

Signs of Reaction.

The latest Northern papers we have received, (the 8th inst.,) bring us some signs of a healthy reaction in Congress. On Wednesday, 6th, both Houses adjourned until Monday last, but on that day, as we learn from the Washington correspondents of the New York Herald and other papers, there were several indications that the manly, frank and able message of the President, had a wholesome influence on the movements of the radicals in both bodies of Congress.

For instance, on Wednesday, the message having been delivered the day before, Mr. Farisworth, of Illinois, a radical of the North-western school, submitted to the House, a resolution declaring it as the sense of that body, that good faith demands that all colored soldiers who have been in the service of the Union, shall enjoy all the rights of citizenship. Of course, "all the rights of citizenship" include the right of suffrage. But it appears that the House, on the spur of the occasion, was not prepared to adopt this resolution, which, though limited to colored soldiers, involved a direct issue with President Johnson on the question whether this thing of the right of suffrage is a matter which belongs to Congress or to the several States. Upon this question, as the Constitution and the usages of the past and the present time are all on the side of the President, a break with him, it was evidently thought, was an affair entitled to a little cool consideration. And so, a debate arising on the resolution, Mr. Farisworth was judiciously persuaded to let it go over to some other day, without attempting a two-thirds test for the suspension of the rules. It appears that even the terrible Thaddeus Stevens himself had become considerably softened since Monday, and was altogether in a more amiable frame of mind on Wednesday.

In the Senate, on the same day, we have another indication of a considerable modification in the temper of the radicals. On that day, Mr. Sumner, as the Herald informs us, introduced a resolution referring to the oath of loyalty required of one class of men entering upon the duties of any public office, and remarking, that "whereas it is reported that, notwithstanding the acts of Congress, certain persons have been allowed to enter upon the duties of office, (Treasury Department,) and to receive the salary and emoluments thereof, without taking the prescribed oath, and certain persons have been appointed to offices not authorized by any previously existing law, therefore, resolved, that the Secretary of the Treasury be requested, so far as the records of his department allow," &c., to furnish the needful information on the subject. This resolution, over the shoulders of the Secretary of the Treasury, was evidently aimed at the President, and at his proceedings in reference to certain provisional officials of his in the Southern States. Under the rule, it lies over a day, and, when called up again, we may, perhaps, have an interesting debate upon it.

But the little passage at arms which followed between Mr. Sumner and Mr. Doolittle touched the kernel of the main question. Mr. Doolittle moved to refer that portion of the message which treats of the existing relations of the late rebel States to the Judiciary Committee. Mr. Sumner remarked that there was now on the Secretary's table a resolution (that of Mr. Stevens from the House) providing for the appointment of a joint committee, to whom this subject should be referred. It would be better, he thought, to await the passage of this resolution, and then let the subject (President's message in relation to the South) go to that special committee. Mr. Doolittle thought that the joint resolution itself ought to go to the Judiciary Committee, and just here the House proposition for an adjournment over to Monday came in and cut off any further proceedings. Here we see against Sumner, a leading Republican Senator from the West, boldly taking his position on the side of the President. The result will probably be such a modification of the Stevens resolution as to leave each house, as the Constitution ordains, the judge of the qualifications of its members, instead of trying up and handing over both houses and the President to the care of a joint committee.

We have reason to believe that these indications are corroborated by advices from Washington, and that as soon as the late seceding States have accepted the provisions and conditions embraced in the plan of the President for restoring them to their position in the Union, he will submit their rights to a restoration to Congress; if rejected, the issue between him and the radicals will there be squarely made up

and presented to the country, in the elections that may come on during the year. The President holds the impregnable ground, that the excluded Southern States are not out of the Union, and never have been; that they only need a re-organization under the Constitution and existing laws of the Union, to be entitled to all the rights in the General Government which belong to the other loyal States. He has only to adhere to this ground to secure the establishment of his policy in this Congress or the next. We believe with the Herald, however, from the cooling down of the radicals on the day after the reception of the message, that a wholesome reaction has already commenced, which will make the President's policy the programme of the present Congress. When such old radical campaigners as Thaddeus Stevens begin to tack ship, it is because they see breakers ahead.

