

COLUMBIA.

Wednesday Morning, Sept. 6, 1865.

Jefferson Davis.

We invite our fair readers to a perusal of the well-penned and well-considered memorial of the ladies of Abbeville to President Johnson, in behalf of his captive, the late President of the Confederate States. A similar address from the ladies of Columbia might well be made, to accompany this touching appeal from their sisters of Abbeville, and from all parts of the State, and from all the South—nay, why not from all the gentle and pitiful of the North also—all who shrink with a sense of horror from the idea of shedding more blood, and with a sense of shame at any indignity offered to a prostrate enemy—let a universal voice of pleading go forth, as from so many thousands of congregated hearts in prayer and pity, that the arm of vengeance may be staid, while mercy bids the unhappy prisoner to go in peace! It is very sure, whatever his sins may have been, his sufferings have been great. His power is gone forever! He can sin no more!

Abandoned Lands.

This subject is one of considerable importance now, and will be of more consequence hereafter. We copy from the *Greenville Mountaineer* a report from Wm. Henry Trescott, made to Gov. Perry, in relation to the action of Congress and the military on the subject; from which the reader will derive much useful if not wholly satisfactory information. There are few plantations which have been voluntarily abandoned. Owners driven out by shot and shell, or Shermanized, are not to be assumed to have left their property voluntarily, even though they should have gone with a will. "Needs must when the devil drives," and the most tenacious proprietor in the world will fly when the fire is at his skirts.

European Advances.

By the last advices from Europe, we learn that all attempts to raise the great electric cable are to be suspended for the present at all events, and perhaps forever. The courage of the proprietors, however, remains firm under defeat, and it is proposed, at a future season, to renew the experiment, with a new cable. We shall see. What has been done once, may be done again. We know that telegrams may be sent by electricity from Europe to the United States. This is a fixed fact. We have no doubt that science, taking counsel from experience, can succeed again, and it is probable, so thoroughly succeed, as to make the communication between the two countries, by this medium, a permanent one. But—will it pay when it is done? That is the question. We really hear fast enough from Europe by the ordinary conveyances, and Europe hears fast enough from America, for all the ordinary purposes of the two nations. Apprehensions were increasing in England at the approach of the cholera. The epidemic had reached Marseilles. A great meeting of medical and other scientific men had been held in London to consider the subject of sanitary precautions.

The *Winnsboro News* announces the death of Hon. R. B. Boylston, which occurred in that town on Monday evening last. Mr. B. was a prominent citizen of Fairfield District, a member of the Legislature for several years and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The *Chatanooga (Tenn.) Gazette* speaks of discrimination against Northern men in the business affairs of that city, and protests against it. It threatens to print the names of all persons who persist in such a narrow-minded course, and says: "We desire sneaks, Dutchmen, Irishmen, Chinks and everybody else, to locate invest their capital here. If it is sought here by strangers we shall never have any."

To His Excellency Andrew Johnson, President of the United States:

We, the undersigned, ladies of Abbeville District, South Carolina, respectfully exhibit to your Excellency our desire to intercede in behalf of Mr. Jefferson Davis, the President of the late Confederate States. We have heard with much satisfaction that petitions of a like nature have been addressed to your Excellency from other portions of the country, and we entertain the hope that these united appeals for mercy will not fall unheeded upon the ears of your Excellency.

In any event, it will be grateful to us to have thus testified our feelings for one whose faults, in our judgment at least, have not been past forgiveness. Called from the retirement of his home to a position which he did not solicit, but which his manhood forbade him to decline, illustrating by his conduct the highest devotion to principles, which were maintained with marked unanimity by his people, temperate in the hours of triumph, dignified and calm in the days of defeat, always just, always generous, always brave, we see in his conduct everything to evoke sympathy, and nothing to merit the extreme punishment with which he is threatened. The same firmness and calm views of policy which, on repeated occasions, he displayed in resisting the cries which, in his region, were raised for sanguinary retaliation, we hope will now be exhibited, in disregard of the unfeeling agitation which seeks his life. We hope there will be a merciful remembrance of his poor wife, plundered and insulted after being torn away from his prison, and of his young children, whose prospects in life have been so terribly blighted.

Impelled by the feelings of our nature—which are ever excited by the misfortunes of the brave and the good, which have in all ages characterized our sex, which moved the Marys to be the last at the Cross and the first at the grave—we earnestly beseech your Excellency to exercise, in behalf of Mr. Davis, all Executive clemency.

