

When the armies of the Confederate States were retreating before those of Sherman, they burned the railroad bridges as they retired, thus doing the very thing which Sherman had principally set forth to do. Sherman was very grateful. They saved him time and trouble. The question was, why our troops should do this thing and thus save the invader all the labor and loss of time? They could not be pursued over these bridges, which were useless without the rolling stock and the usual connections. So we lost the bridges over the Edisto and Congaree. They did not know what else to do, and when folks are greatly worried or badly scared, they have a notion that something should be done, that they are expected to do something, if only to keep themselves busy, and so they do mischief. We appear to be carrying this insane military policy into our Legislature, and law-givers, with the desire to be doing something, and perhaps a little bewildered as to what should be done, are about to do the very things which our political antagonists are proposing to themselves to do for us. The excellent Generals Schenck and Cox, of Ohio, have declared themselves for denying to the people of the South any representation of the negro population in the Congress of the United States; and they avow, as their reason for it, the necessity of stripping the South of all possible political power. They are now busied in teaching this doctrine and desire, and upon this one measure they indicate the organization of a party. We are an accommodating people. We take our cue from Wheeler's cavalry, and save our political enemies the labor. We burn the bridges for them which they have set forth to burn. We help their endeavors, and in our eagerness to obtain exclusive power in certain local sections, at the expense of others in the State, we cut the sinews of the State itself. We strip it of half its power in the Union, and reduce its representation to a thing purely nominal, destined to be as great an absurdity as that shadow of representation which the Colonies in 1775 enjoyed in the British Parliament. We hold it to be certain that Messrs. Schenck and Cox and their associates will be baffled—that, a census being taken, the representation of the negroes of the South, as elements of its population, will be insisted upon by the abolitionists themselves. Indeed, it is the inevitable law of the land. It would then be seen, the curious anomaly of negro representation in Congress, when the same population is denied recognition at home. No longer a chattel, we deny that negroes are persons—are a portion of the people, the inhabitants of the country. We do not say citizens—such they are not, and under the laws of the United States, and the ruling of the Courts, such they cannot be. But to deny them to be people and inhabitants, is to fly in the face of a fixed fact. There they are, four hundred thousand of them, more or less, a multitude in comparison with the whites. It is patent that they are people, and equally so that they are inhabitants in the land. It is a miserable fiction to deny this, which stares us in the face, and glares out upon our imaginations with so many hideous aspects of future evil. We may loathe their presence—we may desire to be rid of them; but to ignore their very existence, as an element of population, may well alarm the Abolitionist faction with the question, "Ignoring them thus, is your purpose their extermination?" The question will occasion lively inquiry, and no little suspicion and apprehension. They will not conceive

it possible that, having our wits about us, we shall foster with our institutions, protect by our laws, shield and teach under our guardianship, a race whose very existence in our country we deny in our legislation. The pretext for this denial is a mere social bugbear. Representation does not imply citizenship or the right of suffrage; nor can the latter follow, unless it be that, in despair, shorn of all political power in the State, the regions of country into which these people will naturally crowd, being crowded now, shall insist for their security on according the inferior race those privileges which are essential to the safety of their own. Desperate measures are all that are left to men in desperate situations. The negro at the North is represented as an integral of the community, is subject to taxation, yet denied suffrage. There is no political or social wrong done to him in assigning him this inferior status, since it is the very same which we assign, and for a like reason, to our women and children. They are, from certain peculiarities of constitution, condition and character, held in minority and under guardianship. In the case of the negro, he is a creature necessarily of perpetual guardianship, as the Freedman's Bureau will probably discover fast enough, as soon as the Government of the United States shall deprive their officials of fat salaries and a grateful exercise of authority. We turn once more to the business of our legislation. Mr. Aldrich was only half right when he sought, by his amendment, to accord a three-fifths representation to the negro. Why this arbitrary assumption that the negro had not his full physical proportions—that he was minus a right arm and a right leg? The arbitrary dismemberment of him, as it occurred in the maimed and halting compromise between the States at the junction of the bond of Union, was a concession by the South to the selfishness and prejudice of the North, and should never have been made. The South should not have entered the Union unless with a full recognition of her population guarantees. But even this was based upon the idea that the negro was a chattel—was property. He is so no longer. Neither the Congress of the United States, as, in relation to the States, nor the districts or counties of a State, as in relation to each other, should be permitted to enter within the sectional bound, and arbitrarily prescribe and declare the status of its classes. They should know us respectively only by our totals, as sworn to under the State or National census. We trust that all this legislation will be scrutinized with great care before a step is taken. We should not be such blockheads as to burn down our own bridges with our own hands, thus facilitating the objects of our political or military opponents. Let them do it if they will or can; but let us, if we cannot find better work to do, go, in the language of Hamlet, and be idle. When we know not exactly what to do—when God has dropped the curtain so closely before our eye and at our feet, that Reason is compelled to be silent, and Conjecture alone ventures to deal in idle prattle—it is then that the wise statesman recognizes the advice of Burke, and awaits his time in a masterly inactivity. This inactivity, in our case, not implying idleness, however, nor indifference, but a steady watch, a calm method, great good order, sobriety, moderation, and the furling of the sails against the storm, and the maintenance of lights and a good lookout from every mast, keeping the pumps working all the while and all hands ready, either to take in new reefs, or loose and spread sail for running before the wind. To do just as little as possible at such a juncture as the present—to do no more than is absolutely essential to safety—to try no hazardous experiments—keep close in shore—econo-

mize force and provisions, and feel our way cautiously along the soundings—these should be our present rules of conduct. Zeal, however patriotic and generous, should not be allowed, at such a time, to seize upon the helm and take command. Good sense and great prudence are the essentials of command, and these are to be confined to the one object of bringing the ship of State safely into port.

