

**The So-called Reconstruction Bill.**

One of the most noteworthy incidents connected with the passage of the military government bill was the vote and the explanation of Hon. Reverdy Johnson, of Maryland, who voted for the measure, although he argued most vigorously against its tyrannical usurpations, because he saw in it the only hope for the admission of the Southern States.

Mr. Johnson is an able and experienced statesman and lawyer, and, we believe, an honest politician. He is said to be in the confidence of the President, and therefore much importance has been attached to his vote, and the remarks he made, on the occasion of passing the Sherman bill; but we believe that his anxiety to see the Southern States restored blinded him to the fact, that sundry provisions of the bill, which clearly and plainly indicate that reconstruction, or restoration of the Southern States, was the very thing the joint originators and engineers of the measure intended to defeat, at least until after the next Presidential election, if not for an indefinite period.

We were at first disposed to come to the same conclusion—that the most odious features of the original bill having been modified, this, perhaps, should be accepted as the best terms the suffering and excluded States could obtain from the radical majority. The appointment of the Southern military governors having been given to the President, instead of to the General of the army; his final approval of the sentence of the military tribunals authorized by the bill, and the recognition of the writ of *habeas corpus*, all tended to persuade us that its provisions would probably be the most favorable that would be conceded to the South by this or the next Congress, which, the radicals have ordained by law, will meet on Monday next, the 4th prox.

We are not sure, as at present advised, that the President will not approve the bill under protest, or that he will veto it, and suggest another plan; but in either case, judging from the temper of both houses of Congress, as evinced by their action in regard to this measure, we need not hope for any enactment, looking to reconstruction, less onerous and degrading to the South than it provides for.

But as a measure of reconstruction, it is a misnomer to call it so. We agree with the Baltimore *Sun*, in noticing Senator Johnson's justification of his vote, that a calm examination of the bill, and of the motives and declarations of those who passed it, that it does not mean, and none of its manipulators understood it to mean, that the Southern States are to be admitted, under its provisions, between this time and the next Presidential election. The *Sun* says that it is the fixed determination of those in power to exclude the Southern States from any participation in that election, and that the bill is a device so transparent that no intelligent man ought to be deceived in that particular. The evidence is complete, in this regard, on the face of the bill itself, as the fifth section clearly contemplates that the people in the several States, in the Constitutions they may form, shall exclude from the elective franchise those who had participated in the rebellion, which means, of course, the white population, to an indefinite extent, with exceptions not now to be estimated. This fifth section extends the right of suffrage "to the male citizens of said State, twenty-one years and upwards, of whatever race, color or previous condition, who have been resident in said State for one year previous to the day of such election, except such as may be disfranchised for participation in the rebellion," &c.

Our readers will see in this clause what is provided for us at our elections next fall for members of the Legislature. Such men as Generals Hampton and Kershaw, Colonels McMaster, Wallace and other gallant subordinate officers and privates of the Confederate army, will be excluded from the polls, while any vulgar or illiterate negro will march up and deposit his vote.

This is bad enough; but it must be observed that what we think is the worst feature of the bill, Shallabarger's amendment, declares: "That until the people of those

States shall be admitted to representation in Congress, 'any civil governments that may exist therein,' (which of course includes all these constitutions they may form under this military bill, as well as the present governments,) 'shall be deemed provisional only, and shall be in all respects subject to the paramount authority of the United States, at any time to abolish, modify, control or supersede the same; and in all elections to any office under such provisional governments, all persons shall be entitled to vote, and none others, who are entitled to vote under the provisions of the fifth section; and no person shall be eligible to any office under such provisional government who would be disqualified from holding office under the provisions of the third article of the constitutional amendment.'"

It is almost needless to comment on this. Congress reserves to itself the right at any time to abolish, control or supersede any State Governments which may be initiated. It is virtually a doom of exclusion forever, if some revolutionary earthquake does not overthrow these Satanic plottings.

