

J. T. HERSEMAN—Editor.

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DRESSING FOR CHURCH.

Has anybody heard the bell,
You have?—dear me, I know full well
I'll never dress in time—
For mercy's sake, come help me, Luce,
I'll make my toilet very spruce—
This silk is quite sublime?

Here, lace this gaiter for me—do;
"A hole!" you say? plague take the shoe!
Please, Lucy, try and hide it—
Just think, it's Sunday, and my soul,
I cannot wear it with a hole!
The men will surely spy it.

They're always peeping at our feet,
(Tho' to be sure, they needn't peep,
The way we hold our dresses.)
I'll disapprove them, though, to-day?
"And cross myself," pray did you say?
Don't laugh at my distresses!

Now, Lucy, pray feel my waterfall,
"Do you think it large? ain't it too small?"
"What bother these things give,
My Rats and Mice, do they set straight!"
Please hurry, Lucy, I know I'm late—
There's "Willie," as I live,

How splendidly the silk will rustle!
(Please hand my "self adjusting bustle,"
My corset and my hoop.)
There now, I'll take five skirts or six—
Do hurry, Lucy, and help me fix,
You know I can't stoop!

"How shall I say my prayers to-day?"
As if girl's went to church to pray!
How can you be so foolish?
"One drop this ribbon in cologne!"
"What for?" to pamper you silly on?
Now, Lucy, do 't me mulish!

Now this is a—
This is the—
The "frigid" one, scoop!
Think however, my cloak is handsome too,
It cost enough to buy, I know—
(S'night—this horrid hoop!)

My handkerchief and gloves you must find
Just in that drawer, Lucy, are you blind?
(Does my dress trail?)
It's the fashion now, you know;
(Pray does the pocket and powder shew
Through my loose veil?)

Thank you, my dear, I'll give I'm dress'd;
The white is best, I think, of rest
Comes only once in seven.
For it, on all the other six,
This trouble I should have to fix
I'd never get to heaven!

Mr. DeBow's Testimony Before the Congressional Committee—Condition and prospects of the South.

J. D. B. DeBow, Esq., having recently returned from an extensive Southern tour, was summoned as a witness, a few days since, before the Congressional Joint Committee of Reconstruction. He testified upon several leading points, we are informed, very much as follows:

THE SOUTH ACQUIESCES.—There seems to be a general, nay, universal acquiescence in the results of the war, though much dissatisfaction prevails in reference to the course pursued by Congress. The people have fairly and honestly tried the experiment of secession, and are satisfied with the result, and there is no disposition in any quarter, in any shape or form, to embarrass the United States Government, or to refrain from the performance of all the duties of citizenship. Those in favor of or opposed to secession are agreed that it is our best interests to accept what the government has done in reference to the negro, as well as in reference to other matters.

The Freedmen's Bureau is universally complained of as a great evil to the whites as well as the blacks, and has been the cause of much heartburning and a feeling of hostility which did not exist at the time of the surrender. The hostility is not serious and would speedily yield on the adoption of liberal measures by Congress.

MILITARY FORCE.—None whatever is required at the South, except what the States themselves would furnish. Order has been completely restored.

TREATMENT OF UNION MEN.—There is a prejudice against those who remained in the South and pretended fealty to it, but who now, for interested motives, set up that they were always loyal to the Union. Much deception of the kind is practised. Union men, who left the country for that reason, and took no part in the war, are respected when they return. The prejudice never amounts to hostility, and no one would be molested on that account. I know of no exceptions. Such persons require no protection. There might be some little unkindness of look or expression towards them, and they would not expect freedom of social intercourse. No attempt would be made by any one to interfere with their personal and political rights—none whatever.

TREATMENT OF NORTHERN MEN.—The secession men—the men who were in the war—are generally ruined, and their families destitute; and there is, for this reason, a disposition to sustain them if they undertake any business. Actual sympathy with their opinions must, of course, have its weight. On the other hand, there are many who are in flourishing business—Northern men, who came to the South during or since the war, and who conduct the most extensive and lucrative operations. The discrimination, where it exists, is merely social. At present it is well marked. I have never known it to take an offensive shape. There is coolness, reserve, but nothing more. Ladies at parties may not receive the attentions of Federal officers, yet the festivities go on in the same room, and no unpleasantness occurs. The feeling is stronger than it was. It is the result of political causes. It will wear away.

