

Meeting of the Convention.

The delegates to the Convention assembled in full force yesterday, at 12 m., at the Baptist Church. Very few of those elected were absent, and we presume that all of them will be present to-day. The assembly proceeded to organize by calling the Hon. Franklin J. Moses to the Chair. The several Districts and Parishes were then called, and the members enrolled. A question arose about the representation from St. Luke's Parish. From this Parish a single member was to be elected. There were separate polls held, and, it appears, two separate returns. The seat is accordingly contested between Messrs. Youmans and McGregor. A debate ensued as to which return was to be received. In the debate, Messrs. Aldrich, Orr, Inglis, Dawkins and others participated. The result was, on motion of Mr. Aldrich, to set aside, for the present, the returns from St. Luke's until a full organization of the Convention. The question seems to involve no difficulty. In one case, the regular managers of elections, as appointed by the Legislature at its previous sessions, according to the Constitution and law, presided as usual; in the other case, as we learn, the managers were constituted *sui generis*, of their own head, and without authority of law. It will be remembered that managers are usually very carefully appointed by the Legislature, and certain securities of character are required, under the sanction of the delegates from each District. Were it otherwise, Tom, Dick and Harry, at every precinct, might hold elections, and the result be anarchy, if not something worse. The members of the Convention being properly enrolled, with the one exception referred to, the Assembly proceeded to the election of a President. Various persons were nominated—the Hon. Judge Wardlaw, of Abbeville; Mr. Dudley, of Marlboro; Mr. Solicitor Dawkins, Gen. Wade Hampton, and perhaps some others. Gen. Hampton was not present, and we are doubtful, if, considering the embarrassments in the way of communication, he has been yet apprised of his election as a member. His more immediate friends declined the nomination for him. We learn that Judge Wardlaw was also unwilling to serve, and Mr. Solicitor Dawkins declined in person. The result was that Hon. Judge Wardlaw was elected.

We were pleased to encounter among the delegates many esteemed friends and highly honored citizens of the State—pleased to discover that, in spite of events, to use the dying words of Daniel Webster, they were still living. Ex-Governor Pickens looks as hale, happy and assured, as if retirement from public life was escape to Paradise. Mr. Orr and Mr. Boyce are both evidently possessed of more vitality than the Confederate cause; but, not to enumerate, lest we be invidious, we were rejoiced to see that most of our leading men were in good case, and by no means despairing of the Republic. His Excellency Governor Perry arrived in season yesterday, and will, no doubt, furnish an elaborate Message to the Convention to-day, when the main business of the session will begin.

The reader will see, in our report of the proceedings of the Convention, all that we have need to say on this subject, and, for the present, we forbear all comment. With this report, the official journal and the communications which occupy our pages, the editor is measurably suspended. Nor is it necessary to hear from him, while the Convention is so busily engaged with so many vital topics. He will hold himself in reserve. The prospect is fair for the Convention being in session here ten days or more.

At a late hour, last night, the Committee had under consideration the disputed representation of St. Luke's, Mr. Orr being chairman. The evidence was copious, but we hope, for the sake of the Committee, not interminable.

[For the Phoenix.]
An Outrage Several Times Repeated.

The persons, owners of dead mules and horses carried from town, and left unburied in the vicinity of residences on the Asylum Road, are, by this communication, notified that the repetition of such trespass will subject them to prosecution.

Expedients for Abolishing Slavery.

1st. *The Proclamation of President Lincoln.*—This proclamation was defended by President Lincoln as a war measure. The United States wanted soldiers; but United States soldiers could not be made of slaves. In order to make use of the slaves as United States soldiers, it was necessary to emancipate them. Hence, to increase the army of the United States, for carrying on the war, the proclamation emancipating the slaves in the South was put forth.

Putting aside this measure as a war expedient, limited to the soldiery merely, President Lincoln could have no authority to emancipate slaves. The States in rebellion were not out of the Union. Secession was illegal and void. It was an attempt to do what there was no right to do—and of course could not alter the institutions of a State. Nor could it confer any authority upon President Lincoln to emancipate slaves generally in a State. President Lincoln himself, in his instructions, written by Secretary Seward, to the United States Ambassador in London, distinctly disclaimed having any authority to abolish slavery in a State. It was on account of these views, we presume, that the Democratic Members of Congress denounced President Lincoln's Proclamation, when it came out, as unconstitutional.