Grant our petition, and, besides finding in your own breast the reward which attends every virtuous deed, we sincerely believe that you may expect increase of your own renown, and of the honorable character which forms the strength of your country. For ourselves we will say, we will hold in grateful remembrance this act of generosity to the unfortunate, and will teach our children "to rise up and call you blessed."

ABBEVILLE, August 23, 1865.

THE PRISONERS.—The tone of the following extracts, which we take from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, is mean and brutal, but the facts—if they be facts—will interest the Southern reader. It is very shocking to think that, in this or any age, the press of a great city, like Philadelphia, should speak in such insolent manner of a crushed but eminent captive—no matter what his offence:

"Jeff. Davis has been unable to take his out-door exercise for several days past, on account of a carbuncle on one of his legs. Davis has, for years, been subject to these painful eruptions, and asserts that they are not occasioned by his confinement. Jeff. has become quite cheerful and communicative. He fully appreciates the mild regime to which he is now subjected. Several volumes of the English classics are now allowed him, an occasional paper, and pen, ink and paper. He writes letters, of course, enclosed to the Secretary of War. Whom Jeff. favors with epistolary communications is known only to Mr. Stanton and his confidential clerk.

Letters to Jeff. are of frequent occurrence. Those who send them may as well save their stationery and stamps, to say nothing of the labor of writing. No letters are allowed J. D. Gen. Miles becomes their custodian. Their contents are perused by the reticent young General, and then packed away, and he to whom they are addressed is not even aware of their existence.

"Clay and Mitchell promenaded the ramparts every day, though never at the same hours. Mitchell has just received a small bale of Lynchburg smoking tobacco, from his son at Richmond. The fragrant Lynchburg weed was allowed to pass the glittering cordon of guards, and placed at John's disposal. Mitchell received the soothing weed gladly—nay, thankfully; he who, scarce three months ago, rejected in advance the pardon of the President of the United States, returned thanks for being allowed to receive five pounds of smoking tobacco."

The Wirtz trial still continues, and promises to continue *ad infinitum*. We copy the following letter from the accused, addressed to the editor of the *New York News*:

OLD CAPITOL PRISON,
WASHINGTON CITY,
August 27, 1865.

To the Editor of the *New York News*:
Although a perfect stranger to you, I take, in my unfortunate and helpless condition, the liberty to address you this letter, knowing that, as a friend to the down-trodden South, you cannot but have sympathy for a man who, as he believes, is innocently about to be sacrificed; a sympathy which, I hope, will prompt you to interest yourself in his behalf.

I am a native of Switzerland, and, having been for years before the war a resident of Louisiana, could not do otherwise than take up arms to defend the State and country of my adoption when it was invaded. I joined the Confederate army in 1861, and served faithfully the cause I considered to be a righteous one. In 1862, the United States troops destroyed my home, and my wife and three children had to seek shelter among friends. I lost all I possessed but a few negroes, who still remained faithful; in 1864, I was ordered to report to the officer of the military prison at Andersonville, Georgia; by this officer I was put in command of the prison, and remained in that position from April, 1864, until 1865.

When the South ceased the struggle, I was still in Andersonville with my family, believing myself fully protected by the terms of the agreement between Generals Sherman and Johnston, and never dreaming that I—a poor captain and subaltern officer—would be made to answer with my life for what is now alleged to have been done in Andersonville. I was, in violation of a safe conduct which was given me by a staff officer of General Wilson, arrested in Macon, Georgia, was kept there in confinement for two weeks, and then sent on to Washington, and am now, by order of the President of the United States, brought before a court to be tried under the most atrocious charges. I have no friends here. I am helpless and unless I can get help, will have to lose the last things which I possess in this world—my good name and my life.

My conscience is clear. I have never dealt cruelly with a prisoner under my charge. If they suffered for want of shelter, food, clothing and necessities, I could not help it—having no control over these things—things which the Confederate Government could give only in very limited quantity, even to our own men, as everybody knows who will be just and impartial. My legal advisers, (Messrs. Schade and Baker,) seeing my helplessness, have undertaken to conduct my defence. They both are doing it from generosity and compassion, knowing full well that I have not the means to remunerate them for their trouble. But I cannot expect them to furnish the means which it absolutely requires in the conducting of a cause of such importance. Copies of depositions have to be made, messengers have to be sent here and there to get up testimony; and how can this be done without money? I have none to give; and no doubt my case will be lost—my life sacrificed—for the want of the money to defray the expenses of such a trial. But, my counsel believe, from the evidence already in their possession, that, if the necessary means can be obtained, my acquittal must be the result.

