

The Message—State of the Country.

We have carefully read the message of President Johnson, as we presume have most of our readers. They are all in a position to pass judgment on its merits as a State paper at this important juncture of public affairs throughout the country. For ourselves, we regard it as the production of a statesman—a patriotic chief magistrate, who is most anxious to allay sectional passions and prejudices, and to restore peace and harmony, strength and unity among the whole people of the country. How different is it in tone and temper, from the doings of the few first days, in the body to whom this calm and well-considered paper was addressed! The action of the dominant party in Congress appears to be based upon the mistaken notion, to call it by a very gentle name, that the Southern States have not been sufficiently punished, and that their professed return to their fealty to a Government is not sincere; while the language of the President is that of a calm and dispassionate statesman, whose resolute patriotism rises far above the fanaticism which would foster and continue sectional strife and prejudices. His message, in his adherence to his avowed policy of reconstruction, makes a square and bold issue with the party, of which Stevens and Sumner are the high priests.

The President has very clearly and satisfactorily set forth the principles that have guided his course thus far, in the great work of again bringing peace, harmony and good feeling among the people of all sections of the country. His views as to the rights of States, and of the mutual relations between them and the Government, are somewhat different from those heretofore entertained by us; nevertheless, the late struggle has proved him to be those of the people of the United States, and has fixed it as the principle and policy of the Government, that no State has of itself the right to leave the Federal Union. So must it remain hereafter.

His emphatic condemnation of military rule, or of establishing military Governments, and the cogent arguments he brings forward to sustain his views on that point, will not only give confidence to the people of the South as to his future conduct towards them, but in his position as chief magistrate of the Union, and commander-in-chief of its forces, is an earnest and guarantee of protection to them against the machinations of those who would seek to keep in their present condition, or to deprive them of their political rights. Congress, or rather the dominant faction now in that body, may keep its doors shut against their representatives for some time, but with a President determined to do right, exercising the proper and conservative power of the veto, they will be powerless for any further injury to us. The frank exposition of the President's views as to the speedy restoration of the States lately in revolt, must have a beneficial influence and effect upon even the turbulent passions of radicalism.

After all opposition to the Government had been crushed, the President went to work to reconstruct. He tells Congress that he "has sought to restore the rightful energy of the General Government and of the States. To that end, provisional Governors have been appointed for the States, conventions called, Governors elected, Legislatures assembled, and Senators and Representatives chosen to the Congress of the United States. At the same time the courts of the United States, as far as could be done, have been reopened, so that the laws of the United States may be enforced through their agency. The blockade has been removed and the custom-houses re-established in ports of entry, so that the revenue of the United States may be collected. The post office department renews its ceaseless activity, and the General Government is thereby enabled to communicate promptly with its officers and agents."

After some other measures of conciliation towards the Southern States, his next step was "an invitation to them to participate in the high office of amending the Constitution." But this "invitation" has been accepted by a sufficient number of the Southern States; the amendment is now a part of the Constitution, and that which President Johnson stated conditionally in the following paragraph now becomes an operative fact:

"The amendment to the Constitution being adopted, it would remain for the States, whose powers have been so long in abeyance, to resume their places in the two branches of the National Legislature, and thereby complete the work of restoration."

In his view, then, the work of restoration is completed, and it only remains for Congress to permit the representatives from

the Southern States to take their seats, as they have a right to do, to finish up the work of reconstruction.

The other topics of general interest, the financial exhibits, the state of our foreign relations, the resuscitation of postal arrangements, &c., presented in the message, need no special comment, as all will read for themselves. We only will add, in the language of a cotemporary, in relation to the views enunciated in that portion of the message to which we have alluded, and which are of the greatest importance to us, that "we rise, from the perusal of this message, almost overcome with emotions of thankfulness to God, that between our defeated section and the howling passions of a radical Congress, there is interposed the granite will of Andrew Johnson."

One Day Later from Europe.