2d. *The slaves are "captures on land,"* and, therefore, are emancipated by the military orders under the United States authority. This is the ground taken by Governor Johnson, the Provisional Governor over Georgia, and of Governor Sharkey, the Provisional Governor over Mississippi.

The Constitution says, "Congress shall have power to make rules concerning captures on land and water." Congress fulfilled the duty which the Constitution herein prescribes, and, many years since, made "rules concerning captures on land and water." But these rules do not embrace slaves in the States, nor do they consider slavery in any respect. Captures relate to property. The population of a country are not "captures," and if they were, Congress alone, under the Constitution, can determine what are captures, or make rules concerning them. The military orders, therefore, based upon the presumption that the President has the power, by the Constitution, to determine that slaves are "captures on land," and to make rules concerning them, are based on no constitutional authority.

3d. *The separate action of the States in their legislatures or conventions,* and this, after all, is the expedient on which the United States authorities rely to accomplish the object of emancipation. There are two propositions now pending to abolish slavery through the action of the States. The first is the resolution passed by the Congress of the United States at its last session, proposing to amend the Constitution, so as to give to Congress the power to abolish slavery in the States. According to the Constitution, three-fourths of the legislatures of the States must vote for the amendment, or it will fail. At present, twenty-five States have voted for this amendment to the Constitution, and three against it—New Jersey, Delaware and Kentucky. If all the Southern States now under the military domination of the United States, vote against the proposed amendment, it must fail. And supposing it expedient, that slavery in the Southern States should be abolished, it could hardly be wise to give the Congress of the United States the power of abolishing it. The abolitionists of the North in Congress would make a "code noir," and use it as a pretext to keep a military despotism over the Southern States to enforce that code. With such a power in the General Government there never could be any freedom in the South. The course for peace and safety is to do as Delaware, Kentucky and New Jersey have done, to reject the proposed amendment of the Constitution empowering Congress to interfere with the abolition of slavery in the States.

4th. *The other expedient for abolishing slavery by the States is for the States to do it through the Convention, ordered by the authorities of the United States.* If slavery is to be

abolished, it is clear it can only be done safely and wisely by the States, and exclusively by their authority. So far as the proposed amendment of the United States Constitution to accomplish it is concerned, that is an affair for the Legislatures of the States. The Convention ought to have nothing to do with a matter already, by the regular course of the Constitution, committed to the Legislatures of the States. But may not the Convention in each State decree the emancipation of the slaves? Of course they can; although they are not called on to do so by the oath prescribed in President Johnson's proclamation. That oath is "to abide by and support" President Lincoln's proclamation declaring emancipation. One may abide by and support a law without urging further legislation concerning it. Every man who takes his seat in our State Legislatures, or in the Congress of the United States, swears to support the Constitutions of the respective States and of the United States. But does this oath obligate him to alter the Constitution of the State or the United States? Does the support of any law require one to vote for amendments to it, which others may deem it expedient to offer? Certainly not. To support a law or constitution, may mean merely that you will abide by it, and will not violate it yourself, or aid others in violating it. This is all that all the oaths contained in constitutions require of legislators. The oath required by President Johnson's proclamation, therefore, does not oblige any member of a State Convention to pass an ordinance abolishing slavery. As to the intimation that unless the Conventions abolish slavery the States will not be admitted into the Union of the United States, it is unnecessary to trouble ourselves. The Conventions are assembled to return the States to the Union, by an expedient and form which the authorities of the United States have themselves ordained. If the States re-adopt the Constitutions, with which they have been heretofore members of the Union, they cannot be rejected. We have not a doubt they will be admitted.

SERIOUS TROUBLE AMONG THE NEGROES.—A correspondent of the Baltimore Daily Gazette, writing under date August 30, furnishes the following:

Last night the whites were considerably startled by cries of "rally," "turn out," &c., and they awoke to find some four or five hundred negroes armed, marching up and down the streets, and stationing men at their doors to prevent their egress. The negroes were provided with weapons of all kinds, muskets, carbines, pistols, &c., and were firing up and down the street, whilst large crowds of them in the centre of the town were listening to a speech of one of their number, and greeting him with frequent cheers. They kept it up until daylight, and finally wound up with cries to the effect that they had "cleaned out" the d—d rebels, and with threats as to future and similar action. The whites, of course, anticipated violent scenes, and the few that have any arms were obliged to be on the watch inside their houses all the night. No troops were sent up from Fortress Monroe to put down the riot, and the small provost guard stationed in the town was of no use whatever, and made no attempt to quell the disturbance, but only added additional violence to the scene by its drunkenness and quarreling.

