

The Situation.

All eyes are now turned to the Federal Capital, where the present and future interests and destinies of the country, are probably, to be determined by the Congressmen assembled in that city.

Some eleven States, claiming to be States of the Union, having returned to their allegiance after the failure of their struggle; loyal to the Government and frankly accepting the results of the late conflict, they seek once more to be restored as an integral part of the family of States which compose the American Union.

The tidings from Washington, so far as they have reached us, are unfavorable to the hopes of an early admission of the Southern members of Congress elect. The dominant party having in a previous caucus nominated them, have elected Mr. Colfax Speaker, and McPherson, Clerk of the House. We learn from the dispatches in the *Herald* and other Northern papers, that the first proceeding of this caucus, was the appointment of a committee of seven, consisting of Messrs. Stevens, of Pennsylvania; Raymond, of New York; Spalding, of Ohio; Washburne, of Illinois; Payne, of Wisconsin; Boutwell, of Massachusetts, and Blair, of Maine—a radical committee, from which, already cut and dried by Thaddeus Stevens, a resolution was presented which at once, for at least a twelve-month, if adopted by the two houses, disposes of the excluded Southern States. This resolution provides that, after the organization of the two houses, a joint committee, of fifteen more members of the House and six of the Senate, "shall be appointed to inquire into the condition of the States which formed the so-called Confederate States of America, and report whether they, or any of them, are entitled to be represented in either house of Congress, with leave to report at any time by bill or otherwise; and until such report shall have been made, and finally acted on by Congress, no member shall be received into either house from any of the so-called Confederate States; and all papers relating to the representatives from said States shall be referred to said committee without debate."

Such is the avowed programme of the party who are opposed to the reconstruction policy of President Johnson. We had hoped for a different course; we had begun to believe that the dictates of passion in the legislation of the country would be no longer followed or obeyed, and that a wise conservatism, based upon sound principles of statesmanship, would be the guide at this juncture of our affairs. As policy of simple justice to the Southern people, it would be the means of insuring that firm allegiance which they have honestly tendered to the Government. "When," as a cotemporary justly remarks, "it is so easy to heal the divisions of the past by a practical recognition of the rights which all sections have heretofore conceded to exist, it would seem that few thinking men at the North would be found willing to reject the claims of the South to representation. The position of President Johnson, in reference to the various parties in the country, is not wholly unlike that of Charles II in reference to the factions which divided England at the time of the restoration. Though bitterness of feeling had survived in the hearts of those who had so long opposed each other during the civil war, Charles found that all parties would willingly lend a united support to one who was able to put an end to a continuance of existing evils. 'Charles came back,' says Macaulay, 'not as a mediator between a people and a victorious enemy, but as a mediator between internal factions.' Such, we think, is the view which should be taken of our recent struggle, and the policy of the country should be directed towards a complete reconciliation of the past, by the admission of all sections to the enjoyment, as in former times, of equal rights, under the Constitution." This, for some time past, has been the object of all the action of President Johnson towards the late seceding States, and such, from the telegraphic report of his message, we infer, is the course he has recommended to Congress. It will not be long, however, until the problem be solved whether statesmanship and conservatism, or radicalism and sectional prejudice shall hold sway in the councils of the nation. Every true and loyal citizen—every lover of his country—will earnestly pray that the former may prevail, and that ere long the great work of restoration and reconstruction will be fully completed.

The Charleston News has a good article on the condition of the times. We extract the main portion of the article, and recommend it to our readers: Before the war began, they proclaimed an irrepressible conflict. They claimed power, the purpose to use it mercilessly, and forced the conclusion that the preservation, rights and liberty was dependent on ourselves. Throughout the war, their conduct was not more conciliatory. They hired soldiers from abroad; they armed our slaves against us; they burned our houses and blasted our lands, without its being apparent that these cruelties contributed to conclude the war. That over, they sent emissaries amongst us to stir the worst nature of the negro—to divert him from employments which, necessary to his subsistence, might be profitable to his recent master; to plant a principle of hate between them, and render peaceful relations no longer possible. And if it be objected, after this, that we do not love them, it is a sufficient answer, that they cannot expect it. They are not so unreasonable to require an occurrence so unnatural, nor would any human testimony be sufficient to convince them of the fact. But if it be meant that we do not, in perfect faith, accept the situation, with all the obligations and responsibilities arising from it, the proposition is not true. Not only do we not propose a renewal of the contest—which now, in the loss of slavery, and the absence, therefore, of any peculiarity of social constitution to be preserved by a peculiar Government, would be unnecessary—but we honestly desire the restoration of the Union. We desire it for the selfish reason, perhaps, that any condition would be welcomed from the calamities of a conquered and dependent province, but for the better reason, also, that in the Union only is there the hope of preserving the civilization of this republic. The imperiled principle of representative liberty has no other ark of refuge now; and for the North and humanity, as well as for ourselves, we would, of all earthly things, the most desire the restoration of the Union.