WILL THE SOUTH SUPPORT THE UNION AGAINST A FOREIGN POWER?—Many young men might be tempted to fight against the flag; but ninety-nine in the hundred of the people are sick of war and would sustain the United States, beyond a doubt; if not from affection, at least from a conviction of the overwhelming power of the Federal government. After the results of the late war, they would know any opposition to be hopeless. Besides, all foreign powers are hated and despised, because of their course towards the Confederacy and would never be trusted; and none are believed to be able to cope with the United States.

DO THE PEOPLE EXPECT PAY FOR THEIR SLAVES?—This matter is sometimes discussed, but no expectation of the kind exists. It would be difficult of discernment between slaves and other property; and the conflict between claimants would defeat any scheme. The nonslaveholders—the vast majority—would ask why pay for slaves and not pay us for our property too?

POLITICAL ELECTIONS IN FUTURE.—There are so few men on the Union side from whom the choice could be made, and the proportion of talent and worth is so overwhelming on the other side, that there is but little option. Other things being equal, they would prefer men in sympathy with them. There are many and notable exceptions and such will become more and more frequent.

FRATERNITY.—The country is so deplorable, there is so much distress, so much want and suffering among the people

of the South, that they have no time for politics. They are disposed to go to work to restore their broken fortunes. If the exciting, annoying and irritating causes were removed, it would not be six months before the feeling between the Northern and Southern men would be softened, and a restoration of harmony would be hastened. The very necessities of our condition require it. We would find Northern men bringing their capital and industry among us, and they would be welcomed. Labor and capital we must have. The negro is defective as a laborer. There was even under the old system a deficiency of labor at the South.

TREATMENT OF THE NEGRO.—He is not held responsible for what has happened. A kindly feeling exists towards him. The disposition is to provide for his necessities and secure his rights, and thus make him a cheerful and reliable laborer. It is believed to be the interest of the employer to do this. I know of some who provide teachers and preachers. No outside interference is necessary. This is no new matter with us. We have had free negroes in all time. There were some three hundred thousand at the South before the war, and half as many at the North. Our treatment of them was never complained of. No charges of that kind came even from the North. When I was at the head of the United States Census Office, in 1853, I compared the condition of these people in both sections, and published the results. The advantage in education and property was largely in favor of the Southern freedmen. Some of our freedmen owned large plantations and slaves, many were extensive property holders. If without outside pressure this was the case then, why not now? Why should we change? What policy, to say no more, would be subserved? We can do right now as well as then, and will do it.

EMANCIPATION AS COMPARED WITH SLAVERY.—If the negro works up to the former standard, the present system is cheaper. It is too soon to decide whether he will work. A Summer must come and go. They work very well so far generally, though the women are not disposed to field work. Upon the mere money question the South would be benefited. If we can get the labor it will be cheaper to hire than to own the negro. A plantation could be worked with little outlay.

EFFECT UPON THE NEGRO.—Emancipation will prove disastrous to him. I judge that from the experience of other countries, and not from any we have yet had. I judge by this thriftless character, and disposition to crowd into the cities and towns. It is what I see all over the South. In the suburbs everywhere you will see them crowded in miserable shanties, eking out a very uncertain subsistence. The mortality among them has been frightful.

CIVIL RIGHTS TO THE FREEDMEN.—There is a willingness to extend every right whatever except that of suffrage. He is not thought fit to exercise that. Were he to vote, his inclination would be on the side of his employer; but that night, and perhaps would be, counteracted by emissaries sent to the country. Northern men who have come to the South since the war very generally think as we do in these matters. They say they found our experience worth more than their theories. The negro is not thought to be susceptible of much education. People rather smile at the attempt to educate them; there is no opposition to it, however. Schools for them are multiplying. Under slavery they were taught on the plantations Bible lessons, prayers, hymns, catechism, etc. The opinion is growing among us everywhere, that it will be for our interest, at least, to afford every facility of education. That is my opinion clearly.

RIGHT OF SUCCESSION.—I never doubted the existence of this right, but am satisfied by the results of the war, and regard it utterly useless and hopeless to assert any such right again. The event of the war was a distinct pronouncement against the exercise of the right, and a final settlement of the question. Our people are better satisfied since the experiment has been made, and have nothing to regret. They have lost everything, but not, as they think, honor.

I am perfectly satisfied that the people of the South have given up all ideas of secession. Leaders and people of all classes of opinions agree upon that subject.