The Hibernia, with Liverpool dates to the 24th ult., has arrived at Portland, Maine. Among other items of news, it will be seen that the reputed Head Centre of the Fenian Brotherhood in Ireland, James Stevens, has been found mysteriously missing from his cell in prison.

The commercial news by this arrival will be found under the proper head.

VIOLENT GALES ON THE ENGLISH COAST.
A violent gale prevailed around the English coast on the 22d ult. The steamship Queen, which should have left Liverpool for New York, on that day, was detained until the next day. The ship Calhoun was driven in collision with the steamship City of Boston, in the river Mersey, and went aground, where she remained until the next tide, when she floated into her dock without damage. Much damage had been sustained on the Welsh coast by the gale. More vessels had been driven ashore there than for many years past. An emigrant vessel for Australia was among the number, with nearly 500 people on board. No lives were lost. Much damage had also been done on the land, as well as upon the sea, by the gale.

THE COTTON SUPPLY.
A letter is published from Consul Dudley in the Liverpool papers, regarding the cotton supply from America. Mr. Dudley appends a letter addressed to him on the 27th of October by Secretary McCulloch, who says that from the best information he could obtain, he estimated the old cotton in the Southern States, fit for market at the time of the capture of Savannah, did not exceed one million of bales. This year's crop, he adds, will probably not exceed three hundred thousand bales. Mr. Dudley says that when recently in America, he made most anxious inquiries on the subject, and he estimates the present amount of cotton on hand at little over seven hundred thousand bales, including the new crop.

THE REFORM MOVEMENT.
A crowded reform meeting had been held at Bradford. The Mayor presided. W. E. Foster, M. P., and other influential men took part in the proceedings. Resolutions in favor of reform were adopted unanimously, and confidence that reform would be part of the new ministerial programme was expressed by all the speakers. The substance of the resolutions will be embodied in a memorial and presented to Earl Russell.

THE CATTLE DISEASE.
A fresh report of the cattle disease shows that it is on the increase in England, chiefly in Yorkshire, and on the decrease in Scotland. The Times says that specimens of virgin gold have been discovered in Tinstream, in Cornwall.

THE JAMAICA INSURRECTION.
The controversy in the London papers as to putting down the negro insurrection in Jamaica is waxing warmer.

THE CONTINENT.
The continental news is meagre and unimportant.

FRANCE.
The Paris Bourse was firm at 68f. 62c. on the 23d ult.

The merchants of Paris had held a meeting in regard to the Spanish-Chilian affair, and adopted a petition to the Emperor, praying him to use his influence for a settlement of the dispute by arbitration.

The merchants of Havre had also held a meeting on the same subject, and adopted a similar petition.

PRUSSIA.
The semi-official journal says that Prussia will not hesitate to follow the example of France, if the latter should make a real and material reduction in her army.

ROME.
Numerous encounters are reported between the pontifical gendarmes and the brigands, the former displaying great energy.

LATEST VIA GREENCASTLE.
LONDON, November 24.—James Stevens, the reported Head Centre of the Fenian Brotherhood in Ireland, was missed from his cell in prison this morning. No particulars are yet known as to the time or manner of his escape.

The constabulary in all parts of Ireland have been warned and informed of his escape.

The Court of Queen's Bench for Ireland has refused the application to have the Fenian cases tried in some other place than Dublin. The Court held that a fair and impartial trial could be had in Dublin.

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NEW YORK CHARTER ELECTION.—At the election in New York, on Tuesday, Mr. Richard O'Gorman, Democrat, was elected Corporation Counsel by 1,700 majority. The vote for Mayor stands: Hoffman, Tammany Democrat, 32,955; Roberts, Republican, 31,421; Hecker, Citizens' Association and Mozart Democrat, 10,400; Gunther, McKeon Democrat, 6,606.

Legislature South Carolina.

Saturday, December 9, 1865.

SENATE.

The Senate met at 10 1/2 a. m.—the Lieutenant-Governor, as President of the Senate, in the Chair.

