

To Our Readers.

The undersigned takes great pleasure in presenting to the public, as one of the editors of the *Phoenix*, W. B. Johnston, Esq., for many years editor of the *South Carolinian*, and more recently of the *Southern Guardian*. This gentleman's abilities are fully known, and will, no doubt, be justly appreciated, not only in South Carolina, but the entire South.

JULIAN A. SELBY.

The undersigned, in becoming connected with the editorial management of the *Phoenix*, deems it proper to say a few words to its readers.

Since his retirement from the field of journalism, a mighty change has been wrought in our political and social systems. It is needless, on this occasion, to revert to the causes of the late gigantic conflict through which the people of this country have passed. We have now to deal with its results, and he is the best citizen and truest patriot who sincerely and earnestly applies all his talents and resources to the peaceful but important work of restoration and reconstruction. To aid in effecting this great work, in the speediest way consistent with the welfare of the people of this State, will be the chief aim and purpose of the conductors of this journal, and it is to be hoped their labors will not be in vain. Let the dead past, with all its errors and political complications, remain unexhumed, and let us all work heartily and together for the restoration of our beloved State to her rightful position among her co-States of the Union.

In this place, it is but just and proper, and it is eminently due to the proprietor of the *Phoenix*, to say to its readers, that he deserves their cordial support in establishing a daily journal at the Capital of the State. Had it not been for his prompt efforts in this respect, it is probable that our community would have been without any medium of communication with the outside world, and our friends in other sections of the State without any vehicle of information, either from the seat of Government or other parts of the United States. He has labored faithfully and with untiring energy and perseverance, and, thus far, has succeeded. He has not only furnished to this community an admirable newspaper, but a journal conducted with sound judgment and great ability. He deserves success, and has a right to claim the earnest support and co-operation of all who have been benefitted by his labors.

Our readers have had enough of politics for the present, and it is, therefore, not necessary to make the *Phoenix* a political journal, in the ordinary acceptance of that term. It will endeavor to sustain the policy of reconstruction enunciated by President Johnson, and will, to the extent of its influence, aid and support all measures calculated to restore peace, harmony and prosperity to the country. Further than this, politically, we need not go, but it will be our great aim to give to our readers an acceptable journal in all departments. From the writer's past experience in journalism, he feels some confidence that if his right hand has not forgotten her cunning, he will, to some extent at least, accomplish that aim and purpose. What our people need now is encouragement in their efforts to develop the industrial resources which are still left to them, and that encouragement we intend to give them in every way, that the scope of our duties permits or enables us to do. It may be some days before we get again well accustomed to the editorial harness, but have no doubt that, ere long, everything will work smoothly and satisfactorily.

WILLIAM B. JOHNSTON.

**FRACTIONAL CURRENCY.**—The new ten cent fractional currency is circulating. The pieces are a little larger than the old tens, and shorter than the twenty-five cent slips. Upon the face is a medalion head of Washington, with a factory chimney and a ship's rigging on either side, and a figure 10, in gilt, in four places; the back is of a red color, and the figures 10 in large gilt. They are printed on bank-note paper, and promise to be more durable than the present currency.

A new issue of fifty cent fractional currency will shortly be made to replace the present issue, which has been greatly counterfeited.

**THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.**—The publication of this paper, which was suspended in February last, has been resumed under the management of its former proprietors, Messrs. Fulton & Price. It has been enlarged, and appears in new type. We will be pleased to place it on our exchange list.

**ALL LETTERS MUST BE STAMPED.**—The Post Office Department has issued a circular, giving notice that the penalties fixed by law for carrying letters outside the mails when not enclosed in Government stamped envelopes, will be rigidly enforced in every instance where violaters are known to exclude only letters relating to cargo and freight of water crafts, or other vehicles employed upon mail routes, may be lawfully carried not enclosed as above. By the terms of this order, unpaid letters for delivery and those prepaid by postage stamps cannot be carried outside the mail by any of these conveyances, without subjecting captain, owners, drivers or other employees to a penalty of \$150 for each offence.

