

St. John's College.

We learn from the Charleston Record, that the Female Seminary, in Orangeburg, which had been given to the Protestant Episcopal Church, for the Diocesan Theological Seminary of South Carolina, upon examination has been found to be ill adapted to the purpose for which they were intended, and Mr. James T. Wellesman presented St. John's College, of this place, for the same object.

The Stay Law.

Our cotemporaries appreciating the solemn effect of the late decision of the Court of Errors pronouncing this law as unconstitutional, are devoting much space and thought to its serious contemplation. The views of editors as well as correspondents are worthy our serious regard. To us its constitutionality or unconstitutionality is a matter of no importance now. The thing is settled. An oracular opinion or judgment has been given—the highest tribunal has sounded forth its edict—has, in language not to be mistaken, announced that the law of collection is re-established. To sue or not sue, is the serious question. No one from our stand point, can look upon our oppressed people and say that the effect of that decision will not be most disastrous, unless creditors are inspired with a spirit of forbearance and indulgence in a degree that will save for a time, at least, the honest debtor.

While we were never an ardent supporter and friend to the Stay Law in its inception, we are fearful that its removal at this particular period, must be hurtful to those interests which form the substratum of our material prosperity. Against this view of the subject, we quote the following paragraph from the Abbeville Banner, which is sadly true, and indicates that the continuance of the law, being thus abused, would be injurious to our people: "If under its operation, there had been manifested any satisfactory evidence of effort upon the part of debtors to discharge their indebtedness, we would have said without hesitation, postpone the consideration of its constitutionality, temporize, give the people a breathing spell; but what were the facts? Was there any disposition to pay debts? Was there any self-denial practiced? Was there any retrenchment of expenses? You will find the answer to these questions when the measure is taken of the breadth and depth of the deluge of 'Yankee notions' which has inundated our land during the last twelve months, and when the proceeds of all the cotton is accounted for which was on hand at the surrender of the armies last spring—cotton that has gone like the baseless fabric of a dream, but which has left our debts behind."

The Stay Law was passed to protect soldiers in the army, but has proved itself to be any thing else but a protection—a curse, and they will soon realize it. The soldiers needed no protection against their creditors during the war, because they doubted the soundness of the currency, and many even refused to take it in payment of debts. Certainly under the then existing state of affairs no legislation was necessary for the protection of the soldier. It is needless to comment upon the folly so palpable in the passage of the Stay Law at the time it was passed, but we merely proposed an appeal to the people for the exercise of all the leniency and forbearance possible. People should pay their debts, and any legislation protecting them in not doing so, if not unconstitutional, is unjust and unwise. The crisis is inevitable, the crash will come, and it is with the people themselves to mitigate its horrors, by the exercise of a spirit of benevolence and forbearance. To the law, we must as good and law-abiding people, yield obedience. Let us, for the sake of our country avoid the pressures of litigation wherever it is possible to do so.

Letters from Hazel Dell.

Mr. Editor: In these sad times, it is delightful for one whose ear and mind are ever filled with the din and smoke of town, to repair to the country and realize the peculiar pleasures of rural existence. The singing of birds, the lowing of cattle, the sighing of breezes, and the music of rill and rivulet, have been themes of the inspired bard, and in the effusions of his sympathetic heart, we imagine can be heard the distinctive sounds of each of those fruitful sources of mental gratification. To these causes it may be, is the acknowledgment so universal, to be attributed, that hill and vale, mountain and plain—flowers native and cultivated, rural scenery and rural modes of habit and thought, are more favorable to moral enjoyment, than the city. While the latter has its superior advantages in regard to the facilities of a higher and more cultivated state of outward, external life, it nevertheless has its dreadful offsets in temptations to moral deterioration. This is not owing, however, to the absence of the purest element of a beautiful morality, but to the concentration of all the various elements or principles that make up individual character. In the country, each family is to be regarded as a harmonious organization. There are no sentimental jarrings or discords—no opposition of mind or feeling—the thoughts and feelings of each member of the household, whether aroused by politics or religion, are like drops of water, inclined to blend sweetly—to flow into one unruined stream. The town is not so adjusted. There are various families, and between some will spring up alienations, growing out of an antithesis in opinion upon important subjects, as well as upon such minor topics, as dress and the latest style of hats, (not to say bonnets, a good old fashioned, but nearly obsolete word,) and the ordinary suggestions of unbridled gossip. The city may be well governed—the majority of its inhabitants peaceable in disposition, unobtrusive in social intercourse, but now and then a rough, angular character interposes to produce jostlings and ruffles the quiet streams of life. This is frequently the case. The city is often, too, made the place as well as the occasion, for premeditated outrages upon all the proprieties of civilized life—hence its reputation is damaged and its advantages impaired in the estimation of the reflective and courtly countryman. I will not further speak defensively just now of the town. In the broad and open fields, I guide my incautious steps, and to the goddess of the virgin forests, would pay our most humble homage.

