

Interesting from Washington.

We understand that the delegation from the Convention—Messrs. Wardlaw, Dawkins and Huger—who visited Washington to lay before the President the memorials in reference to Messrs. Davis, Stephens, Magrath and Trenholm, have returned home; and we are glad to learn that the President, in their last interview, intimated to them that he would so far meet their wishes as to release Gov. Magrath from confinement on his parole, as he had already done Messrs. Stephens and Trenholm. His views as to the position of Mr. Davis, our readers have already learned from the published account of the first interview.

The delegation were very much gratified with their intercourse with the President. They found him fully conscious of the difficulties with which the State was surrounded, and anxious to assist her in successfully overcoming them. The delegation were able to assure him—and we feel confident that our Legislature will confirm their assurance—that the State was ready, honestly and energetically, to endeavor to meet the necessities of their position; that they would afford all necessary protection to the person and property of the freedmen, and cordially co-operate with the Administration in making the new relation mutually advantageous. An it must be obvious that our Legislature can do much, and ought to do all it can, to strengthen the President's hands in his contest with the extreme radicals. He has courageously and conscientiously stood between us and such a ruthless abuse of power on the part of the radicals as it is fearful to contemplate. It is clear that as we strengthen his hands we secure our own safety.

Mr. Trescott, the Executive Agent of the State, returned to Columbia with the delegation, in order to meet Gen. Howard, the Chief Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, in hopes, we have heard, of completing the arrangements for the restoration of the abandoned lands of the State to their former owners, and providing employment for the freedmen. We understand that Gov. Perry will be here, to-day, to meet them, and confidently anticipate a result which will allow our people to resume their agricultural labors with energy and fair prospects of success.

Elections.

We are indebted to Col. Perrin and A. L. Solomon for copies of the Charleston News of the 19th, from which we extract the result of the election in Charleston District:

For Governor—James L. Orr, 780; Wade Hampton, 661.

For Lieutenant-Governor—Wm. D. Porter (without opposition), 1,377.

For State Senate—Henry Buist and W. S. Henery are elected.

For the House of Representatives—The following gentleman have been elected as Representatives: J. A. Wagener, F. Melchers, C. H. Simonton, T. G. Barker, R. S. Duryea, E. Magrath, R. Seigling, J. Hanckel, F. J. Porcher, J. B. Campbell, J. M. Eason, Benj. Lucas, W. J. Gayer, W. E. Mikell, P. J. Coogan, J. Mulvaney, T. P. Ryan, J. T. Milligan, S. Lord, jr., — Richardson.

LEXINGTON DISTRICT.—The following is the result of the election in this District:

Senator—L. Boozer.

Representatives—Col. F. S. Lewis and Dr. S. S. J. Hayes.

The election of Gen. Humphreys as Governor of Mississippi is remarkable. He was never announced as a candidate by his own consent. He beat Judge Fisher, formerly Judge of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, and a man of decided popularity.

The Public Debt.

For the first time, says the Richmond Times, we have an official announcement of a "decrease in the public debt," which has produced mingled feelings of satisfaction and surprise. The Nation states that Secretary McCulloch's official schedule of the public debt of the United States to 30th September, exhibits the first positive decrease in the grand total since the beginning of the civil war. The amount is now \$12,500,000 less than at the close of August, and \$255,000,000 less than the \$3,000,000,000, which was generally esteemed a few months ago the minimum total on the settlement of the war. The figures were:

On August 31, 1865... \$2,757,689,571
On September 30, 1865... 2,744,947,726

Decrease..... \$12,741,845
On the present settlement, the unpaid requisitions on the Treasury amount to only \$1,220,000. On the conclusion of the war in May they were \$40,150,000. The balances then in the Treasury were \$25,148,702; they are now \$88,977,230.