**RELIEF OF SOUTHERN COTTON HOLDERS.**—The Secretary of the Treasury and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue have now under consideration a circular, which will be issued in a day or two, to be directed to the Government Tax Collectors, with a view of relieving the holders of cotton in the Southern States. It is found that these cotton holders are generally unable to raise the money to pay the immense tax, etc., required by the Act of July 2, 1864, to be paid before shipment to the Government agent, in the nearest locality or district in which the cotton may be found, and it is also found impracticable and sometimes impossible for these cotton owners to come North and obtain the requisite funds by hypothecating their staple. The law, as heretofore construed, seemed to present an insurmountable obstacle to the shipment of cotton to the Northern ports before the Government assessments should be paid; but the Secretary of the Treasury, with the aid of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, has, it is believed, discovered a plan by which owners may ship their cotton to Northern markets and pay the Government charges in those ports. If this plan be carried out, it will release and send to the Northern markets an immense amount of property which is now tied up in the South by reason of the former strict and technical construction of the law.

**TREATMENT OF PRISONERS.**—The *Cincinnati Gazette*, an Abolition paper, gives the following description of a Federal prison at Chattanooga: "Of the treatment of rebel prisoners at our hands, I have nothing to say; it is, no doubt, fully as good as it should be in retaliation. True, the prison is dirty, filthy and foul; true, it is but meanly warmed, always damp and unhealthy. The place is almost dark, and seems infernal. Their clothing is a mere mockery, with socks, when they have any, that look like a rough coat of dirt or an unwashed boot."

One hundred thousand dollars, formerly a portion of the Confederate States treasure, and since the demolition of that institution secreted in the South, was recently unearthed and turned into the United States Treasury. This sum, which consisted of \$90,000 in gold, \$8,000 in silver, and \$2,000 in silver bullion, was recently sent North in charge of a guard of twelve picked men of the 19th United States Infantry.

**The Labor Question and Emigration.**—The following extract of a letter sent by a member of a commercial house in England to a friend in Charleston we afford space for publication, although we by no means agree with the author in his views concerning the Coolies. We think that class of people would be far less efficacious than the negro. The only class of persons that will be of service to the South are white men from the other side of the Atlantic:

"We fully expect, from the knowledge we have of the idleness of the negro in all countries where they have been used as laborers and tillers of the soil, that they will not work without some degree of compulsion, and if the Legislatures of the Cotton States do not pass some law that will compel the negro to hire himself by the year, and also make him, under severe penalties, perform his contract, the South will be a second Jamaica. Your people will be compelled to import white laborers, and on the sea-board of South Carolina and Georgia we know of no labor better adapted to the soil and production than the Coolie. They answer very well in the West Indies and on the cotton plantations of Peru. The passage money is £14 7s. 6d. per head, and this, with shipping charges, brings their cost laid down about £20 per head, or \$100. Very few die on the voyage. The emigration is entirely voluntary, and each man has the terms of his contract explained to him in the presence of a Mandarin and the Consul. They contract for five years at eight dollars per month, find themselves and pay back the passage money by monthly instalments, and on these terms they can be had in great numbers. The Chinese Coolie is very industrious and keeps faithfully to his contract. This is a matter worthy the attention of your State authorities. Many of the West India islands would be totally unproductive without them. Some action should be taken by those in authority to work your rice fields with this cheap and desirable labor, and you cannot urge this matter on them too soon. We have seen the negro in every clime, and we know they will not work steadily, particularly such laborious crops as rice and cotton. Excuse our trusting our views and opinions on you. Your own experience will test their soundness."

**CANADA AND GREAT BRITAIN.**—The truth is, that we have our choice of two courses of policy with regard to Canada—a warlike and a pacific, a retrograde and a progressive policy. We may set ourselves to raise up a rival power to the United States, and in order to defend that power from their attack, may plunge it into such inextricable financial difficulties as to deprive it of all attraction for the intending emigrant, and even to drive out of it much of the population which has already chosen it as a home. We may look on our colony as a military position to be defended, even as a Roman *colonia* planted as a menace or a curb to a rival people, which must be drilled and fortified and kept open during the inclemencies of a Siberian winter, at whatever cost to the mother country, and with a prospect of success, however slender. Or we may relinquish the hateful and useless occupation of struggling against Nature and look at our colony more with reference to the future than the present more with regard to its geographical position and commercial interests than to the hopeless task of its military defence. Those who regard Canada from this point of view would rather expend the money of England in improving her communication with those rich lands of which she is the natural outlet, than in forcing a worthless passage for hopeless successors across barren and inhospitable deserts. The present moment is, as we have often shown, the very last in which we should seek to carry embarrassment into Canadian finance. It is her great opportunity, which, if well used, will do more to make her independent of all fear of invasion from America than ten times the fleets and armies of which we can dispose. The fortifications of Quebec and Montreal have, at any rate, this advantage—that they may for a while protect our troops, and possibly facilitate their embarkation. The Inter-colonial Railway can do nothing but mock them with the prospect of a communication with the sea, which is sure to fail them just at the moment when it becomes most imperiously necessary for their preservation.

