta. The President tells us that the progress is now continuous, and that the work is progressing, and will progress, to completion, without delay or arrest. The chief embarrassments now are those which occur in the several breaks in the several routes above Columbia—on the lines to Winnsboro, on the one hand, and to Newberry on the other. We are told that President Johnson, of the Charlotte Road, is now engaged in the Northern cities, seeking the necessary agencies and materials for completing his road from Winnsboro to Columbia. Mr. President Perrin of the Greenville and Columbia Road, is, probably on his way thither also, or has his agent actively at work, operating for the same objects. It needs but some 30 miles, on either road, to open all the ancient avenues of travel and transportation between our capital and the several States, East and West, South and South. If our railroad companies have, perhaps, too literally obeyed the pantomimic mandate of the multitude—"crucify them," they are evidently not inclined to crucify their line, but hang safely to the desired consummation.

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

Zealy, Scott & Bruns—Miscellaneous.
" " " —Calimanco.
" " " —Y. P. M.
" " " —Dry Goods, &c.
" " " —Wines, &c.
" " " —Bitters.
" " " —Russ, Russ.
" " " —Pickles, Mustard.
" " " —Shoes, Shoes.
" " " —Glassware.
Gen. Bennett—General Orders No. 39, 91.
Gen. Gillmore—General Orders No. 13, 21.
Gen. Hatch—General Orders No. 88, 90.
College Campus—Peas.
J. G. Gibbes—New Goods.
Wm. Roper—House and Land for sale.
[illegible]—Dissolution of John Caldwell.
[illegible]—Engine, &c., for sale.

Henry S. Foote, the Tennessee bolter, has written a letter favoring negro suffrage. This is to get him back into the United States.

Funeral Invitation

The friends and acquaintances of Mr. M. C. Hewell, Mrs. Mary Hewell, Mr. Robt. C. Hewell, Jesse M. Hewell and Mrs. S. P. Hopkins, are invited to attend the funeral services of the former, at his late residence, near Simon's Bluff, THIS MORNING, at 10 o'clock.

FUNERAL INVITATION.

The friends and acquaintances of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Tarrer and family, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of their daughter CARRIE, at their residence, THIS AFTERNOON, at 4 o'clock.

To the Editor of the Phœnix—SIR: We regret to notice, in your issue of Tuesday last, the declination of Mr. John Caldwell to serve as a candidate for the Convention. Believing his services to be important to the State, we re-nominate him for that situation, feeling assured that, if elected, he cannot and will not refuse to serve.

Sept 1 3* MANY VOTERS.

FOR SALE,

THE ENGINE, BOILER, SHAFTING, GEARING, &c., formerly connected with the Winnsboro Steam Mill. The engine is 25-horse power, with upright beam. The boiler has a number of flues—intended originally for a steamboat. If early application be made, a bargain can be had. Apply to DR. F. A. BUCHANAN,
Sept 1 2* Winnsboro, S. C.

New Goods!

TWENTY doz. Ladies' WHITE COTTON HOSE.
10 doz. Men's Brown Cotton Half HOSE.
6 " Ladies' Colored SILK GLOVES.
6 " " Black " "
100 packs PINS.
20 M NEEDLES.
25 pieces Black and Colored BELT RIBBON.
Jaconet, Nansook, Plaid and Stripe MUSLINS.
Brown and Bleached LONGCLOTHS.

ALSO,
A fresh assortment of
GROCERIES!
Opening THIS DAY and for sale by
Sept 1 2 J. G. GIBBES.