Mr. J. H. Williams presented the return of the Commissioners of Free Schools for Newberry District, for 1865.

Messrs. Williams, Hemphill, Johnson, Thompson and Lawton submitted reports of committees.

The special order for 11 1/4 a. m.—a bill from the House to amend the criminal law—was discussed, amended and sent to the House.

The following bills were introduced by the following Senators, received the first reading, and were referred:

By Mr. Townes—A bill to protect the property of married women from debt, contracts and liabilities of the husband, and to secure their separate estates in the same.

Mr. J. H. Williams—A bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to lend the name and credit of the State to the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company, in the re-adjustment of their debt," and to partially release the lien of the State on the property of the said company.

A message was received from the House, appointing a committee of one from each Congressional District to nominate suitable persons for President and such of the Directors of the Bank of the State of South Carolina whose terms become vacant during this session; which was concurred in. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
The Clerk called the roll, the Speaker took the Chair, and the proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Rude.

The resolution relative to a Commission on Freedmen's Affairs was rescinded.

Messrs. Price, Hutson, Warley, Garlington, Dawkins, Jas. R. Aiken, Wagener and Lord presented reports of committees.

Mr. Easley presented sundry petitions of citizens of Pickens District, for division of Pickens District into two Judicial and Election Districts.

Mr. Weatherly presented the petition of John W. Harrington, praying to be allowed to place a gate across a public road.

Mr. William Wallace presented the petition of the Independent Fire Engine Company, of Columbia, for the use of a part of a lot belonging to the State, for the erection of an engine house.

Mr. Suber presented the returns of the Commissioners of Free Schools for Newberry District, for 1865.

Mr. Gilbert presented the return of the Commissioners of Free Schools for Sumter District, for 1864.

Mr. Wagener presented the memorial of sundry residents of Charleston, praying action in regard to their right of franchise, denied them in the late city election.

Mr. Perry introduced a bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to lend the name and credit of the State to the Greenville and Columbia Railroad Company, in the re-adjustment of their debt," and to partially release the lien of the State on the property of said company.

Mr. Easley introduced a bill to alter the Constitution, so as to divide Pickens District into two Judicial and Election Districts.

Mr. D. Wyatt Aiken introduced a bill to provide for the organization of the militia.

Mr. McKewn introduced a bill to incorporate the Agricultural and Savings Bank of South Carolina.

Mr. Siegling introduced a bill to amend the law in relation to the inspection of flour.

The special order—a bill to regulate the collection of debts in this State, a bill to amend the law known as the stay law, and a bill to extend relief to debtors, and to prevent the sacrifice of property at public sales—were discussed, amended and made the special order for Monday.

Mr. Duryea introduced a bill to renew the charter of the Mount Pleasant Ferry Company; also, a bill to incorporate the Charleston Dredging and Wharf Building Company.

Mr. Simonton presented the petition of Charles H. West, William McBurney and others, for the incorporation of the Charleston Savings Bank.

The Speaker laid before the House the report of the Attorney-General. Adjourned.

It is the wish of Maj. Gen. Howard, Commissioner of the Freedmen, to suppress the false representation of certain parties in the Northern States, who are collecting money for the benefit, as they say, of 20,000 destitute freedmen, in the District of Columbia. The General states that there is no foundation for such statements, for the records of the bureau show that while there are nearly 20,000 freedmen in the District, less than 3,000 are receiving rations from the United States Government.

EX-SECRETARY SEDDON.—The Richmond Whig, of Saturday, says that Mr. Seddon, late rebel Secretary of War, arrived in that city on Friday evening. His health has not been seriously impaired by his long imprisonment.

PARDONS.—During the month of November, the President granted about 500 pardons under the thirteenth, or §20,000 clause.

NEW ENGLAND.—New England proposes to take the whole Government in charge, if we are to judge by the composition of the Senate committees. Notice the following list of the chairmen of the important committees:

Manufactures—Sprague, of Rhode Island. Military Affairs—Wilson, of Mass. Foreign Affairs—Sumner, of Mass. Finance—Fessenden, of Maine. Post Office—Dixon, of Connecticut. Claims—Clark, of New Hampshire. District of Columbia—Dixon, of Conn.