[London Times.]

General Howard estimates that at least 40,000 freedmen have learned to read and write since the war broke out.

**The Rich Men of New York—How they Work.**

No bank clerk on the salary of a thousand dollars a year goes to his bank as regularly, or works as many hours, as Wm. B. Astor, who counts up his \$40,000,000. His little one-story office, a step or two from Broadway, on Prince street, with its iron bars, making it resemble a police prison, is the den where he performs his daily toil, and out of his wealth and labor gets only his victuals and clothes. He attends personally to all his business, knows every dollar of rent or income that is to become due, pays out every dollar, makes his entries in his own hand, and obliges his subordinates to come to him for information, while he does not go to them. He generally comes down in the omnibus at an early hour in the day and remains closely absorbed in business until five o'clock. He rarely takes exercise, and finds his pleasure in the closest attention to business. A friend of mine rode to Washington with him in the same car from New York. He neither spoke nor got out of his seat, and hardly moved, from Jersey City to Washington. He usually leaves his office at five o'clock, and walks slowly up Broadway to Lafayette place. He is over six feet high, heavily built, with a decided German look, small hazy eyes, as if he was half asleep, head round as a pumpkin, and about as destitute of hair. He is exceedingly hospitable, and in the "season" gives a dinner to his friends weekly, at which the richest viands on services of gold and silver are presented by liveried servants to his guests.

Commodore Vanderbilt never worked harder in his life, never worked more hours than now. He has a confidential clerk, who works like a pack-horse, who has been in his employ for thirty years. Besides this, Vanderbilt does his own business, makes and executes his own contracts, and this, with the business he does on twenty millions, is no small toil. The Commodore goes down to his business regularly every day, and can be found at certain hours. His only recreation—euchre and fast horses.

Moses Taylor, whose dividends from coal stock alone this year reached the pretty little sum of a million of dollars, began business in New York when he was sixteen years of age, kept his own books with his own hands, and has done so ever since. His library, in his own house on Fifth avenue, is a regular work-shop. Every night he brings up his own business with his own hand. His vast business as trustee is kept by himself. He makes all the original entries of sort and kind, and goes to his office for no information, and he knows just how things must be there to be right. And should every record kept by his book-keepers and clerks be destroyed, it would make no difference with him, for he has the original in his own hands. Many merchants spend the afternoon in riding, or in games, or in the excitement of the evening stock board; but Mr. Taylor finds his recreation in a bath, a good dinner, a comfortable siesta, and an evening devoted to work.

[New York Cor. Boston Journal.]

**CAPTAIN WIRZ.**—"Druid," the well-known correspondent of the *New York World and News*, publishes a lengthy letter, eulogizing Captain Wirz from responsibility in regard to the hardships of the prisoners at Andersonville. He closes thus:

No—the responsibility for the sufferings of our prisoners at Andersonville rests upon those who are responsible for keeping our prisoners there, instead of permitting them to be exchanged. The Confederate authorities were anxious to have them exchanged. But the Secretary of War refused to have them exchanged, on the pretext that the equality of negro soldiers with white soldiers must first be acknowledged by the Confederate Government, but really in order to prevent Gen. Lee's army from being reinforced by the rebel soldiers whom he held at Chicago and Point Lookout.

**EXTENSIVE BANK ROBBERIES.**—The fact has just been made public that extensive bank robberies have lately been committed in the States of Ohio, Pennsylvania and Indiana, amounting in the aggregate to nearly three hundred thousand dollars. From information received at Chicago from Cleveland, Ohio, a man named Love was arrested Sunday afternoon last, by the police of the former city, and thirty-one thousand dollars in bonds which had been stolen were found in his possession.