**The Military Bill and the President.**

We select the following from our Northern exchanges, received yesterday. The *National Republican*, (the President's organ,) of Tuesday, says:

The bill providing for the establishment of military despotism over ten States of the American Union, "and for other purposes," touching the next Presidential election, (see Shallabarger's amendment,) reached the President after 4 o'clock p. m., yesterday. This fact will probably be a sufficient answer to the numerous inquiries, made yesterday, why he had not vetoed it. A bill of such magnitude and importance requires the most careful consideration, and there can be no doubt that it will receive such attention from the President, notwithstanding the immediate pressure of public business upon him.

The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun* says:

I understand that the message of the President vetoing the Sherman bill may be expected to be sent to Congress about Wednesday of next week. The occasion presents an opportunity for a scathing rebuke to the perpetrators of this outrage upon the Constitution, which I learn will be profitably employed. I predict that this official paper will excel, in massive argument, any that has yet emanated from the present Executive.

The correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, of Friday, says:

A protracted session of the Cabinet was held to-day, to consider the military reconstruction bill. The President would sign the bill but for the first section, which provides for dividing the ten States into five military districts. The other features of the measure are not so objectionable, although he much preferred the simple Blaine amendment. It is understood that the Cabinet take nearly the same view.

The most earnest supporters of the reconstruction bill now in the hands of the President, affirm that although he will veto the bill, he will, on Monday or Tuesday, return it to the House of Representatives, in which it originated, thus affording an opportunity for Congress to take action upon the measure.

The New York *Times*, of Saturday, says editorially:

The opinion at Washington accepts as a certainty the veto of the reconstruction bill. The President's recorded opinions are so widely at variance with its principles and provisions that any other course could hardly be expected. He could not sign it without either distinctly surrendering his views of constitutional right or convicting himself of flagrant inconsistency. A veto will, in this instance, be the legitimate result of his position, and will occasion no surprise.

But though Mr. Johnson finds himself unable to concur with the Congressional majority, it does not follow that his veto of a bill which will nevertheless become law, should aggravate the quarrel to which he is a party. It is in this connection that the forthcoming message will be looked for with anxiety. Much depends upon its tone. For it is competent to the President, while vetoing the bill, to mitigate hostility, and impart faith in his purposes, or by an ill-judged display of temper, to widen the breach that separates him from Congress.

**THE INCOME TAX.**—The income tax is fixed at five per cent, on the excess of all incomes over \$1,000. In addition to the \$1,000 exempted, are also to be exempted all national, State, County and municipal taxes paid within the year, all losses actually sustained during the year from fires, shipwreck, or trade, all bad debts, the amount actually paid for the rent of house or premises occupied as a residence, and the amount paid for usual or ordinary repairs.

The Washington *Republican* says "The day is breaking." Let it break.

**The Sherman Bill.**

The New York *Express* is strong in its denunciations of the infamous provisions of this bill, and says it should be called a bill of the party in power to keep ten States out of the Union till after the next Presidential election, unless the whites of the South consent to be governed by negroes.

Element 1. The destruction of State Governments, the State Judiciary, and State laws of all kinds.

2. The substitution in lieu thereof of five brigadier-generals, men of epaulettes, "men on horseback."

3. The abrogation of every principle of British liberty, as laid down in Blackstone, or won at Runnymede, as extorted by the barons from King John—as fought for by the Puritans even, under Cromwell—as died for by Hampden and other British patriots—as guaranteed in the revolution of our British fathers, that took a prince from Holland and put him on the British throne, and as solemnly set forth in our Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution of the United States, viz: the principles of magna charta, the right of petition, the bill of rights, &c.

4. The President of the United States (sec. 5) is clothed with absolute power over the lives of 12,000,000 of human beings, without judge or jury—for he creates the five governing brigadier-generals, and their military commissions.

