

COLUMBIA.

Wednesday Morning, Sept. 13, 1865.

The Convention of the State of South Carolina, for the revision of the Constitution, will assemble this day, at the Baptist Church, probably at 12 m. The members were arriving yesterday. From all quarters, as far as we have the report, the selections have been well made, and the body promises to be equally strong in moral worth and intellect. We take for granted that the Hon. Mr. Wardlaw will be elected President, though we should prefer to see his large abilities in frequent exercise upon the floor. We assume that, almost as a matter of necessity, many of the members of the Convention will also be required to serve in the Legislature, yet to be elected. There will be no inconsistency or impropriety in the members holding seats in both bodies. By reason of the numbers who will be excluded from seats in either body, as specially excepted to by the Government of the United States, because of their active participation in the conduct of the Confederacy, our State will be found singularly deficient of resources in the matter of able men. We shall have to tax the services of those we have to the uttermost. The Convention, unless it undertakes too much, will probably be able to adjourn by Saturday night. But the introduction of any subject, held irrelevant, will launch our members on a wide sea of debate, where it will be found difficult to bring them into port again. Let them beware of this danger. We hope that the Convention will at least be unanimous in one thing—in the preparation of an earnest remonstrance, or appeal, to the General Government for that indemnity, partial though it be, for our slave property, which will enable us to recover, in some degree, from the utter prostration which keeps our fortunes prostrate in the dust. The claim is founded on principles of equity, justice and good policy, if not State necessity; and has its sufficient example in the course pursued by Great Britain when she emancipated the blacks in her West India Colonies. There can be no impropriety in the Convention addressing itself, on this subject, to the Congress and the Government. We do not counsel that they shall urge it as a condition for the political concessions which we are required to make; but our readiness to submit, on this point, is suggestive of a claim itself, which a magnanimous Government and people will not be slow to recognize.

Beecher on Davis.

The tiger-Christian preacher, Beecher—if it be not profanation to speak such a name in close association with that of Jesus Christ—has been regaling his audience with a picture of the execution of Jefferson Davis, as the proper "cap-stone of the war." [The metaphor is not ours.] And though he exhorts his audience to witness the scene without shouting—nay, he even permits that they shall weep—Oh! tears of the crocodile!—yet he exults and luxuriates throughout in the horrid details of the scene of blood and terror which he seeks to make picturesque to the minds of his audience, by all those words of sounding declamation with which the *ad captivandum* orator disguises a falsehood or clothes a crime in a sort of moral plausibility. And this miserable stuff—this solemn balderdash—this tiger-like craving for blood—this revengeful and malignant passion—is poured forth, on the Sabbath, in a church claiming to be Christian, and through the medium of a regular sermon. The reader will find the precious sermon in another column. He will revolt at it as we do—as it should do, with rightly constituted minds, and hearts not actually saturated by Satan with all the demonic appetites of Hell.

CRIME IN CHARLESTON.—The freedmen of Charleston are exhibiting, in full odor, all the characteristic virtues of the age. Billy, a colored civilian; (how names lose their import!) George, another colored civilian; Smart, a third colored civilian, have undergone trial in Charleston, before a military commission, for such minor virtues as stealing, burglary, arson, &c., and have all been found guilty, and have been sentenced to confinement at hard labor for periods ranging from six months to two years and six months. In old times, Billy, George and Smart (civilians) might have been guilty of the stealing and the burglary; hardly for the threats of arson and murder—these were rare crimes with the negro in old times—would have been soundly flogged, and sent home that night, to sup with wife and children on bacon and corn bread, peas, greens and potatoes.

Since writing the preceding, we find the results of another military commission for trying Antrhum McConnell, Scipio, Wm. Arnell, Billy Wilson and Gabriel, all colored civilians, for the murder of J. W. Skinner, at the plantation of Joseph Ford, of Georgetown District. They were all found guilty, and sentenced "to be hanged by the neck until dead." We fear that this catalogue of crime is destined to be fearfully increased. The subject is at once too copious in suggestion and too painful for any comment; especially as there are reports now current in our city of a crime of still greater enormity, occurring also in Georgetown District, the criminals being again these colored civilians.