A jealous husband being absent from home, went to a clairvoyant in London to know what his wife was doing. "Ah," cried the clairvoyant, "I see her; she expects some one; the door opens; he comes; she caresses him fondly; he lays his head on her lap, and,"—husband mad with rage—"he wags his tail." It was the dog. The husband was calmed.

Somebody told us the other day that one-half the lawyers live without a cause and die without effect.

From Texas.

INDIAN DEPREDAATIONS—ROBBERIES, MURDERS AND OTHER OUTRAGES UPON THE PEOPLE.

The following letter from the Hon. Jas. E. Ranck, tells a fearful tale of Indian depredations upon the apparently helpless people of Texas:

REPRESENTATIVE HALL.

Austin, March 10, 1866.

In compliance with your request, I hasten to lay before you such information in regard to depredations by Indians upon our Northwestern frontier as has come within my personal knowledge during the last few months. I shall confine my remarks to what I know to have occurred within the district which I have the honor to represent. About the time of what is known as "the break up" in Texas, the Indians some twenty-five in number, came into Mason County, not more than three miles from where I live, and killed Mrs. Todd, wife of Geo. W. Todd, who was our County Clerk, carried off her daughter Alice, a young and interesting girl of fourteen years, who had just a few days before returned from the San Saba Female Seminary, and killed a negro girl who was in the party. Mr. Todd was in the party, but managed to escape unhurt.

The Indians were generally dressed in the Mexican style, but were chiefly armed with bows and arrows—only a few guns. That same party went on into Gillespie County, and there within two miles of Fredericksburg captured two young German girls, one eighteen and the other fourteen. They killed the elder one before they left the neighborhood, but not until after they treated her in a manner too revolting to describe. The girls were the daughters of a Mr. & Mrs. Engliss, of Grape Creek. On Grape Creek, in that County, they shot an old lady by the name Frial, and carried off her little son, a promising boy of ten years. On Crab Apple Creek they killed an old man whose name was Walker, burned his house and carried off two of his children—a little boy and girl. From every neighborhood they so far succeeded in collecting and driving off all the serviceable horses that there was no possibility of overtaking them. They went out without even feeling the necessity of being in a hurry. In the month of August last they returned to the Selme, in Mason County, and there killed an old gentleman by the name of Park, his wife and grand-son, burned their house and drove off their horses.

On Deer Creek they killed a man by the name of Fred. Conway, who left an excellent wife and five little children to mourn his untimely loss. Fred. was a noble man, and brave as brave could be, but the savages overpowered and murdered him in a most shameful manner. Not far from there they killed an old man, a German, by the name of Sheeman and his little son. On Spring Creek, in Gillespie County, they killed Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and carried off their children. I don't now remember the number, but three or four I'm sure. They killed at that same time and place, a Mr. McDonald, and carried off his family, consisting of a wife and five children. On the Tortenolis, in the same county, they carried off a promising boy fourteen years of age, the son of a Mr. Fisher, and again took horses about the different premises, and escaped without injury. Still later they came again, and on Beaver Creek, in Mason County they killed a Mr. Gancig and his wife but not until six of the red devils had violated her by turns in the presence of her husband, who was, of course, wounded and helpless. They finally scarrified Mrs. Gancig by drawing a knife across her abdomen and thighs in every possible direction, and then left her to die by slow degrees; she was far gone in pregnancy, but strange to say, she retained her senses to the moment of her death, and when found, was able to give the statement as just related.

They killed an old man by the name of Couch, on Deer Creek, on the edge of Mason County, shot a young man by the name of John Lowe on the little Liano, did many other depredations, and, as usual, drove our horses before them and escaped without injury. Just as I was leaving home they came on the Leon, in Mason County, and shot old Mr. Putnam and son, and drove off quite a number of horses that were making their way further down into the settlements. I have not mentioned near all the depredations that have been committed on the Sixty-seventh Representative District alone within a few months past. I do not remember the names and particulars of the other cases; the truth is, I rather seek to forget than to remember such horrible scenes. You may ask why we don't keep our horses in good strong stables, and be ready to make chase after the Indians. I answer that ten, twenty, or thirty Indians generally take horses regardless of one, two or three white men and their stables.