The actual decrease in the public debt in September, in the face of continued heavy payments in settlement of the closing expenses of the war and the disbanding of the army, is mainly due to the large internal revenues of the month and the receipts in gold from imports; the latter being so far in excess of the wants of the gold interest charge on the public debt that they were converted into currency by the sale of \$12,000,000 or \$15,000,000 gold in the open market. We should not make haste to congratulate the country on the arrest of the public debt in August, and its first evidence of decrease in September, if we had reason to suppose that any considerable claims against the Government had been postponed, or their audit at Washington purposely delayed; but the evidences of the promptness, and even anxiety, of the Secretary on these points are all against any such suspicion. Nor should we rejoice so soon at these results, if we had reason to believe that the October receipts from taxes and customs would fall off so materially as to render it impracticable for the Secretary to make an equally good exhibit at the end of the present month. The evidences of the first week in the month are in the opposite direction. The internal revenues continue to pour into the Treasury at the rate of \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000 per day, and the gold customs of the first week are over \$3,000,000, equal to nearly \$4,500,000 in currency. The November interest on the public debt being already anticipated, the Secretary will, no doubt, continue his sales of gold until the close approach of the first of January, when the next instalment of gold interest falls due. And altogether, we regard it as quite certain that another moderate reduction on the total of the debt, and a very considerable settlement of legal tender paper, will appear on the succeeding schedule.

VIRGINIA ELECTION.—So far as we can judge from the returns of the Virginia election, Messrs. Custis, Barbour, Chandler, Ridgway, Hoge, Mosby, Stuart and Conrad have been elected members of the United States House of Representatives. The last two named have declared that they cannot take the Congressional oath. The amendment to the State Constitution which removes the disqualification of holding office from those who held positions under the Confederate or Rebel State Government of Virginia has been adopted.

The Nashville Banner learns that the order of Free and Accepted Masons in that city have emphatically declined the proposal to recognize a Lodge to be composed of colored men in that community, and pronounces the proposal, from no matter what source, as un-masonic in the highest degree.

Destructive Fire in Charleston.

At about four o'clock yesterday morning a most destructive fire broke out in the rear of the premises No. 41 Hayne street, occupied by Mr. W. H. Chafee as a wholesale grocery and liquor store. The cause of the fire is not known, the first evidence of its existence being discovered while it was in full blast. In a short time after its discovery, the flames had reached the entire building, and had caught those adjoining. Though there was scarcely any air stirring, no breeze whatever, the fire spread rapidly, and all the exertions of the firemen failed to stop the conflagration, until as many as three of our largest and finest stores were burned to the ground, and others injured.

The Courier office, No. 43 Hayne street, adjoining Mr. Chafee's store, caught early after the fire commenced, and burned down. The large cylinder press, together with a new fine job press, and a large amount of stock and material was consumed.

Messrs. W. T. Burge & Co., who have recently opened a large and well assorted stock of dry goods, occupied the upper stories of No. 41 Hayne street, and their entire stock was destroyed; but we are gratified to learn that it was insured to the amount of \$20,000.

Messrs. Hastie, Calhoun & Co., wholesale dealers in shoes, saddlery, &c., at No. 30 Hayne street, had just received a part of their stock, which was entirely consumed.

During the fire, the different engine companies displayed all the energy that could be used to stop the conflagration. Perhaps, had the fire occurred in days gone by, when our fire companies were more able, so much property would not have been lost; but, as it is, it could scarcely have been otherwise.

Hayne street seems to have been particularly unfortunate recently. Some of the most valuable storehouses have been burned down, and the street, though formerly one of the most thriving of the city, seems to be doomed to ashes. It is to be hoped, however, that our merchants will not become discouraged, but will rebuild their houses, and make the little street, in spite of present aspects, as lively as of yore.

The following is a list of the buildings destroyed, the names of the firms occupying them, and the insurance, so far as could be learned:

No. 45 Hayne street, corner of Meeting, owned by Crane, Boylston & Co. Insured to the extent of about \$5,000.

No. 43 Hayne street, owned by Johnston, Crews & Brawley. Building entirely destroyed. Partially insured for \$12,500. Occupied by the Courier office, who have an insurance of \$10,000 on their stock, which may cover their loss.

No. 41 Hayne street, owned by Johnston, Crews & Brawley. Building totally destroyed. Partially insured for \$12,500. Occupied in the lower part by Mr. W. H. Chafee, as a wholesale grocery establishment. Stock worth \$30,000. Entirely lost—insured for \$15,000. The upper part of this building was used by Messrs. W. T. Burge & Co.