CHOLERA IN LONDON.—By an extract in this day's paper, which we make from the *Richmond Whig*, of the 9th inst., and which seems to be taken from one of the more Northern papers, the *Asiatic Cholera* is announced as having already appeared in London. We sincerely trust that this announcement is premature. If true, the *Terror* is more nearly at hand than we had supposed, though we still adhere to the opinion we have already expressed, that it will scarcely reach this country before the opening of next summer. New York will probably, as before, become the chosen spot of its first advent, and it may require one or more seasons before it shall reach the cities of the South. This is the history of our first experience. But, foregoing all conjecture on the probable, or the possible, in its character, our authorities cannot be too prompt in taking their precautions and preparing their hospitals.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—It is wholly impossible to keep the record of the railway disasters which occur daily, and in all sections of the North especially. In all such cases, it is found upon investigation that nobody has been to blame but the sufferers. They happened to be in the way. It will be a curious subject of investigation with philosophers to ascertain why it is that these casualties seem to occur like epidemical diseases. They seem contagious. One railway crash or explosion begins a long series of the like, as if engineers were especially resolved not to be outdone by their competitors in making a noise in the world. A reckless disregard of human life, and a false economy on roads which seek to do a smashing business on slender means, are probably the true causes of all the mischief.

MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION.—The following members have been elected to the Convention:

EDGEFIELD.—G. D. Tillman, W. S. Mobley, R. G. M. Dunovant, James A. Talbert, F. W. Pickens, Paul F. Hufnond.

LEXINGTON.—L. Boozer, John Fox.

The emigration from the port of Cork alone of persons whose destination is the United States, is at present fully 1,000 per week. The average number of trans-Atlantic steamers calling at Queenstown for passengers, is eight in a fortnight.

The State Convention of the Democratic party of the State of New York has adjourned, to the satisfaction of all parties, after doing what is thought a satisfactory business. The *Herald* says of the proceedings:

The resolutions adopted, which are of much more real importance than the ticket, as they establish a platform which not only speaks for the democracy of this State, but from which the shibboleth of the party throughout the country, in their endeavors to regain control of national affairs, will no doubt be taken, are to the following effect: The Democratic party, notwithstanding its present displacement, is the real conservator of the nation; the people are congratulated on the return of peace with an undivided Union and the national authorities are admonished that this result should be followed by a relaxation of military rule in the lately rebellious States, and the cessation of military arrests and trials; the Southern States should be readmitted to all the rights they enjoyed before the commencement of their attempt to destroy the nation, and the question of negro suffrage should not be allowed to form an impediment to the accomplishment of this object; President Johnson is pledged the support of the Democratic party of the State of New York, and his reconstruction policy is endorsed without qualification; the idea of a national debt being a national blessing is severely denounced; but at the same time it is maintained that this debt should be faithfully discharged, and that every portion of the country should bear its proper proportion; the Monroe doctrine is mentioned as a cardinal principle of American policy which cannot be abandoned; the soldiers of the republic are thanked for their patriotic services, and it is urged that the cordial acquiescence of the Southern people in the results of the war entitles them to the generous and magnanimous consideration of the national authorities.

CHOLERA.—Cholera, the genuine Asiatic, has appeared in London. Nor mountains, nor rivers, nor ocean, nor doctors' drugs, nor prayers in temples, whether Mahometan or Christian, check the invader's fearful march. It is time, then, for people on this side the ocean to make ready to meet it. Even in times when no epidemic raged, or was approaching, our city fathers (now unhappily in a state of paralysis), passed an ordinance organizing a Board of Health, to consist of three physicians, one from each ward, whose duty it was, at least three times between the first of April and the first of September, in each year, to inspect the city carefully, visiting all localities suspected of being unhealthy, or of being exposed to disease, and to suggest such measures as they might think fit to preserve the health of the city, "and especially to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious and infectious diseases, and to prevent or regulate the pursuit of callings prejudicial to the public health or the public comfort."