Again I may answer, that the people on the frontier of Texas are generally stock growers—they raise cattle; and the fact that their herds have been subject to all manner of depredations for four years, leaves many men without the means to buy meat and flour for their families, much less for their horses. The horses are necessarily left, therefore, to take the desperate chance on the range. Since the break up the few who were fortunate enough to have any horses remaining, have been unable to render them available for much good, because when they could collect them they couldn't sell them, and now that they could get a little something for them, their horses are all gone, and they are unable to collect them. Last summer and fall, men, neighbors of mine, came to San Antonio and begged me to aid them if I could, in getting four or five dollars per head for the choice out of a drove of five hundred noble muskero grass beeves, where in a drove at that time not one beef of which was less than four and from that to eight years old. They had to drive them home again. The great necessities of the people had caused them to overstock the market.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAMES E. RANCK,
Fort Mason, Mason County.

From New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, April 5.—It is considered here that the President's Proclamation is equal to a general amnesty, and that Benjamin and Slidell will return to Louisiana.

Havana dates to the 27th ult. and city of Mexico to the 19th ult., have been received.

They reported that General Almonte had accepted the mission to France. A new campaign is to be organized in Sinaloa against Colono, who was besieging Masaton.

The affair between Mendez and Regla was still in the fog, though it is believed they were both whipped.

The destruction of the greater part of Commandant Byron's detachment has been confirmed.

One hundred and thirty men were killed out of one hundred and sixty men; the dead, including Byron, were terribly mutilated.

Cortinas joined Garteze at Cinaila Victor, acknowledging him as a superior officer.

Tampico has been reinforced, and the garrison is soon to be attacked.

Do You Take Ketchup?

If so, perhaps you will be interested in the following:

The old injunction, "Eat what is set before you, asking no questions," if complied with, will save one a good many nauseating reflections in these days of general adulteration. Sometimes, however, the truth is told without the questions being asked. The British public ketchup and pickle manufacturer of London, has been keeping — to quote the works of the charge against him—a large quantity of putrid livers for the manufacture of ketchup, which he called pure and unadulterated Leicestershire ketchup, such being unfit for human food, and a nuisance to the neighborhood. The case was brought up in court where a medical health officer testified that he found a barrel full of putrid pig's livers, which the foreman told him were to be boiled down to make ketchup. They were obviously unfit for consumption, showing decay and putrescence, and giving out a stench that remained on the witnesses' hands for hours. The magistrate thought the case an important one, but discharged the defendant, as he believed that the act of Parliament against adulteration did not apply to this instance.

Volumes in a Paragraph.

The following inimitable hit is irresistible in argument as it is in humor. We quote from the Charlottesville Chronicle: "It seems to us as hard to get in the Union as it is to get out. The South respectfully asks to move one way or the other. We are like the fellow who was forced to go to the show, and then not allowed to go any further than where he had paid for his ticket. We have been dragged into the doorway of the Federal tent, and not allowed to see any of the performance except to settle with the tax collector. We can hear the animals growling inside, and hear the crack of the ringmaster's whip, but we can't see the show unless we pay for two and take in a colored lady. And the worst of it is, they keep a great eagle perched over the entrance, which, if you attempt to go back, swoops down upon you and picks a hole in your head. We justly think this is reasonable; they ought either to let us pass in, or re-fund the money and tie up the eagle."

The United States Debt, on the 1st of April, 1866, according to Secretary McCulloch's official exhibit, was \$2,705,646,517.01.

President Lincoln's Murderer—A Strange Revelation—Confession of Sterling King—He attempts to Commit Suicide.

We have already mentioned that a man named Sterling King, now under arrest at Louisville, has confessed that he was the murderer of President Lincoln. We find the following respecting him in the Louisville Democrat:

He says that he entered the theatre as any other person, purchasing a ticket and paying for it.

At the appointed time he entered the private box in Ford's Theatre, Washington, where Mr. Lincoln was, and he shot him with a single barrel pistol, which he let fall at the time he leaped from the box. He gives as his object for using a single barrel pistol that he was compelled to leave it behind him, and if it had been a revolver those in the box might have used it against him.

According to his statement, J. Wilkes Booth whom, it is said, was the murderer of President Lincoln, was in the rear of the theatre, awaiting with horses. From the vicinity of Ford's Theatre he says that he went to the residence of Secretary Seward, and after forcing an entrance, made an attack upon the Secretary himself, cutting him in the throat with a bowie knife. He says that after young Seward was knocked down, the old man begged not to be murdered, and that he struck the blow to silence him. His only regret seems to be that he did not kill the Secretary. He says that there was another person in the affair who has not yet been apprehended, who was to have killed Stanton, but he failed to fulfil his pledge.