In this condition I take the liberty to appeal to you to assist me, and let me not be the victim of injustice. Your influence is such that it will not require very great efforts to collect the necessary means for a vigorous carrying on of the defence. I am myself without clothes, without any means to alleviate the hardships of a close confinement. My health is bad, and the prison fare is not calculated to benefit a sick, or at least a suffering man. Still, these things I have borne without murmuring, and hope, with the help of God, to bear yet for a while longer.

Hoping that this petition will receive a favorable reception on your part, and assuring you again that nothing but the direst necessity could induce me to address you, I remain, sir, with the greatest respect, your obedient servant,
H. WERZE,
Late Capt. and A. A. G., C. S. A.

A collision occurred on the Long Island Railroad, near Jamaica, between the two engines, General Grant and General Sherman, attached to their respective trains. The trains were badly wrecked, the engines captured, and four or five persons killed and large numbers injured.

The Shenandoah.

DETAILS OF HER RECENT EXPLOITS—AN ENGLISHMAN PURCHASING THE CAPTURED VESSELS—A BRITISH VESSEL SUPPLYING HER WITH COAL.

The latest San Francisco papers, received by the *Ocean Queen*, give the following details of the ravages of the pirate Shenandoah:

The Shenandoah had destroyed the barque Susan Abigail, near the Gulf of Anadyr. It seems that the Susan Abigail had San Francisco papers of the 10th of July, containing accounts of the collapse of the rebellion, but the pirate Waddell would not credit them, as they came from Northern papers, and announced his intention of burning every American vessel he could find. After destroying the Susan Abigail, the pirate went towards Behring's Straits and the Arctic Ocean. At St. Lawrence Island, he burned the ship General Williams, of New London, and the next morning he burned five more vessels. The barque Gen. Pike had arrived at San Francisco with the crews of the seven vessels, viz: Barque Susan Abigail, ship Gen. Williams, barque W. C. Nye, of New Bedford, barque Gipsy, of New Bedford, barques Catharine, Nimrod and Isabella, all of New Bedford.

The paroled prisoners report that Capt. Nye, of the Abigail, must have succeeded in notifying some of the vessels of the proximity of the pirate, as four were seen putting back soon after, and, with those notified by the Gen. Pike, some thirteen were turned back.

The Gen. Pike was bonded by the pirate for forty-five thousand dollars, and 271 officers and men of the destroyed whale ships were put on board for San Francisco. Among those turned back by the Gen. Pike were the Addison Pierce and a Canton packet, both of New Bedford.

It is believed that the pirate will certainly destroy fifty more vessels, as they were all to the Northward.

The barque Richmond was also warned off, and sailed from Plover Bay for the Sandwich Islands.

In conversation with Capt. Smith, of the ship Wm. Thompson, the pirate asked the news. Capt. Smith replied that President Lincoln had been assassinated. "I was prepared to hear that," said the pirate, exultingly. He did not believe that Lee had surrendered.

Among the people on the Shenandoah was an Englishman, who seemed to be prospecting for the purchase of five vessels to put on a line between Australia and New Zealand, and it was probable that he would purchase some of the captures made by the pirate.

The officers of the Shenandoah talked of arming two of the whalers to go up and destroy the whalers at points which the pirate could not reach, and were very desirous to enlist the captured crews. In some instances, they were successful in obtaining men in this way.

The Kanakas, an English vessel, laden with coal, was seen by the ship Wm. Gilford, bound for the Shenandoah.

CONTENTS OF A "WATERFALL."—An exchange informs us that a short time ago a man, in turning a corner, accidentally touched, with a ladder he was carrying on his shoulder, the head of a lady, who was standing there waiting for a car to pass. The blow was just sufficient to hurt her feelings by knocking from her hair the "waterfall" which ornamented the back of it. Its specific gravity was enough to burst it as it fell, when its contents were spread upon the ground, which, wonderful to tell, were as follows: two curled hair puffs, one piece of mourning crape, two dark colored pin cushions, and one black worsted stocking! This mystery, then, darker than any the Egyptians possessed, is at last unravelled, much to the joy of unsophisticated young gentlemen like ourselves.