The News from Europe—English Troubles at Home and Abroad.

Earl Russell's reconstructed Cabinet appear by the latest European advices to be having anything but an easy time of it. The Fenians at home and complications abroad are leading them a somewhat uncomfortable life. Notwithstanding the fact that Fenianism in Ireland has been repeatedly reported as completely crushed, this hydra-headed brotherhood persists in cropping up in all directions, and the latest precautions taken by the British Government in the garrisoning of Pigeon House Fort, Dublin, show that serious trouble is still anticipated.

Pigeon House Fort commands the city and bay of Dublin, and it has historical associations which will give the action of the Government great significance in the eyes of the Irish nation. In 1849, the guns were double shotted, and the garrison kept under arms all night, just as in the present instance. Then, as now, it was against the Irish people themselves that these precautions were directed. Daniel O'Connell and his repealers were the dreaded foe in 1848; President O'Mahony and his Fenians in 1865. The mere appearance of three large steamers in the offing of Dublin Bay sufficed to convince the commander of Fort Pigeon House that the long expected Fenian privateers had arrived at last. So, in hot haste, he posted off to the Lord Lieutenant and declared that unless reinforcements were sent to him, he would not be answerable for the safety of the city. Accordingly, the garrison was increased, the guns loaded, and every preparation made for an immediate engagement with the enemy. How far this new scare of the Dublin Government is justified by facts, the Fenian Congress in secret session could probably tell us. But it is at least clear that the ghost of the Alabama is haunting the British Government, and their trepidation will probably not be diminished when they receive President Johnson's Message. To add still further to their anxiety, comes the escape of Stephens, the mysterious Head Centre, from the dungeon in which the authorities fondly hoped they had securely bound him. It is scarcely possible that the prisoner could have effected his release without the connivance of his jailors, and if Fenianism has spread into the ranks of the very minions of the law, no further fact is required to show that the ramifications of the brotherhood in Ireland are both extensive and mysterious.

The action of the Spanish Government in Chili is another source of embarrassment to the Government. In the abstract, John Bull cares little who is right and who is wrong in this dispute. It is from no romantic intention of protecting the weak against the strong that the merchants of Liverpool are clamoring for English intervention against Spain. But their pockets have been touched severely by the blockade of the Chilian ports, and consequently their indignation is loud against Spanish aggression. Earl Russell has promptly replied to their entreaties by despatching one of his characteristic menacing despatches to the Spanish Government, and apparently has placed himself in such a position that either he must submit to a snub from the Spanish Government, or enter upon an inconvenient and inglorious war. Under ordinary circumstances, perhaps, Lord Russell would take the snubbing and sneak out of the discussion, as he did with Russia over the Polish insurrection and from Prussia in the Danish war. But he has the reputation of his Government to make; he aspires to wear Lord Palmerston's mantle, and must, therefore, show a bold front. He will be the better able to do this as his adversary is very small, and a powerful ally in the person of the Emperor Napoleon is ready to assist him.

[New York Herald, 5th.]

A second part of Capt. Hall's report on his search for fuller information about Sir John Franklin's Arctic Expedition has been received. The wrecked ships of Franklin appear to have been visited, the remains of a large number of their crews seen, frozen and mutilated, and the valuables left in the ships appropriated by the Esquimaux. They encourage Capt. Hall to believe that some of the men may still be living.

John Pool, of Bertie, a Union man, was elected United States Senator from North Carolina for the short term.

A man in Washington calls Beecher a "theological privateer."

Local Items.

CLOSING OF MAILS.—The Charleston mail closes daily at 4 o'clock p. m.; Charleston way mail, 3 o'clock p. m.; Northern mail, 4 o'clock p. m.; Greenville and Columbia Railroad mail, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, at 4 o'clock p. m.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.—On Saturday afternoon last, a colored lad, while carelessly handling a gun, accidentally shot and killed his younger brother. The affair occurred at the residence of Jos. Randall, but we did not learn the names of the parties.