In regard to Booth, he says that Booth had nothing to do with the killing, with the exception of assisting him to make his escape from the city of Washington. He gives in his written statement, which is now in the hands of the military, the route he pursued after leaving Washington. He says that the man killed in the barn, and who is said to have been Booth was a prisoner, who escaped from the Ohio prison. He claims to have gone, in company with Booth from Washington to Canada and from thence to the Island of Cuba. He states that his object in returning to the United States was for the purpose releasing Jeff. Davis.

In regard to Mrs. Suratt, who was executed as one of the conspirators, he says that she knew nothing of the conspiracy. The parties who planned the affair, three of whom have never been heard of, met regularly at the house of Mrs. Suratt, but she knew nothing of their design.

King is a man who, during the war, figured in both armies, being convicted by a military commission in each and sentenced to death. At the time he made his escape from Covington he was under sentence of death as a spy and guerrilla. He gave as an object for making the confession that his name would be published as arrested for horse-stealing, and as there were those in Washington who knew him, he would be sent for. The above statement was made to Generals Jeff. C. Davis and Watkins, at the jail on Tuesday. Since then he asked the privilege of a pen-knife, which was granted him. With this he opened the veins of his arm, and would have bled to death had it not been that the attempt was discovered by his cell-mate and an alarm given.

A New Caricature.

A new caricature has been gotten up in New York, representing Sumner, Thad. Stevens and "dead duck" Forney sitting in a group, discussing the President's speech. Sumner has a doleful face, and is wiping tears off his cheek with a moral pocket-handkerchief; Stevens looks like Satan, with fire breathing from nostrils and mouth; while Forney resembles a duck, with its feathers turned the wrong way, and from whose mouth proceeds nothing but quack! quack! quack! In the background appears the Goddess of Liberty, waving the "stars and stripes" over the head of Andy Johnson, and proclaiming, "The preservation of the Constitution and the Union!"

The richest boy in Boston is the son of Joshua Sears, deceased, worth \$4,000,000. His father left nearly \$2,000,000, which were well invested, hence the result. Can Brown's Young Man inform us who is the richest girl in New York.

THE PAPER TAX.—The Ways and Means Committee has decided to take off all internal tax on paper, ink and type, and the materials that enter into their compositions.

There are 5,000 Masonic Lodges and 1,300,000 Free and Accepted Masons in the world. There are Lodges in Senegal, Guinea, Mozambique, China, Java and Aruba.

Change of Schedule on the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad.

On the 25th inst. a material change of the time for the arrival and departure of the trains upon the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad was made. Leaving Wilmington at 55 minutes past 2 o'clock A. M., the train now arrives at Sumter at 50 minutes past 3 o'clock P. M., and at Kingsville at 25 minutes past 6 o'clock P. M. And leaving Kingsville at 30 minutes past 4 o'clock A. M., it arrives at Sumter at 45 minutes past 6 o'clock A. M., and at Wilmington at 5 minutes past 8 o'clock P. M. Without a change of schedule on the South Carolina Railroad, passengers from Sumter for Columbia will have the privilege of spending about sixteen hours at Kingsville—ample time for full enjoyment of the scenery so peculiar to that locality, and for indulging in sight-seeing generally thereabouts.

The officers of the new National Johnson Club are announced. Montgomery Blair is President. The Vice Presidents are elected from all the States, some of whom are as follows: Pennsylvania, Asa Packer; West Virginia, Senator Van Winkle; Ohio, ex-Governor Todd; Indiana, J. E. McDonald; Illinois, E. S. Marshall; Kentucky, James Guthrie; Iowa, A. C. Dodge; South Carolina, James L. Orr; Minnesota, Senator Newton; Georgia, James Johnson; Missouri, Charles Ellsard; Kansas, M. J. Parrott; Michigan, Robert McClelland.

A negro preacher, holding forth to his congregation upon the subject of obeying the commands of God, said: "Breedren, whatever God tells me to do in his book (holding up the Bible) dat I'm gwine to do. If I see in it dat I must jump t'roo a stun wall, I'm gwine to jump at it. Goin' t'roo it 'longs to God, jumpin' at it 'longs to me."