Gratifying Intelligence.

Provisional Governor Perry has furnished us with the following highly gratifying despatch, received yesterday from President Johnson:

WASHINGTON, December 11.—I thank you for your despatch. It is gratifying to know that the message was favorably received. In a few days, you will receive full instructions as to being relieved as Provisional Governor. I hope that all will move off right, in a few days, with Congress.

ANDREW JOHNSON, President United States.

Losses to be Paid.

The Milledgeville (Ga.) Union states that it has good authority for saying that all men over the age of sixty-five, who took no part in the war, and all widows, at the time General Sherman's army injured their property, will be reimbursed by the United States Government for damages. The assessor is already at work in the County of Hancock, ascertaining damages so far as respects the two classes of our people above named.

Should this policy of restitution be generally adopted, and the losses of non-combatants by the march of General Sherman's army made good, it will prove one of the most interesting items of intelligence we have received for ten months past. We trust that the Government will extend this act of justice all over the territory, which has been laid waste by its armies, and thus still closer bind the Southern people to its unqualified support.

Legislature South Carolina.

Tuesday, December 12, 1865.

SENATE.

The Senate met at half-past 10 a. m. Reports of committees were submitted by Messrs. Dozier, Bratton, Hemphill, Thomson, Arthur and Buist. Special order for 11 o'clock a. m.—a bill to establish District Courts, and the report of the Committee on the Judiciary—was debated and amended.

Mr. Buist introduced a bill to alter and amend the law in relation to the opening, widening or extending streets in the city of Charleston.

The House of Representatives sent to the Senate a message of concurrence relative to the correspondence of Col. L. D. Childs with reference to the purchase of the canal near this city, around the falls of the Broad and Congaree Rivers, referring the matter to a special committee.

The House also sent a message agreeing to the message of the Senate, relative to a vote for three Law Judges, and immediately thereafter for two Chancellors, to fill the vacancies now existing.

Adjourned. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. At the hour to which the House was adjourned, the Clerk called the roll, the Speaker took the Chair, and the House proceeded to business.

A bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to alter the law in relation to last wills and testaments, and for other purposes," ratified the 21st day of December, A. D. 1858, was read the third time, and the title changed to an Act.

Messrs. Gaillard, Wagener, Green, Dawkins, Hanckel and Simonton, presented reports of committees.

The Speaker laid before the House, the memorial of the colored people of South Carolina, which was referred.

Mr. Price introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, and was ordered to be sent to the Senate for concurrence, that the Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives be required to advertise for proposals to print the current and permanent work for the next General Assembly, and that the same be advertised for two weeks immediately preceding the next regular session, in one paper each in Columbia and Charleston. Said bids shall be laid before the General Assembly on the first day of the next regular session.

Mr. Woodruff presented the petition of Isham Wood and others, for the appointment of a Magistrate.

Several bills were read the second time. Adjourned.

A new literary magazine, under the title of the Crescent Monthly, has been issued in New Orleans, by Mr. Wm. Evelyn, favorably known to the Southern public as "Bohemian," of the Richmond press.

At Kingston, Ga., "Bill Arrp" received 79 votes, while C. H. Smith received only one. Would it not be a capital joke if Bill should beat Smith. Of course our readers know that S. and A. are the same.

To the Citizens of York, Chester, Fairfield, Richland, Sumter and Kershaw Districts.

