

More Signs.

We published on Thursday some indications from Congress, that the radicals, on sober second thought, were cooling off from their intemperate action on the first two days of the session. We have further favorable indications in our Northern exchanges received Thursday. Mr. Forney, writing from Washington, to his paper, the Philadelphia Press, says "there is a conscious and visible improvement in the political prospect this fine winter morning," December 6. "Many things will conspire to increase and extend this feeling. First comes the happy accord between the President and Congress, if not as to all the remedies, at least in the absolute duty and necessity of a permanent adjustment of national equalities. But equal even to this essential element of future peace and harmony is the good temper among the heretofore complaining Southerners. The determination of Congress and the thoroughness of the President have evidently convinced them that their only true course is to agree to all the enumerated conditions."

Again we find the following in the opening paragraph of a long editorial article in the New York Tribune, reviewing the President's Message:

"No document discussing so many diverse questions of grave moment and seriously affecting so many vital interests as the first annual message of President Johnson, could reasonably be expected to accord in every respect with the convictions or prepossessions of a majority of its readers; yet we doubt whether any former message has, on the whole, contained so much that will be generally and justly approved, with so little that will or should provoke dissent. It is a State paper of signal ability and of unusual frankness, dealing unreservedly with every great question of internal or international policy, and calculated to increase the hold of its author on the regard and confidence of the American people."

This from such a radical as Greeley, is certainly remarkable. Throughout his comments, he is highly commendatory of the President's views, dissenting only to his views on the negro suffrage question, and even on that point, he is not disposed to "chop logic." There are other significant items in the Washington items, published elsewhere in yesterday's paper. Above all, the despatch from the President to Governor Perry, which we published on Wednesday, gives us great encouragement to hope that Stevens, Sumner and their gangs of ultra radical followers will quail and give way before the statesman-like views of the President and the conservatives in Congress. So mote it be!

The New York Herald's Washington correspondent states that the adjournment of Congress until Monday has given the members an opportunity of visiting the departments, which few appear to have omitted. The Comptroller of Currency has been literally besieged. A majority of those who honor him with a call are interested in the establishment of National Banks, or the naming of some as depositors. Judging from the temper and inclination of those who have called at the Comptroller's Office, Congress will unquestionably authorize the issue of at least \$100,000,000 additional national currency. The Comptroller is not understood to oppose this measure under suitable restrictions, or provided a smaller amount of legal tenders were required, and all National Banks in existence compelled to redeem their issues at the great commercial centres.

The New York Times' Washington letter says that all further speculation as to the purpose of the Administration with regard to the trial of Jefferson Davis, is set at rest by a paragraph in the President's Message, which we know refers to the case. The President says: "It is manifest that treason most flagrant in character has been committed. Persons who are charged with its commission should have fair and impartial trials in the highest civil tribunals in the country." The idle rumors of some, and the persistent and positive statements of other Washington correspondents, that Davis is to be tried by a military court, never had any foundation in fact nor official authority whatever.

A Washington despatch says: "It is rumored in well informed circles that the President will withdraw the Provisional Governors of the several States as soon as the Constitutional Amendment is adopted, the freedmen given the right to testify, and the rebel debt and the acts of secession declared null and void. The military force will then be withdrawn, and the Freedmen's Bureau also withdrawn as soon as the proper spirit is shown to give the freedmen a fair trial. That he then considers the work of reconstruction complete, and that he cannot but recognize them as States upon an equal footing with the Northern States; that war will be declared at an end. Large numbers of those now excluded in the amnesty proclamation will be pardoned by another proclamation."

MESSRS. EDITORS: Now that politics are below par, perhaps the system of "mechanics as a science" will have a showing. Politicians never yet gave real strength to any country—the mechanic always has and ever will do so. Nothing more than the genius of mechanics, as developed at the North, contributed to the overthrow of the Southern Confederacy, (except, indeed, the corruption of some of our own officials;) but a new era has commenced in the South—cotton is no longer king, although a most useful servant, and the whole resources of our wonderfully rich country can now be developed, which must be done principally by the mechanic. Let us of the South take hold of the matter with energy. Energy is, in fact, almost our only capital; but that we possess, or can, if we will, and let all recollect that energy is superior to gold—and can make it. This is not the foolish chimera followed so long by the alchemists of old, and in vain; but is a reality, which never fails its determined follower.