No. 39 Hayne street, owned and occupied by Hastie, Calhoun & Co., as a wholesale shoe and saddlery house. Building entirely burnt. There was, we are informed, a partial insurance on the store to the amount of some \$8,000. Their stock had not all come to hand, and they had not yet opened for business; but there were goods in store to the value of \$23,000, which were burnt. Some \$15,000 of this was the property of the proprietors, and was covered by insurance. The balance, some \$8,000 in value, belonged to other parties.

No. 37, formerly occupied and owned by Hyatt, McBurney & Co., was somewhat injured, and other buildings around were more or less damaged.

Messrs. Jennings, Thomlinson & Co., at No. 35 Hayne street, report small losses, covered by insurance.

It would be difficult to state the exact amount of loss which has been sustained by this unfortunate conflagration; but we presume it is near \$200,000. The insurance on the buildings that will be called for to sustain the loss will be about \$40,000, which will not pay more than half the actual destruction. Of the value of the stocks and materials which were destroyed we can but approximate. Upon diligent inquiry, we think the amount to be about \$100,000, of which some \$60,000 was covered by insurance.

CASUALTIES.

About 11 A. M. to-day, after the fire was suppressed, a number of persons entered between the burnt walls of one of the buildings for the purpose of removing a valuable iron chest, and while there the walls fell in,

covering up or injuring more or less seriously some twenty-five persons, as near as can be calculated at present. Captain Hoffman, Chief of Military Police, is badly hurt, his thigh fractured, and has received a most severe cut on the head. Some five or six other white men, principally of the police force, were very badly injured, and one of them, it is feared, fatally hurt. Three colored men have been killed outright, and a number of others have suffered severely. The smoke is so dense around the fire that the efforts to remove the rubbish and recover the bodies that may be buried under have been suspended.

[Charleston Courier, 19th.

Foreign News Items.

Mosquitoes, hitherto almost unknown in England, have prevailed at some of the sea-ports this summer. What with yellow fever at Swansea, cholera at Southampton, cattle plague everywhere, and rapidly diminishing exports and imports, there seems small possibility, says the London Shipping Gazette, that Mr. Gladstone will be able to make another of his "prosperity" budgets.

No fewer than 104,000 persons had left Marseilles up to the 20th of September, on account of the cholera. This is more than three-sevenths of the population. At Arles, where there were only 6,000 inhabitants out of 25,000 left on the 19th, there were on that day twenty-three deaths from cholera.

The London Times publishes an article on the fleets of England and France, and is forced to come to the conclusion that in the very important particular of speed, the French fleet beats the English.

Another member has been added to the exiled royal family of France, by the birth of a daughter to the Count and Countess of Paris. The child has been named after her great grandmother, Marie Amilie Louise Helene.

It is said that Prince Humbert, the Crown Prince of Italy, has fallen in love with the Princess Marguerite, the eldest daughter of the Duke of Nemours, but that the King of Italy disapproves of the match, because the Emperor of the French refuses to sanction the alliance. Nevertheless, it is declared that the young prince is determined to wed no other royal lady.

The personalty of the late Mr. Cobden has been sworn under £8,000. His will was dated April 1, and was executed the day before his death. He has left to his wife a life interest in all his property, which is to be divided after her death equally between his five daughters.

The latest development of Fenianism is a summons against Sir Robert Peel, Chief Secretary for Ireland, on the charge of provoking a breach of the peace. Sir Robert was traveling on the Queenstown Railroad, with a Dublin "ex-banker," when, unfortunately, the fellow-travelers fell out by the way, and Sir Robert, at all times excitable, did so, says the "ex-banker," threaten him and abuse him, that he, the "ex-banker," was compelled to take out a summons against the Secretary. In a former quarrel, it will be remembered that O'Donoghue challenged Sir Robert, and Sir Robert would have fought had not Lord Palmerston interposed. On the present occasion, Lord Palmerston's agent was a witness in the altercation, and has been summoned to give evidence.

GEN. BANKS ON PRESIDENT JOHNSON.—General Banks does not like President Johnson's plan of restoration. At a recent speech in Lawrence, Massachusetts, he said, "he had more confidence in the President, perhaps, than many others; but he would abandon any man who manifested a willingness to give political power into the hands of the leaders of the rebellion." Banks is determined to be on the popular side in Massachusetts.