Nor is there the slightest thought to disturb the question as to slavery. We have not concurred in the policy of emancipation; we have not thought it of advantage to negroes; we have not seen the reason to believe them fit for an equal place in a community of white men—many have already perished—more, we fear, must perish, and, perhaps, all must pass away; we have not thought it of advantage to white men; the sudden loss of property, the disturbance of relations, the mixture of races, excited, as far as possible, to madness with each other, have not improved the condition of the ruling class; and if, in this way, truth shall have been vindicated, we cannot avoid the feeling that the price has been too great; and even truth should not be vindicated, in the ruin of the only parties concerned upon the subject of its vindication. But we do not purpose to resist the measure; we do not purpose to ask a reconsideration of the question. We do not dream that a reconsideration is possible; or if it were, would we now accept it or be willing to restore the negroes to their late condition. They were not then dangerous, but, with the experience of the last few months, and the efforts of emissaries to disturb them, they would be now. The relation cannot be restored, and the connection would be intolerable without it.

Nor is there a feeling of infidelity to the republic. There never has been. We did not strike the republic, but the party who seemed to usurp it, and ever felt regret that, to vindicate our liberties, we had to abandon our share in its grandeur and its glories; and though now it has cost us an effort to lay aside our form of society, from no motive of our own, no perception of its evils, and adopt another not more commended by reason and experience, it is the one consoling thought that, by that exhausting sacrifice, there is at least the compensation that we may be permitted to re-enter the great republic, and recommence in that association the onward march to the bright destiny which is yet within the range of its achievements.

If it be rebellious, therefore, not to entertain feelings of personal regard for those who have been constant in their efforts that we shall not, or not to feel humiliated and debased by misfortune, or not to acknowledge superior merit in those who have not exhibited the qualities fitted to inspire the sense of such superiority; or if it be the exhibition of a spirit which unites us for the Union, not to show a nature too servile for association with honorable men, then we exhibit a rebellious spirit, and it is but just that of such rebellious spirit we should meet the consequences.

But if not—if fidelity to the Union shall consist with proper self-respect—if it be enough, to entitle us to the relation, that we accept its obligations and conditions, that we adopt the policy of the Government, assume its fortunes and its fate, and are ready to devote whatever we may have of character and manhood to elevate and sustain it—then we are not rebellious. If the party in control of Congress be the republic, and a sense of loyalty to them shall be loyalty to the republic, we are not loyal; but if the republic be herself—if she be above faction and party, and it be loyal to sustain her, and to strike even those who would usurp and degrade her, then we are loyal. If there be a republic, to that republic we are loyal; if there be not—if its form has been usurped, and if faction stalks in its habiliments and desecrates its sacred places, to that semblance we are not loyal; and no amount of suffering can degrade us to the act of such confession.

In the bill which passed the Mississippi Legislature, conferring the right on negroes to testify in Court, the freedmen has full privileges, except that he cannot give his testimony where two white men are parties to the suit and the freedman has no interest in the case.

Gen. Cooper, we learn, says the Petersburg Express, is at the residence of Mark Alexander, in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, where he has been ever since the surrender of General Lee. His family has recently gone to Maryland.

A Cairo despatch says that Colonel Quantrell, of Kansas notoriety, passed through that city last week, on his way to Washington. He has gone in quest of a pardon.

The Canada kidnappers have not yet been released on bail, the jailor declining, on technical grounds, to deliver them. Mr. Devlin, their counsel, has moved for a writ of attachment to reach the cause.

Legislature South Carolina.

Wednesday, December 6, 1865.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 10 a. m. The President announced that Mr. J. P. Richardson was added to the Committee on Colored Population.

Mr. Lawton presented the petition of sundry citizens of Barnwell, Edgefield, Lexington and Orangeburg Districts, praying the establishment of a new District, embracing portions of Barnwell, Edgefield, Lexington and Orangeburg Districts, with the town of Aiken as its centre and seat of justice.