In the mythological age of Greece, there were numerous deities to whom the presiding care and the control of certain objects were assigned. For instance, Pan was the God of the forests and the fleecy flocks that found green pastures and cooling streams beneath his umbrageous wings. How beautiful the thought that he, beneath and to whom the forests in all their grandeur flourished, and daily expressed their devout thanksgivings, should in like manner extend his arms of love and protection over the lamb, the most striking and lovely type of innocence and loveliness. There was another feature that gave the forest a peculiar distinction, and renders the country in which the relentless blows of the rude axeman have not been too untastefully and greedily inflicted, peculiarly desirable in the summer months, and that is that each tree was inhabited by a wood nymph, and consecrated to some particular God or Goddess. You remember the story of Erisichthon. He was a hater of the Gods and determined to violate a tree sacred to Ceres, which is represented as being fifteen cubits in thickness, and so tall as to overtop all surrounding it. The execution of his order was refused on account of the superstitious fears of the persons present. At last he seized the axe, and as he bestowed his first blow, blood, to the amazement of the bystanders, began to flow, and a voice from the Dryad within, premonished him of the perilous consequences. Deaf to the entreaties and remonstrances of Nymph and friend, he repeated the blows with his axe, until the mighty monarch of the forest, toppled crushingly to the ground. Then the nymphs applied to Ceres for revenge, who directed them to repair to ice-clad Scythia, where dwelt fear, shuddering and famine, and order the latter, in the name of the offended and insulted Goddess, to take possession of his bowels. Immediately the famine enfolded Erisichthon in her wings, and breathed into him the venom of her breath. On awaking he hungered—on eating his hunger remained unabated. Miserable, wretched and hungry, he continued until his property was exhausted to satisfy cravings. At last he sold his only daughter, to obtain food, but all in vain, and finally died, having consumed his own flesh. Thus did the Gods punish the sacrilege of Erisichthon.

The idolatry of the Greeks as well as Romans, though demolished in fact, has left and transmitted an attachment for the woodland as well as moorland that the highest states of civilization have not destroyed. Whether it is because the human mind is inclined to be idolatrous naturally, or there is an innate appreciation of nature in her primitive or cultivated conditions, we know not. Of one thing we are assured that the progress of ideas has invested the mountains and hills—the wooded stretch—the marshy plain—the rugged fern bed—the fields of yellow grain—the gentle zephyrs—the morning sun and evening sunsets—in fact, all the diversities of surface and sky, with an interest that youth can ne'er forget, nor old age ever cease to love. Having extended our rambling thoughts beyond our pedal measurements, we will put a period to the one in hope that we shall be able to resume the other in some future number.

DERWENT.

Commencement at Reidville.

The examination in the Male School will take place on the 25th inst., (Monday) and in the Female School on the 26th inst. On Wednesday, the 27th instant the Commencement-Dr. Buttz, of Greenville, will deliver the Annual Oration before the Board of Trustees on the 27th inst., at 12 o'clock, M. The public are respectfully invited to attend these exercises. We are informed that after a vacation of about a week the second session will commence.

Williams, Evans and Choice.

We call attention to the card of these gentlemen to be found in to-day's paper. The two latter are well known personally and professionally to the citizens of our District. The senior member of the firm Geo. W. Williams, Esq., of Yorkville, is a Lawyer of large experience and high reputation, and made a marked impression upon those who heard him in the advocacy of the causes committed to his charge at the last term of our Court.

[Correspondence of Charleston Courier.]

Jefferson Davis.