We have even now in Columbia men whose profession is the study and development of "scientific mechanics," and we have operatives of ability second to those of no other Southern city. Let them organize and form a "Mechanic's Institute," where each man will impart instruction to his fellow upon some subject on which he may be peculiarly qualified, where the standing of the mechanic as a citizen will be shown in its true light, proving to the younger members that their first duty is obedience to order, and that, being useful human beings, they therefore hold a more honorable position in society than those drones of the community who exist only for themselves, but yet pretend to call themselves members of the body politic.

Heretofore, in our section, everything has been subservient to agriculture; or rather, I should say, to the very imperfect cultivation of cotton. To be a planter, no matter how small a scale, was to be a gentleman, and a mechanic was not looked upon as such. Without disparagement to the cotton planter, a mechanic can also be a gentleman, and he can also be even a more useful member of society than the planter. Let the young men of the South think of this, and let them recollect that only by the proper encouragement of the different branches of the mechanical arts, can our country be raised to that prosperous and eminent position to which it is entitled. In this good work, let Columbians take the lead.

Barbarously sacked, devastated and impoverished as our home is now, our city was always worthy, and is still capable of, doing so—the material is here for the foundation, and let us welcome, no matter from whence he comes, every true man who will aid in the superstructure. Now is the time to commence. Let us have a "Mechanic's Institute," organized on the principle of the European guilds, in which the elder and more experienced members will fill the prominent positions, giving instruction to the younger and less experienced, each in his own department; not preventing the novice, however, from presenting his views, if he is found competent to discuss the importance of the subject, and where the interest of scientific industry will be properly and fairly cared for.

Do not suppose, Messrs. Editors, that I wish to disparage, in the least degree, agricultural or commercial pursuits, far from it; they are necessary to the prosperity of every country. I merely wish to show, that, for the good of the country, the science of mechanics is just as necessary, or more essential, perhaps, than the mere products of the soil, which are in most instances virtually consumed, or exported to foreign parts.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. LEE'S FAMILY IN LEXINGTON.—Gen. Lee's family arrived in Lexington, on Saturday morning last, by packet, and took possession of the presidential residence on College Hill. They have been detained hitherto in Cumberland County, awaiting repairs of their future residence.

It will be gratifying to the numerous friends of the General and his family to know that many of their wants had been anticipated and provided for. For some days before their arrival, several of the ladies of the town had been diligently engaged in having the house thoroughly cleaned up, carpets put down, furniture adjusted, &c.

Mrs. Lee's private apartments were completely and handsomely furnished, through the considerate and liberal kindness of a wealthy lady of Cumberland County; and to her praise be it spoken, she had all the furniture manufactured in Lexington—thus setting an example worthy of imitation.—Richmond Enquirer.

There is a spring in the centre of Huntsville, Ala., from which flows a stream of water large enough to float a thirty-ton bateau. It is believed to be the largest spring in the world, and is an object of great interest to the people of the neighborhood and visitors. Another spring in Florence, in that State, throws out a body of water estimated at 17,000 cubic feet per minute.

Legislature South Carolina.

Thursday, December 14, 1865.

SENATE.

The Senate met at half-past 10 a. m. Messrs. Davant, Buist, Dozier, McDuffie and Hemphill submitted reports of committee.

Mr. Tracy presented the petition of Nicholas W. Beech, for a charter for Sullivan's Ferry, over Edisto River, in Colleton District.

Mr. Buist presented the petition of Benj. Mordocai and others, for the incorporation of the South Carolina and European Emigrant Steamship Company; also, introduced a bill to incorporate the same.

The Senate, at 2 p. m., proceeded to the hall of the House of Representatives, and joined the House in voting for three Law Judges and two Chancellors.