Although no one was injured, still these proceedings show that the negroes are armed, organized, and dangerous. Many of them have been in the service and are able to use their weapons with effect. Of course the white people feel very insecure, and as but few have any arms, and being in proportion to the blacks as but one to one hundred, are at the mercy of the latter.

SERIOUS STABBING AFFRAY IN MOBILE.—Yesterday morning, in the office of the Battle House, Mobile, Col. Charles Forsyth, son of the Mayor of Mobile, stabbed and cut Signor De Veyga, formerly of Gen. Maury's staff. The assault occurred in this wise: Forsyth accused De Veyga of seducing his (Forsyth's) wife, whereupon De Veyga slapped Forsyth in the face, when Forsyth stabbed and cut De Veyga so severely that he is not expected to recover. Mr. De Veyga is a native and citizen of Havana. He served for some time, however, on the staff of Major Gen. Maury, while that officer was in command of Mobile. He had just returned from Havana.

[Mobile News.]

It is now thought that there will be very little confiscations at the South, if the law officers are forced to prove the disloyalty of the owners to the satisfaction of Southern Courts.

Letter from Madame Levert.

The Mobile Tribune, of the 24th, gives publicity to the following private letter from Madame Levert, of Mobile, now temporarily stopping in New York:

FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL, Aug. 6, 1865.

DEAR FRIEND: I write to tell you of our safe arrival here, at this magnificent hotel. We had a most delightful voyage to New York. There was not a wave sufficient to rock the immense steamer, the North Star, or a cloud to dim the sunlight during all the weeks of our sea wanderings.

I find New York full of Confederate officers, (many just out of prison.) They are most kindly treated here. At a superb supper party given to us by Mrs. T., there were five Confederate Generals—Marmaduke and Wheeler among the number—and colonels, majors and captains in profusion.

The Confederates are dined and supped by the very men they fought against. Every one expresses the highest admiration of the Confederates, and I have not yet heard one word of bitterness against the South. Two publishers called on me, hearing I intended writing "Souvenirs of the War." They made me great offers if I will publish. I have serious thoughts of doing so. I assure you I will do justice to the heroic Southern soldiers. I often feel it my duty to let the world know that the annals of all times do not hold a parallel to the self-sacrifice and heroism of the Southern soldiers. They were cursed in many of their leaders, but ennobled in others. I wish you were here to enjoy this delightful hotel and these pleasant days. Major O., of Texas, is here. He says that "Ben Lane is the most gallant man in the world, and the coolest in battle."

Although we have not sent our cards to any one yet, many of our friends have found us out, and throngs have been to see me, inviting us to dinners and parties (supper parties at this season!) and every one manifesting the greatest respect and delight to see us once more in New York.

It is said there is an effort being made by politicians here to get up another revolution in the South. So much money was made during the war that they wish it to begin again. God grant it never, never may.

An old friend to whom my beloved papa rendered some great service in the "long long ago," invited us to accompany himself, wife and family to Europe, offering to pay all our expenses. I would gladly have gone, but O., and N., preferred to remain here rather than cross the Atlantic again, to stay three months, and we declined. Was not this offer evidence that there is gratitude even in this hard age? I am just as grateful to the excellent friend of my dear papa as though I had accepted his offer.

THE CABINET.—A Washington correspondent of the New York News says:

"I believe that the relations which exist between the President and the members of the Cabinet are of the most amicable and harmonious nature personally; but there is said to be a serious disagreement in regard to two topics, and these are the most important that now engage the President's attention. These are our relations with Mexico, and the relations of the Federal Government towards the Southern States. On these points, it is said, a radical difference exists between the President and two members of the Cabinet. This difference developed itself strongly in the last two Cabinet meetings, and if it is not adjusted in ten days, it will result in the withdrawal of these two members from the Cabinet."

A special telegram to the same paper, dated Washington, August 18, says:

"As I stated to you, when I announced to you that Jefferson Davis would be tried by a civil tribunal, three or four weeks ago, you may depend upon what I now say, that Secretary Stanton will be removed from the Cabinet. So will Mr. Harlan retire, and a successor will be appointed in the place of Attorney-General Speed. These important changes will take place within a few weeks."

The Memphis Bulletin speaks of what must be a valuable invention indeed:

"Gen. Payne, late of Paducah notoriety, has created a sensation among the river-men by the invention of a new propelling power, which does away with the use of boilers, and causes an immense reduction in the expenses of fuel. It is said that W. R. Arthur has offered \$1,000,000 for a one-tenth interest in the patent, with a view to bringing it into use on the Illinois Central Railroad.