These horrible provisions of law, known in British jurisprudence only in the Tudor days of Henry the Eighth, and unknown even in the reign of the Stuarts—that species of law which Cromwell imposed upon Ireland, and which British people are realizing the fruits of to this day—in eternal insurrections and universal hatred—provisions adopted from Austria, Turkey, Egypt, and unknown, now, even in France or Italy—powers more potent than even the high Hierarchy of the Papal Church, ever grant even to the Pope of Rome, are to be grasped, and to be held on to, until the South concurs to the following conditions:

1. That universal suffrage be given to male negroes, (all the while excluding women, even white women,) negroes just emerged from slavery and semi-barbarism, not so much qualified for suffrage, three-fourths of them, as are our small children.

2. That the late rebel whites be disfranchised.

Until these important conditions are complied with, it will not be possible for the people of ten States to have any voice in the Government of the Union, or in the Government of their own States, against the "men on horseback" there. And even if all this is done—there is not one man in one hundred thousand from the South who can honestly take the test oath now required by law of a member of Congress.

**MALICIOUS FALSEHOODS.**—The committee appointed by Congress to inquire into the murder of certain United States soldiers in South Carolina, report that there is no safety for Union men in the Southern States, and that military rule is the only cure for the evil. Never was a baser falsehood uttered. The President having been called on for violations against the civil rights bill, a few days since, reported only three cases. Reports were sent from all the departments, and three cases were only produced.

**IN A HORN.**—The following, which we find in the *Meridian Messenger*, touches the raw, but is good for one of the prevailing diseases of this country, which is regardless of color. Col. Horn pitches into lazy people like a unicorn:

"A great many people are greatly exercised about the negro's working. The way the negro works (or don't work) is the topic of conversation everywhere, where two or three are gathered together. The disposition of the negro to labor (or not to labor) is watched with intense interest, by those who seem to take no special interest in anything else. We are sick and disgusted with this everlasting talk about the short-comings of the colored population. In God's name, can't our people elevate their thoughts above the negro, or bestow them upon worthier objects? We claim to feel as kindly towards the negro as he deserves of us, and when we see him about to be engulfed and lost in idleness and vice, we feel, we hope, a rational concern. But, at the same time, we honestly confess to the instincts which give our own race the preference in all our thoughts. If we are concerned about the disposition of the negro to do or not to do, yet our concern sinks into indifference compared with the concern we feel for the conduct of the white. While some are fretting and fuming about the lazy negroes they see in the towns and villages, who refuse to contract and engage in regular employment, we are immeasurably more distressed at the sight of lazy white men and women. If the negro, as a free man, do all the work and earn all the wages, he will prove himself the better man of the two. We are anxious for the white man to assert his superiority in all things by his works, and therefore our anxiety for the white man to go to work."

**WASHINGTON ITEMS.**—We take the following items from the *Herald*, of Sunday, the latest dates from that point:

It is stated from Richmond that Virginia will, very probably, be the first of the Southern States to fall into line under the new Congressional plan of reconstruction. Gov. Pierpont was in council with the State Senate last evening, and advised the speedy endorsement of the plan. His views seemed to meet with general approbation among the members.

Senator Johnson, of Maryland, has received a letter from General Fitz John Porter, now in New York, highly approving his course on the reconstruction bill, and stating that he had conversed with many in New York and New Jersey who held the same views as Mr. Johnson, who also were much pleased thereat, believing that the best interests of the country were subserved by the bill. Mr. Johnson asserts that, in his belief, had not this bill passed, or if it shall finally fail, that the next Congress will parcel out the lands of the South among the negroes of that region.

The radicals in Congress having achieved their great measure of military governments over the States of the South, were, on Friday, in remarkable good humor. The House of Representatives struck out a clause in a Tennessee college bill, prohibiting Confederate officers from holding professorships in the institution, and they repealed the cotton tax.