A DARING OUTRAGE.—As Mr. H. C. Wiskeman was riding, on Thursday last, towards Orangeburg, on the State Road, he was attacked about dusk, when within fifteen miles of that town, by a negro man, who, after demanding his money, forcibly dragged him from his horse and rifled his pockets of \$200 in gold and between forty and fifty dollars in greenbacks. This gentleman states that he was informed by persons in the neighborhood, among whom he went to obtain assistance, that the negroes in that section are in a very demoralized state, and are constantly committing depredations on the farmers around.

[*Charleston News.*]

A correspondent entered an office, and accused the compositor of not having punctuated his communication; when the typo earnestly replied, "I'm not a pointer, I'm a setter."

Local Items.

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

THE CONVENTION.—As the proceedings of the Convention may be expected to be of absorbing interest to all persons in the State, and as the *Phoenix* will make daily reports of its progress and the results from it, besides publishing in full the new Constitution the moment it shall be ratified, it will be well that persons desiring to subscribe should do so in due season. In the present scarcity and cost of printing paper, publishers cannot venture to print upon a mere speculative or possible demand. We shall publish but a few more copies than will suffice for our customers, and unless they come forward promptly, they may find themselves too late for the supply.

The Provisional Governor left Columbia, yesterday morning, for Greenville. His absence, however, will be temporary; and from the 7th inst., his headquarters will be established at the capital, to which place all communications to him should be addressed. His lodgings are already taken at Nickerson's Hotel; and this reminds us to say that members elect to the Convention, and all other parties who desire to find lodgings at a first-class hotel, will do wisely to secure their rooms in season. There is so much business to be done—so many interests to be considered—so many parties to be consulted—so many friends and relatives who long to meet, after a prolonged separation,—that we may naturally look to see the city crowded with visitors. To those who desire private lodgings, we have only to say that no one need be at a loss. Should any of our special friends, however, be at a loss, we have only to say, as we have already said—apply to us, and we can impart such information as will take them from the anxious benches, and conduct them to quiet havens in pleasant valleys.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.—We are happy to perceive that the faculty of this well-known and venerable institution have announced the resumption, in Charleston, of the regular sessions, which will begin early in November, with the opening of the railroads. We need scarcely insist upon the singular excellence of this institution and the high reputation which it has established for itself during a quarter of a century. We are told that the buildings are all put in good order, as before the war, that the apparatus is complete and new, and that all the facilities and agencies possessed by the college prior to the war, will be continued and increased under the new regime. The sooner our students now proceed to make up for lost time, the better for themselves and the country.

THE CONVENTION.—The following is the result of the election held in Richland District for members of the State Convention. The first four are elected:

	COLUMBIA—West Box	East Box	Porter's Mill	Gadsden	Camp Ground	Total
Hampton	271	33	20	6	9	339
McMaster	184	21	14	6	6	225
Taylor	124	17	13	3	4	166
Wallace	123	10	16	4	9	162
Caldwell	113	25				138
Carroll	111	10		6	2	129
Gibbes	85	20	3			108
DeSausure	79	5	1	5	4	94
Harris	25	7			10	42

No polls were opened at Davis' or Garner's.

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

- Melvin M. Cohen—Doll Babies, &c.
- John A. Kay—Furniture, &c.
- John A. Kay—Architect, &c.
- John A. Kay—Stable to Rent.
- John A. Kay—Four Rooms to Rent.
- Beard's Row—Fancy Goods.
- Regular Communication Richland Lodge.
- Fielding & Pope—Attorneys at Law.
- A. J. Berry—Drug Store.
- Richard Cathcart—Rooms to Rent.
- Apply at this Office—Cottage Wanted.
- Mrs. S. J. Cochett—Milan Caps.

JOE'S RIGHTS.—Southern life under the new regime. Scene—A breakfast table. Season—Fly time. *Dramatis personae*—Four young ladies on one side of the table—two on the other; Joe, a freed youth of African descent, with a fly-brush.

One of the young ladies, on the full side of the table, to Joe, in the rear: "Joe, go to the other side, where you can better use your brush."

Responded Joe, "Ma'am, you have no more right to tell me to go to the other side of the table than you have to tell the Governor."

The young lady succumbs. **FACT.**

MEXICO.—News has reached Vera Cruz of a victory gained over the Liberals on the 14th. At the time of the steamer's leaving, the French and Austrian vessels were firing a salute. The Imperial troops being twice repulsed, an expedition was organized to drive the Republicans out of Chiuhua. It is reported that Negarta lost half his men and all his horses, retreating from Matamoros. The French troops continue to arrive in Mexico.