Whew!

Local Items.

We are under obligations to Mr. Charles Logan for copies of late New York, Washington and Richmond papers.

Mr. Leidler, of the Charleston Courier, is in the city, and looking as young, hopeful and vigorous as if he had not been, as a publisher, in a state of suspended animation. He is on his way to Washington, the grand caravanerai of politicians. Mr. Henry Sparwick, reporter of the Courier, is also here, taking notes of the Convention, of which the members will take due heed, remembering the warning of Bobby Burns, "A chi-l's among ye takin' notes, And faith he'll prent 'em."

Maj. Gen. Ames and staff, of the United States army, have established their quarters at the Nickerson House. The flag of the United States accordingly flaunts from the tower of that house. To the exultant local patriotism which so lately discovered so many hopes in the waving of the banner of Secesh, the spectacle is suggestive of a long and conflicting series of doubts and fears and misgivings. But this flag now waves everywhere—we have succumbed—we are submissive; there is not a dog among us so conceited as to suppose that he has a tail at all.

We are in the receipt, from Zealy, Scott & Eruns, of a bottle of the famous Crimean Bitters, which is a huckleberry over the persimmon in respect to all others. As for the Plantation Bitters, our analysis of that, the other day, should satisfy all parties. We owe to the same firm a bottle of the famous Russ' Moravia, or Batavia Punch—a famous article for enlightening the brain. Members of the Convention should try it nightly, to be the better prepared for legislation in the morning. And, while our hands are in, we must commend the several varieties of Heidsick and other champagnes to be sold by Cohen, Moise, and other parties, to say nothing of the Bourbon at Melvin M. Cohen's, Speck & Polock's, and others. The collection of wines and other liquors at M. M. Cohen's is particularly large, various and fine. Our Charleston friends will, no doubt, find their way to the shop of Messrs. Simons & Kerrison, who are making all efforts assiduously to please. But we need not particularize. Columbia is full of shops, full stored, which appeal to all appetites. Go where you will, you cannot greatly go amiss.

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

- Moise & Orchard—Come to Convention.
- Wm. Ingliss—Barber.
- Mrs. Addie Dougal—Fashionable Millinery.
- Melvin M. Cohen—Liquors.
- " " "—Havana Segars, &c.
- " " "—Toys.
- Mrs. Emma Roe—Restaurant.
- Mounce & Cathoun—Com. Merchants.
- A. R. Phillips—Sundries.
- James G. Gibbs—New Stock.
- Geo. H. Walter—Copartnership Notice.
- D. B. DeSaussure—Estate Sale.
- Blakely & Williams—Dissolution.

VOICE OF THE "GIBRALTAR OF DEMOCRACY."—The Democratic County of the time-honored Democratic County of Berks, Pennsylvania, held one of their "old-fashioned" county meetings a few days since, and adopted a series of eloquent and forcible resolutions. We have not room to publish all their proceedings, but cannot omit the resolutions endorsing the restoration policy of President Johnson, and approval of the Congressional course of that firm and faithful sentinel and leading Representative of the Democratic party of that State, the Hon. S. E. Ancona:

Resolved, That the time will soon come when the passions of the war have cooled, and nothing remaining but its terrible burdens and its dark and bloody memories, the people will universally recognize the infamous conduct of the Black Republican majority in the Congress of the winter of 1860 and 1861, in refusing their support to any scheme of conciliation—even to submit the Crittenden Compromise to a vote of the people. Andrew Johnson said, on December 18, 1860: "This Congress here to-day has it in its power to save this Union, even after South Carolina has gone out." If Washington and Jefferson and Adams, notwithstanding their abhorrence of the foreign slave trade, did not feel dishonored in permitting its continuance for twenty years, in order to create the Union, the Sumners and Wades and Wilsons might well have yielded something of their fanaticism to preserve it. The future will hold them responsible.

Resolved, That we approve and endorse the constitutional principle announced by the Executive of the United States, that to the people of the respective States alone belongs the right to regulate the qualifications of voters; and we believe that any attempt to interfere with or control that right, either by military force or Congressional trickery, will be a palpable usurpation of power, which will in good time be corrected and avenged.

[Washington Union.]

A shoemaker was the other day fitting a customer with a pair of boots, when the buyer observed that he had but one objection to them, which was that the soles were a little too thick. "If that is all," replied Crispin, "put on the boots, and the objection will gradually wear away."