The President announced that Hon. T. N. Dawkins, Hon. A. P. Aldrich and Hon. F. J. Moses, having received the highest vote, and each having more than the Constitutional majority, were duly elected Law Judges; also, that Hon. W. D. Johnson and Hon. H. D. Lesene were duly elected Chancellors.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The Clerk called the roll, the Speaker took the Chair, and the House proceeded to business.

The Speaker laid before the House the account of P. B. Glass, for stationery for the regular session.

Mr. Fair, from the Committee on Enrolled Acts, made reports on the following Acts:

An Act to incorporate Schiller Lodge No. 39, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of the State of South Carolina, located in the city of Charleston; an Act to provide for the drawing of juries in certain cases; an Act 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, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight; an Act to amend and renew the charter of the Calhoun Insurance Company, of Charleston; an Act preliminary to the legislation induced by the emancipation of slaves; and an Act to amend the criminal law.

Messrs. Stokes, Crayton, Duncan, Williams and Dawkins submitted reports of committees.

The bill to raise supplies was discussed and amended.

Adjourned.

The President's Interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine.

There is no question that the words of the President on foreign aggressions upon this continent in the interests of monarchy, have great significance.

There is no threat in them to wound the most sensitive French honor, but there is a very plain statement of the feeling and conviction of the nation. We have consistently and carefully refrained from propagating republicanism in Europe by any other than moral means, and we expect a like moderation from European powers in regard to propagating monarchy in America. But, says the President, with the tone becoming a discussion on so important a question, "We should regard it as a great calamity to ourselves, to the cause of good government, and to the peace of the world, should any European power challenge the American people, as it were, to the defence of republicanism against foreign interference. We cannot foresee, and are unwilling to consider, what opportunities might present themselves, what combinations might offer, to protect ourselves against designs inimical to our form of government. The United States desire to act in the future as they have ever acted heretofore; they never will be driven from that course but by the aggression of European powers; and we rely on the wisdom and justice of those powers to respect the system of non-interference which has so long been sanctioned by time, and which, by its good result, has approved itself to both continents."

This language precisely reflects the feeling of the nation on this question. They would regard a war with France as a great calamity, both to this country and to the world; they are disposed to proceed with the utmost moderation; still they could never do otherwise than consider the French establishment by force of a monarchy in Mexico as "a challenge to the defence of republicanism against foreign interference." A martial nation like the French will understand our feelings by imagining what the sentiments of the first French Republic would have been if Germany had forced a monarchy on Switzerland; or still nearer, what the feelings of the present Government would be if the Republicans of Europe, in combination with the United States, had founded a Republic on the Rhine, existing only by American aid.

A foreign monarchy forced on a sister republic, is a standing "challenge" to the United States. As a mere matter of interest, there would be no great motive to object to Maximilian's kingdom. We should undoubtedly carry on as much trade with a French republican Mexico as with a native republican Mexico. No monarchy could ever weaken our republican influence on this continent. We have nothing to fear from a French Mexico. 100,000 French bayonets in that kingdom would be as nothing to the force we could bring into the field. Moreover, the barren plains between Texas and the fertile parts of Mexico would be a sufficient protection against a foreign power in that country, while on the sea no European power would have anything like the force and advantages we should necessarily possess.

A French monarchy in Mexico is no real source of danger to us. Neither does the United States desire the possession or absorption of Mexico. It would be a great misfortune to this country to incorporate her in the Union, even if her people were willing. Those half-breeds and miserable mixtures of Indians and negroes and whites would never be suited to our institutions or civilization. There is no hope or wish among our people to annex Mexico. Still, notwithstanding all this, the

setting up of a monarchy on the ruins of a republic, on this continent, and the mode chosen for this act of aggression, cannot but be always felt as an insult by the masses of our people. They see and watch the grand struggle in Europe between democracy and imperialism or aristocracy.