Now here is a duty plainly presented, and most imperative under the circumstances, and we hope the Provisional Manager of the city will look to it that health officers, if there be such now, do their duty and report to him; for the ordinance says, "The Board shall keep a journal of their proceedings, which may be at all times examined by the Council."

We don't want to alarm any one, but when the invader is coming up the river on board some ship, we don't want to have such a fuss as we had during the ever-memorable Pawnee war, when people ran down the street with thirty-two pounder guns, without sponge and rammer, shot or shell, carriage or anything else, and dropped them plump in the gutter, where they remained until the war—the Pawnee war—was over.

Already in New York the Superintendent of the Five Points House of Industry is out in an appeal for Ward organizations, for the distribution of food and the care of the sick and poor. He urgently advises the establishment of hospital accommodations in various parts of the city, and regular visitations from house to house. He expresses the belief that, if the cholera should be as bad in New York as it was in 1832, accommodations will be needed for 21,000 patients.

[*Richmond Whig*, 9th inst.]

It is said that the work of ex-President Buchanan, being a defence of his Administration against the charges of the Republican party as to its identification in any way with the rebellion, is already printed, bound and ready for publication by one of the leading publishing houses of New York.

From Washington.

THE WIRZ TRIAL.

The revolting character of the evidence now being deduced in the Wirz trial, in support of the prosecution, is said to be wearing heavily upon the mind of the accused, and torturing him with the most fearful apprehensions as to the decision of the commission hearing the case. Some people who are watching the demeanor of the prisoner closely, give the opinion that, should he continue to be a prey to the fearful doubts that now beset him, he will not survive another month. So far, about forty witnesses have been examined in this case. The record makes eleven or twelve hundred foolscap pages of testimony. At the rate testimony was taken to-day, four or five days more will suffice to close the case for the Government. The prisoner continues to occupy a place at the table with his counsel, and in writing and making suggestions to them as to the cross examination.

The *Tribune's* Washington special says: G. H. Emerson, bailiff of Werz Military Commission, has just returned from the South, where he was sent by the Government to summon witnesses for the defence. The names of about sixty rebel officers and men were furnished by Werz. Considerable difficulty was experienced by Mr. Emerson in finding the witnesses, as they were scattered over the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Florida and Georgia, and a number were found to have gone to Texas, Mexico and Europe. Out of a list of sixty, but thirty-three were found, all of whom are now on their way to this city.

Many of the ex-rebel officers were fearful that if they came to Washington they would be arrested and placed in confinement by the Government, and it was not until they had received due assurances, that they would come out from their hiding places. The list of those subpoenaed embraces the names of officers of all grades, from the rank of colonel down, and also a number of private soldiers. Most of those summoned served with Werz while he was in command of the Andersonville prison pen. The Sutler, Commissary and Quartermaster of Andersonville are also among the number. During his sojourn in the South the different commanders cheerfully co-operated with Mr. Emerson, and gave him every assurance in the discovery of and summoning of witnesses.

IMPORTANT TO BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

The Currency Bureau have recently made an important decision in regard to banking institutions, an imperfect statement of which has been already published. Its purport is that although a bank might be permitted to organize without circulation, by waiving their claim to it, yet the law requires all banks to deposit at least one-third of the amount of their capital in United States bonds, and this requirement can in no case be dispensed with. Although the privilege of circulation may be waived, the deposit, as above stated, must be made.

THE SPREADING OF THE CHOLERA.

The State Department is in receipt of advices from the United States Consul stationed at Palermo, dated August 14. He speaks of the serious spread of the cholera at Ancona, Italy, where some 800 persons have died. Isolated cases have occurred in other towns of Italy, Spain and France.

EX-GOVERNOR PICKENS.—A Charleston letter-writer thus reports the views and policy of this gentleman:

Since the expiration of his official term, Governor Pickens has been quietly residing on his fine plantation in Edgefield District, taking no part, other than a deep interest, in the great events of the war. Being one of the largest and most successful cotton planters in the State, of course the emancipation of the slaves has seriously affected his wealth. But, without indulging in any vain regrets, the ex-Governor quietly announces his intention to begin planting anew, upon the principle of compensated labor, and says that he will do all in his power to benefit the people late his slaves, by inducing them to work diligently and faithfully at a fair rate of remuneration, and by affording them the means of educating themselves and otherwise elevating their condition, according to the schemes suggested by the Government. He is, however, not over-sanguine as to the result of the experiment, adhering to the opinion that the plantation negro cannot be made to work under any other than a compulsory system. Many supposed that Gov. Pickens would have been among the first arrested after the war; but, in his regard, as well as towards his successor, Gov. Bonham, the authorities seem to have adopted a lenient policy.