We are greatly relieved to find that our excellent friend, the Hon. J. E. Orr, has had his pardon issued under the great seal of State. He is now secure. His head is safe on its shoulders. He is in no danger in the future for his deadly sins in the past. More than once, during the session of the Convention, while he has been thundering and lightning as he had been wont to do in Washington, we trembled lest the Provost Marshal should walk in, cut him off in the midst of his finest passages, tuck him under his arm, walk him out in front of the Convention Hall, decapitate him, and leave his head stuck up in *terrorem* to all future rebels, at the junction of Plain street with Main, looking up at the Capitol. The idea was a source of continual apprehension. We had enjoyed the honor of serving with Mr. Orr, some twenty years ago, in the Legislature; we had travelled together in search of the picturesque; had placed our knees under his mahogany; had hob-a-nobbed with him in Washington; and our associations had always been so pleasant, that the idea of his head, stuck upon a pole in the streets of Columbia, looking still toward the Capitol, kept us from goodly sleep more than one midnight. We rejoice that he is safe, that he still retains the integrity of his head, and trust that he will continue to do so, just so long as he is able to pay the capitation tax, setting a good example of patriotism to the population at large, white, black, colored and equivoval. Amen!

[For the Columbia Phenix.]
To the Editors of Newspapers in the Southern States

GENTLEMEN: At this critical time in our political condition, I take the liberty of addressing myself to you on a subject of vital interest to the whole South. When the Legislatures of the different Southern States meet, the great and leading subject for their consideration will be the passage of such laws as will be most politic and proper to regulate the new relations of the white and black populations. To effect this great object, it will require the most mature wisdom and wisest statesmanship. It is of the first importance that the Legislatures of the Southern States should adopt a similar course of policy, and be as near as possible uniform in their action. That these desirable objects may be attained, I respectfully recommend that the people of the Southern States send to a Convention to meet at Augusta, Georgia, on the second Monday in November next, some of their best men to deliberate on and mature such a course of policy as they may think best. It will be for the Legislatures of the different States to adopt or reject the recommendations of the Convention, as they may or may not approve.

If you approve of these views! I respectfully ask that you recommend this course to your fellow-citizens. Let each county, town or village send up their delegate. "In a multitude of councilors there is safety."

SENEX.

The Grand Jury, at Salem, Oregon, have been endeavoring to bring odium and contempt on the Sunday law by indicting everybody in sight. They indicted a ferryman for breaking the Sabbath by carrying people over the river to church, and a deacon for collecting money with the contribution box, and were about to indict the preacher for noisy and barbarous amusement.

STATE CONVENTION.

Friday, September 22, 1865.

The President took the Chair, and the proceedings were opened with prayer.

The discussion of the representation question was continued, and sundry amendments were ordered to be laid on the table.

The report of the Committee on Amendments to the Constitution was ordered to lie on the table.

The report of the Committee on the Legislative Department was taken up for consideration, was discussed and was finally agreed to.

The report of the Committee on the Legislative Department, on a resolution as to the qualification of voters, was recommitted.

THE SOUTHERN STATESMEN AND THE NIGGERHEADS.—It is very evident that the negro worshippers of the North estimate the Southern character by their own standard. They are constantly charging them with hypocrisy, and with manifesting a desire to return to the Union only for the purpose of deceiving the North and then secure an opportunity to carry out their secession dogmas. It is well known that the niggerheads of the North are, as public men, the most unreliable in the country. They are constantly professing one thing one hour and doing the very reverse the next. There is no reliance whatever to be placed upon their professions.

But in basing their judgment of the Southern people upon their own standard, they fall very short of the known character of those people. It is well understood that the Southern men are open and above board with their deeds. Long before the war commenced they informed us that they intended to break up this Union. They made no secrecy of this fact, nor the least attempt to conceal it. On the stump, in their own State legislative halls, and in both houses of Congress, it was proclaimed without any effort or desire to disguise it. So it always has been; but the trouble was that the Northern people would not believe them. Now that the war is over they are equally bold in proclaiming their determination and willingness to abide by the result and come back and be good and faithful men to the Constitution and Union, accepting all the consequences of the war. This they are just as honest and earnest in as they were in their assertions to break up the Union when the war commenced. But the radical negro worshippers know that they themselves are full of hypocrisy, and judge everybody else by their own standard. The President, who was brought up among the Southern people and fully understands their character, does not view them in that light, but, on the other hand, assures them that he is satisfied that whatever they promise they will do. The public believe the President is the best judge, and prefer to follow him rather than the niggerheads.