**SOPRANOS.**—The New York *Evening Gazette* has a capital article on the various styles of sopranos who sing at our churches, and thus photographs the most offensive and best known class of all:

A very numerous class, alack, is that for which we can devise no more expressive and truthful title than that of the impudent soprano. This creature usually sings with energy, vigor, and often with good taste, and is popular with the congregation. In the choir, however, she is a besom of destruction. To be associated with her there is to be tied up in a coffee-bag with a scorpion. She knows, in her own opinion, far more than anybody else in the choir. She wants to sing all the solos, and is bitter and uncharitable to every singer who attempts one. As to other sopranos, she is pitiless. She was never known to say a kind word to any professional sister.

She refuses to sing the music selected for her by the chorister; and if he insists, she declares he is no gentleman. Then she runs with a garbled story to the minister or music committee, and assumes the air of injured innocence generally. She is generally spoken of as "a Tartar," which is an unjust aspersion upon a remote and comparatively inoffensive people of Asia. She affects great intimacy with the clergyman and his family. By her constant efforts at predominance in the choir she acquires a masculine and forward style of behavior, which she mistakes for dignified independence. She thinks the other singers are intended by Providence as accompanists to her own singing, and is vehemently opposed to singing any music not calculated to show off her own ability. She is altogether a mysterious dispensation of Providence—like mosquitoes, small pox or the income tax.

**SMUGGLING.**—The Government has received information of the seizure of a lot of hogsheds of sugar imported from Cuba, landed at Bull's Bay, South Carolina, without payment of duties, and then carried into the country. On seizing and opening them, each hogshed had a barrel in the centre of the sugar. Seven barrels were filled with West India rum, on which the duty was over \$70 a barrel, and five barrels with high-priced segars, &c.

[*Charleston Courier.*]

**THE NEW CUSTOM HOUSE.**—The Collector of the Port has succeeded in getting an appropriation of \$30,000, in addition to the \$10,000 appropriated last year, for the purpose of improving the new Custom House, and placing it in habitable condition. The Committee of Appropriations in the House have added this additional amount to their bill, which passed that body, and the Collector has received the assurance of Senators that the appropriation will be passed in the Senate.—*Charleston Courier.*

The natural phenomena of the last few weeks well deserve the consideration of atmospheric philosophers. Tremendous falls of snow in nearly all parts of the country, alternations, of excessive cold and almost summer heat, and destructive freshets in various sections from the extreme East to the Western frontier, have combined to render the winter of 1866-'67 memorable in the annals of meteorology.

**THE TAX ON CIGARS.**—The House of Representatives, in considering the amendatory interval revenue bill, has fixed the tax on cigars as follows: "On all cigars, cheroots and cigarettes, \$5 per thousand, and twenty per cent, *ad valorem* on the market value." This is an important change, being a reduction of rate reported by the committee.

A New Haven gambler, on his way to Boston, won \$5,000 in a smoking car.

**ANOTHER ATLANTIC CABLE.**—Wm. E. Everett, the chief engineer of the International Ocean Telegraph Company, sailed for Liverpool, on Saturday last. He goes to England to superintend the construction of the cable to be laid to connect the United States, Cuba and the West India Islands. It is expected that the work will be finished by June 1.

The Maryland Republicans are very generally signing a petition asking the United States Senate not to admit Gov. Swann to a seat in that body next March, asserting that he secured his election through corruption and fraud. Gov. Swann will doubtless share Stockton's fate, and be "histed" out of his.

The Mississippi steamer David White, plying between New Orleans and Louisville, was blown up near Columbia, Arkansas, on Sunday, and thirty-eight persons are known to have been killed and nineteen wounded. There are sixty-five passengers missing, whose names are unknown, as the books were lost.

There is a man out West whose memory is so short that it only reaches to his knees; consequently, he never pays for his boots.

**MARRIED.**  
At Swanboro, N. C., on Wednesday, the 26th instant, at the residence of the bride's father, Mr. DANIEL L. SENN, of this city, to Miss MARGIE S. McLEAN, of the former town.