Numerous papers were received from the House of Representatives.

A bill with reference to Asiatic Cholera; a bill with reference to drawing of juries; a bill to amend and renew the charter of the Calhoun Insurance Company, of Charleston; and, a bill to incorporate Schiller Lodge, No. 30, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the State of South Carolina, located in the city of Charleston; each received the third reading, the titles were changed to Acts, and returned to the House.

A message from his Excellency the Governor was communicated to the Senate, (published yesterday.)

The different sections of the message were referred to the appropriate committees.

Mr. Buist presented the petition of the Palmetto Savings Bank; and the petition of the Charleston Dredging and Wharf Building Company, praying acts of incorporation; and the memorial of the South Carolina Railroad Company, as to bonds guaranteed by the State, and about to become due.

Messrs. Williams and Winsmith submitted reports of committees.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Clerk called the roll, the Speaker took the chair, and the proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Shand.

Message No. 1 was received from his Excellency James L. Orr, and read, at the request of the Governor. William Henry Trescot, Esq.

On motion of Mr. Trescot, the different sections of the message were referred to appropriate committees.

The Speaker laid before the House the petition for Act of incorporation of Rose Mill Manufacturing Company.

Mr. Russell introduced a resolution—which was agreed to—that it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire what additional legislation is necessary to prevent the distillation of grain into spirituous liquors.

Mr. Dawkins introduced a bill to regulate the sittings of the Court of Appeals.

Mr. Russell introduced a resolution—which was agreed to—that it be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire as to the liability of administrators, executors, guardians, trustees, &c., for monied transactions during the war, and especially as to the liability of parties for the sale and purchase of negro property during and since the year 1860.

Mr. Barker presented the memorial of the South Carolina Railroad Company, and of the "Palmetto Savings Institution," praying incorporation.

Mr. Duryea introduced a resolution—which was agreed to—inviting Gen. James Conner to a seat upon the floor.

Mr. Duryea presented the petition of the Charleston Dredging and Wharf Building Company, praying an Act of incorporation. Adjourned.

From Abroad.

The news from South America is important. Hostilities had actually commenced between Spain and Chili. An armed boat's crew attempted to make a landing at Valparaiso, and were fired upon and driven back by the Chilians. Admiral Pareja has blockaded six of the ports of Chili, and threatened Valparaiso with bombardment. It is believed that he has exceeded the instructions of his Queen, and will be recalled. The revolutionists of Peru have triumphed, and President Pezet has fled from the country. In the attack on Lima, the palace was fired, and narrowly escaped destruction. The troops who defended it fought with great bravery till every one was shot. Order was re-established at the capital and at Callao. President Pezet took refuge on a British vessel, and was to proceed to Panama en route for Europe.

Advices from Nicaragua bring official information that the United States Government declines to afford protection to Capt. Lozada, of the schooner Manuela Pianos, which has been seized by the authorities of Nicaragua, on the ground of being engaged in an illicit traffic. Mr. Dickinson, the United States Minister, had received a communication from Secretary Seward, containing instructions to the above effect.

There is later news from Mexico. Maximilian's journals report successes in the interior, but accounts are conflicting. The Empress had a decided ovation in Vera Cruz, and sailed for Yucatan. Gen. Zuloaga had been banished by order of the Emperor, for receiving a letter from one of the Juarez Government. Its contents have not transpired. There seems to be additional complications between the French and the Americans on the Rio Grande, and the probabilities of a war are hinted at. The French have evacuated Sinaloa, and are concentrating their forces at a few points. Reinforcements for the Imperialists have reached Matamoras.

Secretary McCulloch, in his report, asks Congress for authority to convert the seven-thirties before they mature into long six per cent. bonds, with interest payable in gold.

The Imperial troops have all disappeared from the Rio Grande.

Mr. Editor: I send you herewith a form of contract for plantation purposes, extracted from the *Abbeville Banner*, which you will find to your interest to publish, as this subject, of all others, is now uppermost in the minds of your readers. The whole communication is worthy of perusal. Please publish. X.

AT HOME, November 25, 1865.