Local Items.

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

We are indebted to Mr. James King for a New York *Herald*, of the 8th, and the *Richmond Whig*, of the 9th.

We are requested to give notice that all communications for the Secretary of State and Surveyor General must be addressed to "Wm. R. Hunt, Secretary of State, Columbia, S. C." His office will be found in College Campus.

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

Fisher & Agnew—Dissolution.
P. Lyons & Co.—New Store, New Goods.
Dr. P. Melvin Cohen—Drugs, Medicines.
Wm. Hitchcock—Stallion Peace-maker.
Melvin M. Cohen—New Goods.
H. E. Nichols—Fire and Life Insurance.
Zealy, Scott & Bruns—Champagne, &c.
" " "—Cheese.
" " "—Teas.
" " "—Bacon, Rice, &c.
" " "—Sugars.
A. R. Phillips—Stallion at Auction.

The Catholic Arch-bishop who has jurisdiction over Missouri, has issued a circular asserting that priests cannot take the oath of loyalty required by the new Constitution, "without a sacrifice of ecclesiastical liberty." Bishop Kavanaugh, in a sermon preached before the Conference of the Methodist Church South, at St. Louis, on Sunday, counseled his brethren not to take the oath; while Bishop Hawes, of the Episcopal Church, has given advice of a directly contrary character.

Governor Perry, of South Carolina, has written a letter to Postmaster-General Dennison, returning the commissions sent out for several postmasters, they being unable to qualify because of their participation in the rebellion. He expresses the hope that measures will soon be taken to relieve the well disposed people of his State from the operation of harsh laws, and says the general temper of the State is good.

The *Chattanooga Gazette* says a difficulty occurred at Knoxville, between W. S. Hall, Clerk of the Circuit Court at Knoxville, and a young man named Baker, late of the rebel army, resulting in the death of Hall. Baker was committed to jail, but the citizens got him from the sheriff and hanged him. A very excited state of feeling exists between the whites and blacks in Chattanooga.

It is said that the Emperor of the French will not allow the Prince Imperial to confess in the ordinary way, but that a number of questions, drawn up by himself, are put by the father-confessor to the Prince, in the presence and hearing of a third person. No other questions are allowed.

The President has ordered the Southern Methodist Churches, which have been in the hands of Northern ministers by military agency, to be restored to the ministers of the Church South, who now assume their ministerial duties in New Orleans, at Memphis, and elsewhere.

The Republican State Convention of Wisconsin has held its session. The prominent feature of the proceedings was the tabling of resolutions favoring negro suffrage. Charles R. Gill was nominated for Attorney-General of the State.

Guerillas continue to give the Government trouble in some parts of Mississippi. A party of them recently captured the steamer *Pluto*, robbing the officers and men. Governor Sharkey has taken vigorous measures to squelch them.

It is stated that the course of Gen. Carl Schurz, now traveling in the South, by orders from the Government, does not meet the approval of the President, and it is expected he will be recalled soon.

The cotton crop in Tennessee is likely to be an entire failure this year. The rust destroys it almost as fast as it matures.

On the 11th ult., the New Orleans *Delta* newspaper establishment (confiscated) was sold at auction for \$5,200.

Seventy-five thousand foreigners immigrated to this country during the six months ending in June.

The Hon. John Forsyth has been appointed Mayor of Mobile.

Gold in New York, at last advices, is 144 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢. Cotton, 35 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢.

Several Gentlemen

CAN be accommodated with comfortable rooms, by applying to Mrs. JOHN PALMER, South-West corner Gervais and Henderson streets. sept 12

Wanted to Hire,

A SMALL HOUSE, already furnished. Apply at this office. Sept 5