**SHIP NEWS.**  
PORT OF CHARLESTON, FEB. 26.  
ARRIVED YESTERDAY.  
Schr. P. Boice, Adams, New York.  
Ship Southern Lights, Ross, Liverpool.

**On Consignment.**  
15 BOXES OF TOBACCO, in good order, and for sale by  
Feb 27 2 H. D. HANAHAN.

**To Rent.**  
A FARM, situated about three miles from this city, with necessary out-buildings, and well adapted for gardening purposes. Apply to  
Feb 27 2 H. D. HANAHAN.

**To Arrive.**  
EIGHT THOUSAND bushels PRIME WHITE CORN.  
1,500 bushels Oats.  
50 barrels Pink Eye Potatoes.  
At BROWNE & SCHIRMER'S,  
Feb 27 2 Volger's Old Stand.

**Just Received**  
ON CONSIGNMENT.  
25 bales HAY, for sale by  
FABLE & LEAPHART,  
Feb 27 1 Gen. Merchants, Main st.

**Richland Lodge No. 39, A. F. M.**  
AN extra communication of this Lodge will be held THIS (Wednesday) EVENING, 27th instant, at 7 o'clock, at Odd Fellows' Hall, for the purpose of conferring the First Degree.  
By order of the W. M.  
Feb 27 1 R. TOZER, Secretary.

**JUST RECEIVED,**  
6 BOXES FINE ORANGES.  
4 " " LEMONS. Low for cash at  
Feb 26 JOHN C. SEEGER & CO.'S.

**Extra Breakfast Strips!**  
PICKLED HAMS. Low for cash at  
Feb 26 J. C. SEEGER & CO.'S.

**Fresh Crackers!**  
JUST RECEIVED:  
6 bbls. fresh SODA BISCUIT.  
2 bbls. GINGER SNAPS.  
2 " OYSTER CRACKERS.  
2 " Extra Butter "  
2 " Fancy Pie-Nie "  
2 " Lemon Biscuits. All fresh from the bakery.  
Feb 26 J. C. SEEGER & CO.

**10 BOXES CHEESE.**  
LOW to dealers, at  
Feb 26 J. C. SEEGER & CO.'S.

**MULES FOR SALE.**  
25 WELL-BROKE YOUNG MULES for sale.  
Feb 26 CHAS. LOGAN.

**Third Supply of Fresh Seed.**  
DAVID LANDRETH & SON.  
SILVER SKIN ONION SETTS, Radish, Green-glaze Cabbage, Turnip Seed, Peas and Beans, Extra Early Corn, Blue Stem Collard, new Tomato Seed and other varieties, at  
Feb 26 FISHER & HEINTZ'S Drug and Seed Store.

**Printing Material For Sale.**  
AN assortment of TYPE and MATERIAL, sufficient to publish a large sized paper, is offered for sale at a very reasonable price. The TYPE is as good as new. For further particulars, apply at this office.  
Feb 23

**FRESH EGGS.**  
DOZEN for sale low.  
Feb 23 E. & G. D. HOPE.

**ONION SETTS.**  
7 BUSHELS WHITE and YELLOW ONION SETTS, for sale by  
Feb 23 E. & G. D. HOPE.

**SEED OATS.**  
400 BUSH. SPRING SEED OATS, for sale by  
Feb 23 E. & G. D. HOPE.

**Breakfast Bacon.**  
TWO THOUSAND lbs. BACON STRIPS, for sale low by  
Feb 23 E. & G. D. HOPE.

**EXTRA FAMILY FLOUR.**  
25 BLS. VIRGINIA FAMILY FLOUR, for sale for cash only.  
Feb 22 E. & G. D. HOPE.

**BACON SIDES.**  
TEN THOUSAND lbs. prime CLEAR RIBBED BACON SIDES, for sale low for cash only.  
Feb 22 E. & G. D. HOPE.