Mr. Editor: Never before, in the history of our State, has the planting mind of the country been so exercised as at the present. Each neighbor is inquiring of his still further off neighbor, "How do you propose regulating labor on your plantation next year?" This one proposes to interest the laborer by giving him a proportion of the crop; that one thinks, as "money made the mare go," it will be the only effectual stimulus to the freedmen, and hence proposes to pay monthly.

I advocate neither of these plans, but prefer a mixture of the two, which simply means to pay in money for the quantity harvested. For instance, for each bale of cotton (400 pounds,) each bushel of corn, peas, or small grain, for each gallon of syrup, and pound or hundred pounds of fodder, I propose paying so much, the aggregate being divided *pro rata* amongst the hands, who will, in the contract, be rated as full, three-quarters, or half hands. Medical attendance and all other plantation expenses to be furnished by the master, but deductions to be made at the expense of the laborer, such as loss of time from any other cause than that created by the master, fines imposed and boarding of children. "Eviction" and discharges to be within the power of the master at all times for disobedience, idleness, or impudence.

Stock will be raised by a servant not counted a field hand, whose pay will depend upon the number added to the flock or herd, and the number of pounds of pork butchered. In a similar way is poultry to be grown. No employee will be allowed to raise chickens or cultivate a patch for himself, and by no means to own a dog.

With these explanatory items, Mr. Editor, I give you below my idea of a contract for a plantation or farm working seven hands. Of course the same would answer in form and principle for any number of hands:

FORM OF CONTRACT.

This agreement, made and entered into this the first day of January, 1866, between John Smith on the one part, and sundry freedmen on the other part, witnesseth:

That we, (freedmen,) whose names are hereunto attached, do agree and bind ourselves to labor, faithfully, for one year for the aforesaid John Smith, obeying all his orders, consulting, defending and promoting all the interests of his plantation, and rendering it, by our industry, as productive, and the ensuing crop as abundant as possible. That we will be obedient, humble, civil and polite to himself, his family, or agent; and for violation of either of these pledges render ourselves liable to the punishments, or either of them, mentioned below.

In consideration of the services above specified, I, John Smith, do agree to house comfortably, feed liberally, and furnish medical attendance for the aforesaid freedmen, deducting, however, from their wages 50 cents per day for each day lost by any one of the laborers from sickness, or any other cause, except that created by me.

I further agree to board and lodge the children (non-workers) of the aforesaid freedmen at a monthly expense of \$2 each, and at the end of the year to pay the field-hands, stock-minder and poultry-woman, as follows: The field-hands, for each bale of cotton, (400 pounds,) \$10; for each bushel of corn or peas, 20 cents; for each hundred pounds of fodder, 20 cents; for each gallon of syrup, 10 cents; for harvesting small grain, 5 cents per bushel; these amounts to be aggregated and divided amongst the freedmen as rated below, each full hand receiving one-seventh of the whole net amount.

The stock-minder will receive, for each lamb or calf added to the flock or herd during the year, 25 cents, and 1 cent per pound for each and every pound of pork butchered in the fall of 1866.

The poultry-woman will be paid 5 cents for each head of poultry grown.

Any or all the freedmen parties to this contract may be fined a sum not exceeding \$1 for each offence, for idleness, impudence, disobedience, or for maltreating the stock on the plantation, and for repeated offences, may be discharged at my discretion, appeal being granted in case of a discharge to a Magistrate or the District Judge—loss of time occasioned by the appeal chargeable to the offender.

All expenses incurred by reason of laws regulating labor, approval of contracts, taxes of freedmen, loss of time from working roads, and boarding the (non-workers) children, will be deducted from the wages of each freedman as he may be severally liable.

This contract to continue for one year only.

JOHN SMITH, Employer.

Witnesses: PETER SNOOKS, ROBIN HOOD.

his full hand. mark. her 3/4's-hand. mark. his full hand. mark. her half-hand. mark. their each full hand. mark. her 3/4's-hand. mark.

Mr. Editor, as the subject of contracts and labor is one of vital importance to the whole country, I hope some of your readers will publish their views on this subject, that the planters may be able to deduce therefrom a complete form of a contract. Should not the State, and each District for itself, call a Planters' Convention anywhere? Truly, SALUDA.

Local Items.

CASH.—Our terms for subscription, advertising and job work are cash. We hope all parties will bear this in mind.

THE BURNING OF COLUMBIA.—An interesting account of the "Sack and Destruction of the City of Columbia, S. C.," has just been issued, in pamphlet form, from the *Phoenix* steam power press. Orders can be filled to any extent.