In taking leave of political life, I trust it may not be considered inappropriate for me to address a few parting words to you, having for so many years associated with you in the intimate relation of representative. In 1851 I took an active part in opposition to secession. When I first took my seat in Washington, we had a friend in the presidency, a majority in the House of Representatives, and in the Senate there were only four members of the free-soil party. The first great error we committed was in repealing the Missouri compromise. I shared in that error and may the more freely refer to it. This unfortunate step opened anew the slavery agitation. I became satisfied before the Kansas controversy had come to an end, that we of the South had made a mistake in going into the struggle for Kansas. I saw that Kansas was obliged to be a free State. When, therefore, Kansas applied, or appeared to apply, for admission under the Lecompton Constitution, I sought an interview with Senator Hunter, of Virginia, for whose judgment I had the highest respect, and proposed to him, that we should reject Kansas, and thus take the wind out of the sails of the Republican party. I took ground against the annexation of Cuba, mainly because I did not wish to add any more fuel to the anti-slavery agitation. I agitated the subject of free trade, in order to organize parties upon a less dangerous issue than slavery, and to cement an alliance between the South and great North-west. I took ground against the proposition to revive the African slave trade, because I thought it impossible, inexpedient and calculated only to act as a firebrand. In 1855, being deeply impressed with the danger of the Federal Government passing into the hands of the Republican party, and anxious to avert this calamity, I wrote a letter and published a speech delivered near Rock Hill, in York District, to a portion of my constituents. In those publications I undertook to inaugurate a new line of policy for our State. I said our great object then, was to do every thing possible to prevent the election of a Republican President, that to accomplish this, our policy was, "moderation, moderation, moderation." I said "our policy consists in the greatest possible degree of moderation in the political movements of the South. I then advanced a doctrine on the subject of slavery in the Territories, which no public man in this State had before ventured to put forth. On this point I said, "As regards the Territorial question, I think it at this time a speculative question, because the Territories of the United States open to settlement are impossible to slavery." It is necessary for me to say that I deeply deplore the disruption of the Democratic party at Charleston and Baltimore. I thought that the South, in pushing the Territorial question as far as they did, in these conventions, committed the greatest possible blunder. If they succeeded on the Territorial question, they gained nothing, because there were no Territories possible to slavery. If they broke down the Democratic party, they ran the risk of a convulsion from which they might lose everything. In the summer of 1860, in reply to a call for my opinion, I advocated secession in case of Mr. Lincoln's election. Those who can refer to that letter will see that I stated secession would lead to one of the three results, a satisfactory adjustment, a peaceful separation, or war. I was perfectly certain it would lead to a satisfactory adjustment. I believe there was sufficient conservatism and prudence outside of the State, both North and South, to settle the question at issue. I was confident that Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana would exhaust all efforts for a peaceful settlement, before breaking up the Union. Some persons have asked me, why, opposing secession so warmly in 1852. I yet favored it in 1860. My answer is, that I thought the time had come to get definite settlement of the slavery question, and I thought such settlement certainly attainable in 1860. Besides, a public man is obliged, in order to preserve any influence, to consult the temper of the people. It was impossible in 1860 to oppose secession in this State and preserve any hold on public opinion. My purpose was to use secession, like nullification had been used in 1832, to obtain a good settlement. In December, 1860, I went on to Washington. While there I took every step I thought available for me, in my situation, to facilitate a settlement. I communicated my ideas in this regard to such leading men there as were disposed to act on that line. Among others to President Johnson, then Senator from Tennessee. I had a confidential intercourse with Senator Douglas, to accomplish a settlement. He was sanguine of such a result if the South were prudent, gave time and avoided war. The result of my consultation with him was, that at his instance I called on Senator Davis, of Mississippi, to invite him into a confidential conference with Senator Douglas. Mr. Douglas said he was satisfied if Mr. Davis could agree upon a programme of settlement, every thing could be harmoniously arranged. I wrote from Washington to Mr. William S. Lyles, a member of our State Convention from Fairfield, urging upon him in the strongest terms, the avoidance of every step tending to a collision with the United States authorities. I wrote in the same strain to a high official in our State, and to Mr. Keitt.