**Refined Sugars.**  
FIFTY BLS. CRUSHED, POWDERED and COFFEE SUGARS. For sale by  
Feb 22 E. & G. D. HOPE.

**Local Items.**

The Charleston mail failed last night, but we are indebted to the polite agents of the Southern Express Company for a copy of the *Courier*.

**ANOTHER CASE.**—The *Darlington Southerner* says that on last Monday, an old acquaintance (once a subscriber) called into that office and subscribed again for the *Southerner*, giving the following reason for so doing:

"I had neglected to pay my taxes at the proper time. The tax-collector had issued his execution to the sheriff, and the latter had advertised my land to be sold this very day. By the merest chance, some one saw the paper in which the land was advertised, and gave me notice, and here I have come to save my land and take your paper."

**NEW BOOKS.**—We are indebted to J. J. McCarter, Esq., for copies of the following books, just published by Harper & Brothers, New York:

**ANNALS OF A QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD.**  
By George Macdonald, M. A., author of "David Elginbrod," &c.

This interesting work is, doubtless, as it purports to be, written by the rector of a country church, in England. Interspersed with the narrative are illustrations of character which would do credit to the pen of a Dickens or a Wilkie Collins—the retired man-of-war's-man. Old Rogers; the cynical Thomas Wier and his unfortunate daughter Catherine; the heartless Mrs. Oldcastle; the "white wolf," and the inventive Mr. Stoddart, being apt illustrations. The title of the book—"A Quiet Neighborhood"—is correct only to a certain extent—that is, to all outward appearance; whereas, down in the hearts of many of the characters, were cauldrons seething and bubbling like unto those of Macbeth's witches. The story, be it understood, is by no means sensational; and the reader will lay the book aside with the fervent wish that the author will, as he intimates, continue his sketches.

**THE SANCTUARY—A STORY OF THE CIVIL WAR.** By George Ward Nichols, author of "The Story of the Great March." With illustrations.

Major Nichols has attempted, in this so-called "narrative," to impress upon the reading public the important fact that he is an ardent admirer of "the old flag," as he had gazed on it in foreign waters with an admiring eye, and fought under it—as an aid to Gen. Sherman—on the famed soil of the South. He maintains the assertions made by him in his former work, that the burning of Columbia was attributable to the cotton fired by the Confederates; whereas, if he would only consult any of the regimental officers, he would receive positive information that, when the Federal army entered the city, after its evacuation by the Confederates, there was no cotton on fire. That this work will find admirers, as did "Uncle Tom's Cabin," in certain portions of the country, owing to sectional prejudices, cannot be doubted; but we think no candid reader will give the author credit for much beauty of diction or originality of thought.

**RACHEL'S SECRET.** A Novel. By the author of "Master of Morton." Price 75 cents.

This is another English story, and belongs to the series of Harper's paper-backed "Library of Select Novels." It is very evenly written, and the reader will find that the heroine, like daughters of Eve in general, could, when it was essentially necessary, (and for her own interest,) keep a secret; but as "Rachel's" was of a very peculiar nature, the book is worth perusing, to unravel the mystery.

A remarkable discovery is reported in Italy, by which two persons may converse by telegraph, recognizing even the sounds of each other's voice. There was something like it here, some years ago, between New York and Boston, but it was given up on account of the New York operator's breath smelling too strong of bad gin.

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

H. D. Hanahan—Tobacco, Desirable Farm to Rent.  
A. R. Phillips—Auction Sale.  
Browne & Schirmer—Grain to Arrive.  
Earle & Leaphart—Hay.  
Extra Meeting Richland Lodge.  
Hostetter's Stomach Bitters.  
White & Mixer—Charleston Hotel.  
Diegen & Baker—Liberty and Sale Stable.

**THE "HELP" QUESTION.**—The question of kitchen "help" is one of great moment to the American house-wife. The best help our experience has found is a box of Colgate's Soap for laundry purposes. It saves a large proportion of the labor of washing clothing or other articles.