[New York Herald.]

MEETING OF FREEDMEN ON ST. HELENA ISLAND.—A large meeting of freedmen, held on St. Helena Island, South Carolina, on the 4th instant, adopted the following resolutions:

1. Resolved, That we, the colored residents of St. Helena Island, do most respectfully petition the Convention about to be assembled at Columbia, on the 13th instant, to so alter and amend the present Constitution of this State as to give the right of suffrage to every man of the age of twenty-one years, without other qualifications than that required for the white citizens of this State.

2. Resolved, That, by the Declaration of Independence, we believe these are rights which cannot justly be denied us, and we hope the Convention will do us full justice by recognizing them.

3. Resolved, That we will never cease our efforts to obtain, by all just and legal means, a full recognition of our rights as citizens of the United States and this Commonwealth.

4. Resolved, That, having heretofore shown our devotion to the Government, as well as our willingness to defend its Constitution and laws, therefore we trust that the members of the Convention will see the justice of allowing us a voice in the election of our rulers.

5. Resolved, That we believe the future peace and welfare of this State depends very materially upon the protection of the interests of the colored man, and can only be secured by the adoption of the sentiments embodied in the foregoing resolutions.

To call a man a special telegraphist, is the modern mode of impeaching his veracity.

Local Items.

We have been requested to state that the Rev. B. M. Palmer, D. D., will preach in the Presbyterian Church to-morrow morning, at 10 o'clock, and in the afternoon, at 4 o'clock.

Mr. T. C. Polock has just opened an establishment, near Main street, opposite the old jail, where the best brands of wines, liquors, etc., can be obtained. The thirty can give him a call, with the assurance that their wants will be fully satisfied.

By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that Mr. C. S. Jenkins has removed his store to a new building on Assembly street, near Washington. His stock is varied and well worthy the attention of purchasers.

Mr. Patrick Walshe, who is connected with the New York Metropolitan Record, is here as the agent of that paper, of the New York Day Book, Freeman's Journal, New York News and several other journals—all of which we believe to be of the Democratic order. Our people know the character of some of these journals—possibly of all. Mr. Walshe is to be found at Nickerson's Hotel, where those who desire to have a journal from New York may find him and procure it.

THE POST OFFICE.—Mr. Janney tells us that he will open the post office on Monday, having received his commission as postmaster. Some delay has been occasioned by the difficulty of finding proper quarters for the department. When opened, the mails will be made up for Charleston, Newberry, Winnsboro, Augusta and all routes severally connected with these places. We then trust that the embarrassments of the mail will cease, even though the transmission of letters be slow. The Greenville cars are now running daily. We hope that Mr. Janney will procure promptly an adequate supply of post-stamps, the lack of which is greatly felt in Columbia now.

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

- Gen. Richardson—General Orders No. 1.
- Lumsden & McGee—Com. Merchants.
- T. C. Polock—Wines, Liquors, &c.
- Resumption of Exercises S. C. College.
- C. S. Jenkins—New and Choice Goods.
- " "—Flour.
- Richard Caldwell—Groceries, &c.
- P. D. Lee—Mules for Sale.
- Wm. Hitchcock—Building Lot for Sale.
- Apply at this Office—Planing Machine.
- T. S. Mood—Watches, Clocks, &c.

RESUMPTION OF CIVIL AUTHORITY.—Our readers will be pleased to learn that civil authority is now a fact accomplished. Gen. Bennett and John E. Carew, Esq., Sheriff of the District, visited the jail together yesterday, when the charge thereof, together with the prisoners, was turned over to the civil officers. Possession of the court house has also been delivered, and the Sheriff, Clerk and Magistrates enter on their several offices, as we mentioned in our notice of Gen. Gillmore's orders. It is not probable there will be Judges to preside in the Courts for some time yet, but the Clerk will issue writs and the Sheriff will execute them as of yore, and all the entertainment to be found, in the light literature of initiatory judicial proceedings, is now open to the public. In conversation with Col. Carew yesterday, he remarked, and we are pleased to record it, that Gen. Bennett has acted towards him, in his official capacity, with a courtesy and consideration which was exceedingly grateful, and he entertains the hope that he will find, in the authority under that officer, relief from many of the embarrassments which he is likely to experience in entering so unprepared, and with such deficiency of means, upon the discharge of his official duties. The number of prisoners is large, and it will not be an easy matter at once to take charge of them.—Charleston News.

BILL OF MORTALITY.—By the report of deaths sent us by the City Registrar, we find that there have been during the past week thirteen whites and thirty-five blacks and colored who have died. Of these, there were eight cases of fever—three whites, two of them children, and five black adults; of dropsy, five blacks—four adults and one child; and of convulsions, five children—one white and four blacks. It will be observed, also, that the black adults who have died are over three times the number of the whites, and the black children are more than double the white. The rest of the deaths appear to be of general diseases, and in the same ratio as of former years, at this season, and we must still be thankful for the extraordinary health which has blessed our city.

[Charleston News.]

Bigotry murders religion and frightens fools.