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

- Apply at Shiver House—House Wanted.
- E. & G. D. Hope—Mouseline DeLaines.
- " " —Boots, Shoes, &c.
- " " —Raisins, Figs, &c.
- " " —Cheese, Butter, &c.
- " " —Pipes and Tobacco.
- A. R. Phillips—Cattle and Sheep.
- Proposals Wanted for Building Market.
- Robert Caldwell—Ropes.
- " " —Toys, &c.
- C. H. Baldwin—Fresh Goods.
- " " —Hardware.
- P. Cantwell—Bacon Strips, &c.

AFRAID TO LAUGH Ladies sometimes repress their laughter to avoid revealing the discoloration and imperfection of their teeth. Fair ones, we would advise you to try the Fragrant Sozodont. It will remove at once, all impurities, arrest the progress of decay, and whiten such parts as have already become black by decay, and leave the breath as fragrant as a rose. †

SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON, DEC. 5.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steamship Quaker City, West, New York. Br. bark Fearless, Patrick, Glace Bay, C. B. Bark Tuscano, Skilling, Bath, Me.

COMMERCIAL.

MONEY MARKET.—New York, December 4.—Gold opened at 47 1/2, then fell to 47 1/4, but under the rumor from Washington that the President's attitude on the Mexican question betokens the probability of a serious difficulty with France, the rate closed at 48 1/4. There appears to be no trustworthiness in the report from Washington at present, though there are certainly reasons for apprehending that the Administration will favor the Juarist Government. Money has been easy to-day, at 7 per cent. on call. There has been no variation in the rates of discount. Exchange on London closed at 109 1/2. The exportation of gold and silver by the steamer amounted only to \$87,000. The custom duties for the week have amounted to \$2,174,044. The Sub-Treasury in this city received deposits amounting to \$1,240,000 in coin. This makes the total deposit of coin since November 15, under the arrangements, \$11,798,700. The first of this month the cash balance in the Treasury amounted to \$72,820,000, being \$30,102,000 in currency, and the balance in coin. The business at the office of the Assistant Treasurer was as follows: Receipts, \$8,211,157.10; including for customs, \$510,000; on account of loan, \$237,000; gold certificates, \$1,240,000; payments, \$6,240,160.31; balance, \$77,259,601.43.

COTTON MARKET.—New York, December 4.—The market is without change. Sales and resales 2,750 bales, at 50 1/2c. Receipts for the week: Texas, 1,809 bales; New Orleans, 1,894; Mobile, 2,198; Savannah, 4,627; South Carolina, 696; North Carolina, 2,065; Baltimore, 2,229; railroad, 6,706. Total receipts, 22,224. Sales and resales for the week, 16,700. Total imports since November 1, 109,178; since September 1, 325,581. Total exports since November 1, 53,132; since September 1, 127,880. Stock on hand, (estimated,) 165,000.

CHARLESTON, December 5.—We have no change to report in our cotton market, and, therefore, continue previous quotations, viz: 45 1/2c for middling; 47c for strict middling; and 48c for good middling.

Mouseline DeLaines

AND English and American CALICOES —new styles—for sale low. Dec 8 3 E. & G. D. HOPE.

Wanted to Rent,

A HOUSE, with six or eight rooms, in a respectable neighborhood. Possession desired about the 15th or 20th of this month. Apply at Shiver House, this day, between 12 and 1 o'clock. Dec 8 1*

ROPES!

1 CASE ROPES, various sizes, suitable for Clothes Lines and securing Trunks and Bedding. For sale by RICHARD CALDWELL, Corner Bull and Camden streets. Dec 8 1*

TOYS, &c.

1 CASE assorted TOYS, AND 1 case assorted EXTRACTS—Cologne and packages of Toilet Powder, Toilet Powder Boxes and Puffs. For sale by RICHARD CALDWELL, Corner Bull and Camden streets. Dec 8 1*

TO CONTRACTORS.

ON and after SATURDAY, the 9th inst., proposals will be received for the erection of a new temporary MARKET HOUSE for the city of Columbia.

Plans and specifications can be seen, and all information obtained, at the office of Messrs. Kay & Hewetson, Architects and Engineers, to whom the bids will be delivered, sealed and endorsed, "Proposal for the erection of a new Temporary Market." J. M. BLAKELY, JOHN STORK, Council Committee on Market.

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