When our committee, well, Orr and Adamson, I called upon the line of policy. I wrote to Mr. Benjamin, in New York, Mr. Pell, at the same time, and stated my ideas of a compromise. I proposed in this letter to Mr. Pell, an extract from which was published at the time, in the New York Evening Post, that the South should give up slavery in the Territories, and the North should, by an amendment to the Constitution, leave slavery in the States to the action of each State. In this letter I also asked for the South a balance of power principle, to be inserted in the Constitution to protect the Southern section. I would not, however, have made this an ultimatum. It was with most profound sadness that I heard of the attack on Fort Sumter. I thought it was a great mistake, and opened a future of indefinite horrors to my view. I did not think the authorities at Washington or Richmond either, had sufficiently exerted themselves to avoid a collision. Mr. Seward was evidently impressed with the great policy of conciliation, which was obliged to be successful, but he was overborne by the pressure in his own party. After the first battle of Manassas, I threw out the suggestion in secret session of Congress, that we should send the prisoners back. At the same time, I urged that propositions for peace should be made. After Gen. McClellan was driven from Richmond, I wrote to Mr. Benjamin, then Secretary of State, and urged upon him the policy of opening negotiations when Congress assembled. I made this policy the subject of a resolution and an urgent address in secret session. As soon as I saw how earnest the Northern States were in prosecuting the war, I saw it was impossible for the South even to have a permanent peace, while the Mississippi flowed in its present channel. I was satisfied the only satisfactory solution was peace through the agency of the conservative portion of the North in possession of the Government. I moved a resolution on the subject of peace again in secret session, in the winter of 1864. I need not refer to my letter in September, 1864, to President Davis, with which you are familiar, for it created great opposition to me, an opposition which does not die out even now. When Mr. Blair came to Richmond on his peace embassy, I did everything I could to make his efforts successful. I should also add, that during the war I always urged the most humane treatment possible to the prisoners, as tending to benefit the condition of our own soldiers in the hands of the United States, and leaving the door to conciliation as open as possible. A few words as to our present policy, and I will have finished. Your rehabilitation is objected to by a party at the North, on the ground that you are not loyal to the Union. To avoid the objection, you should do everything in your power to manifest the sincerity of your devotion to the Union. And this is not difficult in your position, for nothing else is possible but the Union. The only possible way to preserve free institutions is by clinging to the Union. A wise people never seek the impossible, they make the best they can out of the attainable. Another objection is, you will not do justice to the emancipated blacks. You must get over this obstacle as well as you can, by doing everything that is possible, consistent with your own safety, to give them perfect equality and justice before the law. Upon this point I would say, you cannot do better than conform to the opinion of President Johnson; for it will be impossible for you to maintain any other line of policy in this regard, than what may be laid down by the President. While I think the experiment of free labor should be fairly tried, and under every circumstance of humanity and kindness on your part to the blacks, yet I am not by any means hopeful of the result. I think the salvation of the South depends on the colonization of the blacks, and white immigration. Looking to the great future, I should say, the first thing for the South is white immigration, the second thing is white immigration, the third thing is white immigration. You should do everything in your power to invite a white population, both by your legislation, and favorable public sentiment. Receive immigrants from Europe and the United States with open arms. The danger in the future is in a collision of races, your safety, is the closest sympathy with your own race in the United States. You need the friendship of the American people, take every step to obtain it. Another objection to reconstruction is that the national debt will be in danger of repudiation from your votes. This would be a fatal policy on your part—sustain the national debt as a fundamental article of your policy. And now, fellow-citizens, permit me to take a kind farewell of you, and to return you my sincere thanks for your generous support for so many years. Had the State needed my services, I should have shared her fortunes to the end. But I now feel at liberty to seek elsewhere to restore my fortune, shattered as it has been by the war. I shall remember nothing but your kindness, and will lose no opportunity that may be in my power, to advance your interests. With great respect, &c., WILLIAM W. BOYCE.

The Stay Law.

Messrs. Editors: It is not the first time in the history of the world that a people, overwhelmed with trouble, have had occasion, on account of the extremely unwise mercy of their law-givers, to cry out, "Save us from our friends!" Thank God, we have a Senate in South Carolina. To the members of the House who have had the manliness and the wisdom to resist the fearful blow aimed at our very existence by the destruction of our credit, all honor. But I predict that not one of that ever-to-be-remembered majority will be willing, five years from date, to own his vote. ANTI-REPUDIATION.