[Philadelphia Ledger.

MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION PARDONED.—We learn that his Excellency President Johnson has granted pardons to nearly every member of the late State Convention.

Pardons recently granted to Chancellor Carroll and Inglis are now in possession of the Governor.

[Greenville Mountaineer.

Andrew Jackson Donelson has written a letter, in which he professes himself much pleased with the working of the paid labor system in Mississippi. He says companies are forming and paying as high as fifteen dollars per acre rent for open lands on the Mississippi. It is also believed negro laborers will build up the levee.

There are now in existence no less than 1,457 oil companies, with a total capital of \$569,594,000.

Local Items.

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

EMPLOYMENT.—Eight or ten good printers can obtain employment in this office during the approaching session of the Legislature.

CASH.—We wish it distinctly understood that our terms for subscription, advertising and job work are cash. The money must in every case accompany orders, or they will not be attended to. This rule applies to all.

JUDGES FROST.—Among the arrivals at Nickerson's Hotel we notice that of the Hon. Edward Frost.

DISSOLUTION.—Our readers will perceive, by the advertisement of Messrs. Zealy, Scott & Bruns, that their well-known firm has been dissolved by consent of parties, and that our old friend, J. T. Zealy, will continue the business on his own account. We have no reason to doubt that he will continue to receive that generous patronage which was awarded to the former establishment.

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

- Mordecai & Co's, Agents—Safes.
- Jacob Bell—Citation of J. L. Boatwright.—Citation of Richard Jones.
- E. E. Jackson—Dry Goods.
- P. B. Glass—Books and Stationery.
- Zealy, Scott & Bruns—Dissolution.
- R. C. Griffin—A Card to Voters.

A Masonic association in New York, called the Lodge of Perfection, performed a singular ceremony last week—a sort of imitation of Christian baptism. It is described as follows:

"The members having entered in procession, were followed by a party with six children, some borne on cushions and others led by sponsors and parents—a man following behind with the sacred triangle of burning candles. This company made three circuits, escorted by the lodge, the Masons chanting praises. Then advancing to the East, they stood before the Grand Master. Prayer was read and a hymn was sung. The orator then addressed the sponsors and children, admonishing them to be true to themselves, their neighbor, their country and their God. Another prayer was then repeated. A font of perfumed water stood before the Grand Master. Taking each child's hand, he immersed it in the water, repeating its name and the words, 'I wash thee with pure water. May God give thee and maintain thee in that innocence and purity of heart of which this cleansing is a symbol.' He then marked on the forehead of each child a triangle with consecrated oil, and pronounced the invocation of blessing. A hymn was then sung; the brethren knelt and uttered a solemn vow to watch and protect these children through life. Each partook of salt in confirmation of the pledge. A locket was presented to each of the children, and a ring to the boys; also the triangle and an apron. A benediction completed the rite."

THE CHOLERA.—Foreign mails received at the State Department yesterday bring additional details relative to the spread of the cholera.

The Consul at Constantinople, writing under date of September 18, reports that the disease has almost entirely disappeared from that city.

The United States Consul at Port Mahon reports, under date of September 20, that he has reliable information from Palma to and including the 17th of September. The usual population of Palma is 60,000, but on the 17th instant the population did not exceed 15,000. On that day, 137 deaths occurred from cholera. Since then deaths are reported from 150 to 160 per day. The infection at Palma appears in an aggravated form, and seems to baffle human skill. Reports have reached Port Mahon that the disease is spreading into the interior of Spain.

Reports from the Consul at Genoa, Italy, state that but a few cases of the cholera have occurred there.

Intelligence from the Consul at Marseilles, France, is to the effect that this terrible disease is frightfully on the increase there. Eighty thousand citizens have left the city, and the deaths now average between fifty and sixty per day. Huge bonfires, numbering a thousand at a time, are burning nightly in the streets, for purifying the atmosphere, which has had the desired effect to some extent.

There was a dissolute boy, who, when he was told that the best cure for the palpitation of the heart was to quit kissing the girls, said: "If that's the only cure for palpitation, I say let her palp."