Isaac Williams, a Virginian, has been sentenced to three years imprisonment and a fine of \$1,000 for disregarding his oath of allegiance.

**Local Items.**

"Cotton Blanks" and permits—indispensable to all persons purchasing or shipping cotton—can be obtained at this office.

We owe to Messrs. Speck & Polock a special bottle of the "Mumm Champagne"—a brand of peculiar virtues and high reputation.

**MAIL FACILITIES.**—A daily mail leaves this city at 4 p. m., by stage, for Willsboro, Charlotte and the North. This is pleasing intelligence, and we hope in a few days to be able to report the opening of other routes.

**DRY GOODS COMMISSION HOUSE.**—Parties in search of dry goods are referred to the advertisement of Messrs. Edgerton & Richards, who have recently opened a large wholesale and jobbing house at No. 32 and 34 Broad street, Charleston. The gentlemen forming the firm are well and favorably known by the business community in nearly every section of the State.

**ASSAULTS AND ROBBERIES.**—We have been informed that assaults and robberies have been committed on some of our citizens on one or two evenings of last week, but we are pleased to learn that the military authorities at this post are making arrangements to have an efficient police on duty throughout the city, so that we may not expect a repetition of these outrages.

**THROUGH IN THREE DAYS.**—To the kindness of J. P. Southern, Esq., we are indebted for a copy of the *New York Herald*, of the 28th instant—just three days old—as it was received here on Sunday morning. Mr. S. has also furnished us with late Philadelphia, Richmond and Petersburg papers. The Southern Express Company also came to the rescue again, Sunday morning, with a full supply of Richmond, Wilmington and Willsboro papers. In these days of irregular mails, such favors are highly appreciated.

**THE CAPTURE AND DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, S. C.**—Originally Published in the *Columbia Phoenix*—Revised and Corrected by the Author.—About the middle of October, the above work will be issued from the press of the *Columbia Phoenix*—printed with new type and on fine paper. Persons desiring copies are requested to give their names as early as possible. Single copies will be furnished at \$1. The trade supplied at a discount.

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

- Fenner, Bennett & Bowman—Com. Mer's.
- Durbee & Walter—Furniture, &c.
- P. Cantwell—Goshen Butte.
- W. Simons—Estray Mule.
- Nomination of Wm. Shiver for Legislator.
- Calnan & Kreuder—Just Received.
- Richard Caldwell—Groceries.
- Hardy Solomon & Co.—Bolting Cloth.
- Nomination of Candidates for Legislature.
- Apply at this Office—Room to Rent.
- Udolpho Wolfe—To the Citizens of S. C.
- A. L. Solomon—Confed'te Bonds Wanted.
- F. H. Elmore—Removal of Clerk's Office.

**THRILLING SCENE.**—On Sunday, while the fire in the woods at Cedar Swamp was at its height, an extra train of sixteen cars, bringing the Fourteenth Maine Regiment, on their way home to Augusta, came over the Eastern Railroad. On either side of the track the flames rose forty feet high, the noise drowning the sound of the train. It was a fearful sight to behold. The oil on the wheels took fire, and along the train were seen revolving wheels of fire, while the seven hundred officers and men of the Fourteenth were nearly smothered in the dense smoke. Fortunately the long train drawn by the "Cape Ann" went through the terrible ordeal without accident, and as the cars emerged beyond the burning district, the smoke rushed from the car windows into the air, giving an appearance of a train on fire.—*Portsmouth (N. H.) Chronicle*, Sept. 16.

**AN IMPORTANT DECISION.**—Owing to the financial straits to which a majority of the Southern people have found themselves reduced, now that the war is ended, to their want of information in regard to the requirements of the Internal Revenue law, and for other reasons, the Secretary of the Treasury has ordered that all articles in the lately rebellious States which can be shown to have been manufactured before the establishment of the collection district in which they are found, shall be held free from the present assessment or collection of tax, unless transported beyond the State limits.—*Salisbury Watchman*.

They are neither true friends of the President nor of the colored people, who attempt to excite distrust of his intentions. He will do for the freedmen what he believes it his duty to do, not what Thad. Stevens or Gen. Butler tells him he must and shall do. [Springfield Republican.]