They know that the Emperor Napoleon is, by choice, both in literature and the more earnest world of fact, the great defender of imperialism in Europe. They must consider this invasion of the American continent as a coming out of his way to throw down the gamut to republicanism in America. They consider it a plain declaration of war—not of nations, but of principles—made on this side of the ocean, by the great representative of arbitrary power from the other. Moreover, they know not where this is to end. An interference in Mexico to found a monarchy may justify an interference somewhere else, to found a dependency of a European State on the ruins of some republic. Our own Southern States might not be out of all danger of a foreign "establishment of order." This popular sentiment is expressed by the President, but evidently with the hope, shared by all the people, that the French Emperor, seeing the hopelessness of forcing a throne on the Mexicans, withdraw his forces and leave Maximilian to his fate.

Still, the earnest words succeeding show that the President does not propose to wait as long or as patiently as Italy has done for the withdrawal of the French troops from Rome. No indefinite Algerian occupation will be permitted here. The President evidently hints at "combinations" and "opportunities" which we should employ in our defence, that would be most perilous to imperialism in Europe. He will not allow himself to "foresee" or "consider" them, but we know well that the United States always has an ally in Europe, and that democracy, though crushed there, is by no means dead. There are invasions in the interest of liberty, as well as of imperialism, and thrones may be overturned as well as erected.

The President does not permit himself to "consider" this. But the people can. Perhaps the President does not allow himself to "foresee" what a rival to the French throne might do on the French coast, with an American navy to back him. We, however, of the people, may be permitted to consider all these possible combinations in the last dreaded issue.

Let us hope that the serious and respectful words of the President may be carefully weighed by so intelligent a ruler as the French Emperor, and a struggle avoided, which, as Mr. Johnson says, would be "a calamity to this country and the world."

[New York Times.]

Here is what the Albany Argus thinks of Gen. Butler: "In his late speech before the Massachusetts State Convention, Gen. Butler took ground that 'the South has forfeited its political rights.' When he was in New Orleans, he took the ground that the people of the South had forfeited their silver spoons—and it was afterwards found to be true. There is ground for hope, says the New Haven Register, that the rights (not being 'convertible') are more likely to be returned than the silverware."

The distinguished personages who have received invitations for the series of dramatic fetes to be given by Napoleon and Eugenie at Compiegne, are busily engaged in rehearsing the Marquis de Massa's new piece, entitled *Les Commentaires de Cesar*, which they are to perform. Among the actresses will be the spirituelle Princess de Metternich, the beautiful and attractive Countess Pourtales, the coquettish Marchioness de Gallifet and the Baroness de Pailly.

"HEREDITARY IN THE FAMILY."—The Springfield (Mass.) Union states that Mrs. Luinda Hall, the mother of Mr. King Wittermore, of that city, died suddenly while at the breakfast table, on the 29th ultimo. She was the last of a family of eight children, seven of whom died suddenly in their chairs.

The new one cent pieces are legal tender for any debt to the amount of ten cents, the two cent pieces to the amount of twenty cents, and the three cent pieces to the amount of sixty cents—so that a debt of ninety cents may be legally liquidated in copper cents.

Two sections of the bridge over James river, a short distance below Lynchburg, now in course of construction, fell in on Monday, killing S. C. Garrison, of Petersburg, and a Mr. Berry, of Farmville. Sixteen of the workmen were also crippled.

The Richmond Republican says that in the course of two or three weeks, all the strap iron on the Richmond and Danville railroad will have been replaced by heavy rail, and the cars will then run through from Richmond to Danville in seven hours.

A correspondent of the Boston Advertiser was lately driven out of Albany, Ga., and the excitement was so great that a squad of thirty Federal soldiers were powerless to resist it.

Twenty thousand eight hundred emigrants were landed in New York during the month of November, this year, of whom thirteen thousand one hundred and seventy-nine were Germans.

Maj. Gen. S. B. Buckner, of Kentucky, is now associate editor of the New Orleans Crescent, and Maj. Gen. Frank Gardner is a local reporter under him.