By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that Mr. R. S. Cathcart, who was formerly in business in this city, is now connected with the large wholesale grocery house of Wm. Gurney, Esq., Charleston. His friends are invited to give him a call and inspect his goods, as he thinks he can make it advantageous to them.

MORE ROBBERIES.—Heaven-roasts have suffered terribly during the last few days, (or nights) but on Sunday, the robbers aimed at higher game, and succeeded in lifting about \$800 from the store of Messrs. Speck & Pollock. A freedman has been arrested on suspicion. A valuable over-coast was also taken from the residence of Mr. N. Heyward, on Sunday. These robberies are getting to be of such frequent occurrence that our citizens will have to keep a supply of ammunition on hand.

A SUGGESTION.—The attention of our readers is called to the subjoined communication. The matter suggested is well worthy of consideration, and appeals to the benevolence of all:

MESSRS. EDITORS: The destruction of 1,300 houses in our city, by General Sherman's army, is known throughout the State. It may be also known to all, that this great calamity has left many houseless and destitute of the actual necessities of life. It is true, that the devastations of war are felt in all parts of the State, but in some portions not to the same extent as in others. It is, however, in the city of Columbia that the foot-marks of the destroyer are seen in all their horrors and desolation. Winter is on us. There is no poor house ready for the reception of the poor.

It is not to be expected that the people of Columbia, in their present condition, can do much in support of their more needy fellow-citizens, but there are many in different portions of the State that would aid us, if an organization could be formed here and superintended by men of known character and integrity. If our people will meet and take counsel together, such an organization can be effected.

We respectfully suggest, therefore, that our citizens meet at the store of the Hon. Mayor, J. G. Gibbs, on Thursday next, the 14th inst., at 12 o'clock m., to take into consideration such a course of action as may, to some extent, alleviate the condition of the poor of our city.

A CITIZEN.

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

- Mrs. S. J. Cotehett—Bonnet Emporium.
- Mrs. S. A. Smith—Millinery Goods.
- N. Heyward—Overcoat Stolen.
- Wm. Gurney—Wholesale Grocer.
- McMaster's Hotel, Winnsboro.
- A. L. Solomon—Cheap Clothing.
- E. Pollard—Still Later from New York.
- Lumsden & McGee—Assignment.
- Edgar McMullen—Horses, Mules, &c.
- " " "—Machinery, &c.
- Richard Caldwell—Hoes, &c.
- " " "—Bacon.
- " " "—Sugar.
- " " "—Prints.
- Levin & Peixotto—Mules, Wagons, &c.
- " " "—Clothing.
- James G. Gibbs—Furniture, &c.
- Kenneth & Gibson—Sugar.
- " " "—Cotton Yarn.
- Mrs. Dougal—Millinery at Cost.
- Apply at this Office—Engine for Sale.
- " " "—Horse for Sale.
- J. L. Lumsden—Commission Agency.
- Meeting of Richland Lodge.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE RADICALS.—The leading Republicans here are getting somewhat alarmed at the recent precipitate action of the House in choking down Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, a thoroughly loyal man and a strong personal friend of the President. It is understood that Mr. Johnson has declared that he will not confer the offices at his disposal upon those who oppose his policy of reconstruction, nor will he appoint the friends of those opposing him in this policy.

The Republican leaders are, therefore, comforted with the loss of all Executive patronage, and it staggers them prodigiously, as there is scarcely a member who has not some favor to ask for his political friends. Already many of the members begin to manifest a change of front, and desire to be considered in any other attitude than that of hostility to the President.

It is to be hoped that this timely hint from the President may yet result in a coalition of the conservative Republicans and Democrats, sufficiently powerful to check the malignant spirit of the Radicals.

[Washington Cor. New York News.]