A New York despatch says the Fenians are troubled, and have deposed their President and Treasurer for malfeasance.

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

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.

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.

A FROLIC FOR CHRISTMAS.—By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that there is a proposition for a trotting match, on Christmas Day. We thought that all the fine stock had vanished, but it appears "there are a few more left."

"WHO THREW THAT BRICK?"—A gentleman from the country, while passing through Main street, on Tuesday night, was struck in the head and badly injured by a brick-bat thrown by an unknown hand. It is getting unsafe to pass through the streets after dark.

THE "STAY LAW."—A correspondent, "Anti-Repudiation," pitches into the voters on this important question. Keep cool, gentlemen—there are two sides to every question. If persons did not have opposite opinions, there would be little use for law, and then what would become of the lawyers?

HON. W. W. BOYCE.—We publish in another column, a communication from our old and tried representative, Hon. W. W. Boyce, in which he states that he has retired from public life. The Winnsboro News says that he intends practicing law in Washington city. Mr. Boyce will carry with him the good wishes of all our citizens.

STEAMBOAT LINE BETWEEN COLUMBIA AND CHARLESTON.—Mr. A. L. Solomon, the agent of the company, announces that the light draught steamer George will shortly commence running between this city and Charleston. Lighters will be used, in passing the rather intricate channel from Granby to the railroad bridge, if necessary. We wish the company entire success, and cannot help expressing the hope that in a short time the business interests of Columbia and the up country generally will expand to such an extent as to warrant several boats being put upon the line.

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

- J. D. Gilman—Bacon Sides, &c.
Clarkson & Talley—Laborers Wanted.
J. H. Clarkson & Co.—Rice, &c.
A. R. Phillips—Furniture, &c.
Levin & Peixotto—Residence to Rent.
M. McKenna—Corn for Sale.
W. W. Durant—Cotton for Sale.
A. C. Davis—Laver Raisins, &c.
A. L. Solomon—Steamboat Line.
D. T. Harvey—Trotting Race.

A NEW BANK.—Information reached this city yesterday, that the Secretary of the Treasury had given permission for the "People's National Bank," of Charleston, to commence business. The chief thing having thus been secured, it is expected that the institution will commence business about the 1st of January. As the bank will be under the management of Col. D. L. McKay, it will undoubtedly be ably managed. The following are the officers: President—D. L. McKay. Cashier—H. G. Loper. Directors—Hon. William Aiken, Henry Cobin, John S. Riggs, E. H. Rodgers, James S. Gibbs, J. C. Farrar. [Charleston News.]

The "local" of the Nashville Dispatch gives the following as one day's record of crime in that city:

"A spirited dog fight; robbery of an actress; highway robbery; sad case of death from destitution; a whole family poisoned with arsenic; a bloody street fight; a horrible tragedy—a man kills his wife and is shot by his neighbors; another desperate and bloody street fight; negro guard killed by a dray-driver. An exciting horse race took place in the afternoon, and the day's entertainment concluded with a destructive fire." Go it, Brownlow!

The State of Mississippi, with a white population not exceeding 350,000, had sixty-three regiments in the late war, which numbered about 73,000 combatants. Of these, 15,500 died of disease; 12,000 were killed or died of wounds; 19,000 were discharged, resigned and retired; 11,000 deserted or were dropped; 250 missing; and 1,500 transferred to other commands. Total loss from all causes, 59,350; balance accounted for, 18,750. Thus it appears that more than one person in five was in service.

The following gentlemen have been elected to Congress from Georgia: First District, Solomon Cohen; Second District, Gen. Phillip Cook; Third District, Hugh Buchanan; Fourth District, E. G. Cabaniss; Fifth District, J. D. Matthews; Sixth District, J. H. Christy; Seventh District, W. T. Wofford.