Ohio is the only State that came out of the war with a reduction of its State debt. Its debt is now \$13,500,751; in 1860, it was \$14,250,233.

Advices from Nassau, N. P., announce the presence of Lieut. Gen. Jubal A. Early in that place, where he is residing for the present, and is engaged in writing a history of his campaigns.

Local Items.

CHARLESTON PAPERS.—We are indebted to Mr. F. Eugene Durbee for copies of the Charleston papers, of yesterday.

LIGHT.—We call attention to the advertisement of Mr. P. Cartwell, in relation to kerosene lamps, oil, chimneys, &c. We know from experience that he sells as low, in this line, as any other house.

DEBOW'S REVIEW.—We have received, in advance, the January number of this ably conducted periodical. On yesterday, we gave an able article selected from it, from the pen of J. L. Reynolds, D. D., of the South Carolina College. We will compile from the "Review" in a few days some interesting statistics of "cotton."

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.

SOMETHING NICE.—Yesterday afternoon, we were the gratified recipients of a waiter of delicious New York oysters—large and plump—from Mr. J. M. Pollock's restaurant, the "Bear House." Mr. P. requests us to say, that he has several barrels of these oysters, and will dispose of them at low rates to families; and will also prepare them in every style according to the taste of his patrons.

NORTHERN MAIL.—The Charlotte hack did not arrive here, yesterday, until after mid-day, in consequence of an accident—the hack overturning four miles this side of Winnsboro. Fortunately, no passengers were killed or severely injured. We receive our Northern mail by this route, and, consequently, have had little opportunity for selecting from it for this morning's paper.

BEWARE.—We call the attention of the city authorities to the fact that, on many of the side-walks, there are openings (formerly called doors) which, on a dark night, are exceedingly dangerous to pedestrians on their way home. The Mayor, if he has time, should look after these things, or direct the Chairman of the Committee on Streets to do so. Complaints have been made to us, and we therefore call attention to the matter.

"CROW OUT, SHANGHAI."—Messrs. Fisher & Lowrance have presented us a bottle of that well-known compound, "Brandy cocktail," which, after a liberal sample, we are prepared to testify is as pleasant to the taste, as the fancy label, with a portrait of the "gentleman in spurs," is agreeable to the sight. As these gentlemen are on the carpet, we take occasion to say, that they keep a full and varied stock of goods, embracing nearly everything necessary for the inner or outer man. The friends of the old firm, as well as all persons who wish to obtain good articles, should give them a call.

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

- J. Sulzbacher & Co.—New Goods.
- E. & G. D. Hope—Blankets, Bacon, &c.
- W. A. Harris—Barhamville for Sale.
- J. W. Smith—Stoves.
- Mrs. R. E. W. Allston—School Meeting Trustees S. C. College.
- Abels, Myers & Co.—New Goods.
- Durbee & Walter—Variety Sale.
- A. C. Davis—Bacon, &c.
- P. Cartwell—Kerosene Oil, &c.
- Hannah & Warley—Late Arrivals.
- Chas. L. Guillaume—Com. Merchant.

The Galveston *Civilian* says, any responsible office will insure Mr. Davis' life for a very small premium.

Governor Jenkins was to be inaugurated yesterday at noon. Other business of the Legislature unimportant.

Gen. Bragg's plantation property in Louisiana has been condemned, and will be sold for the benefit of the United States.

The Cubans charged \$18,000 wharfage on the Stohewall during her stay there.

There are said to be 307,000 Indians in the United States.

The Parish of St. Johns, Louisiana, will yield 1,200 hogheads of sugar this year.

SHIP NEWS.

PORT OF CHARLESTON, DEC. 14.

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.
Steamship Andalusia, Bursley, New York.
WENT TO SEA YESTERDAY.
Steamship Alhambra, Benson, New York.
Steamship City Point, Coxeter, Pilatka, via Savannah, Jacksonville and Fernandina.
Steamship Monck, Marshman, New York.

BELOW.
Br. bark Robert Hay, brig Henry Means, IN THE OFFICE.
British bark Robert Fox.