WASHINGTON, Monday, June 4. The probabilities in regard to the occurrence and result of "Prisoner Davis," as the official reports from Fortress Monroe style the ex-President of the late Confederacy, form, just now, the puzzling topic of talk amongst the newspaper folks here, and the quid nuncs generally. This is a subject upon which the Northern public are, if possible, even more anxious and inquisitive than the people of the South; hence the eagerness with which the lynx-eyed reporters for the New York and Western press catch at and sift every passing rumor that bears in any way upon the fate of the great captive. As yet

THE TIME OF HIS TRIAL.

Is a matter in regard to which no conclusion has been reached. Mr. Davis and his friends, President Johnson, Chief Justice Chase and the Radical leaders in Congress, all profess to desire that the case should be disposed of as speedily as may be; and, under such a state of things, it would seem to be strange that there is any further delay; but the truth is that the bitterest enemies of the Confederate ex-President fear that a trial at this time could not by any possibility result otherwise than in acquittal or a disagreement of the jury, and they are therefore scheming to defer the matter until they can concoct some plan to insure a conviction. One thing, however, is certain, the trial will be an ordinary civil one. The effort of the House Judiciary Committee to fasten upon the head of Mr. Davis a share of the responsibility for the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, has been an utter failure; and if, as you see stated in the papers, they are still taking evidence on that point, it is rather to cover up their rage and disappointment in a respectable manner, than with any hope of securing a pretext for what they seek—his trial by military Commission.

THE FEDERAL COURT IN VIRGINIA.

adjourned at Norfolk last week, and re-assembles to-morrow in Richmond. It is understood here that the counsel for Mr. Davis will appear before the Court some time this week, and demand that the trial, under the indictment already found against him, be proceeded with. To this motion the District Attorney will probably reply that the Government is not yet ready to go on with the prosecution of the case. In that event bail will be demanded for the prisoner—a request, which, considering his long and wearisome incarceration and the precarious condition of his health, it will be difficult for the Court, with any show of decency and fairness to refuse. It is said that the eminent pleaders who are to conduct the defence are ready to give bail for their distinguished client to the amount of ten millions of dollars, they having ascertained that that amount can be raised in New York; but the general impression is that bail will not be allowed. The proceedings, however, incident to the effort to obtain bail will be of an interest second only to the trial itself.

PRESENT CONDITION OF MR. DAVIS.

I was conversing yesterday with a photographer of this city, who, by permission of General Miles, the Commandant at Fortress Monroe, had an interview with Mr. Davis three days ago. He describes the State prisoner as wan and careworn in appearance, though his physique still retains much of that nervous energy which always distinguished him. His bearing was erect and his step as firm as ever; and the only palpable evidence of his physical prostration was in his voice, which was very perceptibly weaker than formerly.

HIS PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

however, was very much altered. Previous to his capture, it will be remembered, it was his habit to go clean shaven, wearing only a small strip of beard around his throat. Since his imprisonment he seems to have discarded the use of the razor altogether, (indeed, for a long time he was not allowed the use of a razor, or any other edge instrument) and consequently the entire lower portion of his face is covered with a beard, closely trimmed, however, as if with scissors. His grey hair is also grown quite long, and he wears it brushed straight back from his forehead, very much in the style of Pierre Soule, whom many of your readers may remember to have seen at Charleston during the war. Notwithstanding his hirsute aspect, his high cheek bone and sharp and clearly marked features, render him easily recognizable by any one who has ever beheld him in the past.

In response to a request that he should sit for his photograph, he quietly declined, saying that he had been so sadly changed by his recent manner of life that he feared that none of his old friends would know him. He promised, however, that at a future day, he would give the desired opportunity for his picture to be taken. Mrs. Davis continues to prove herself a shining instance of

WOMAN'S CONSTANCY AND PERSISTENCE.

She is indefatigable in her efforts to alleviate the hardships of her husband's imprisonment, and, by her activity and zeal has already accomplished much in that respect. I understand that it is mainly through her solicitation that the counsel of Mr. Davis have resolved upon an effort to secure the release of their client upon bail.

As the successive phases of this most important case are developed, I shall not fail to keep the readers of the Courier fully and promptly posted.

ZED.

A SAD CIRCUMSTANCE AT EMBURG.—This evening (June 5) between three and four o'clock, a terrible cloud arose in the west, accompanied by a fearful tornado, which swept through our village, demolishing everything in its track, trees, &c., and striking the building of the Allen Lodge, at that time used as a school room by Mr. Allen Seabrook and his sister, completely destroying it, burying under its ruins seven of the unfortunate children who belonged to the school.—Cor. Chas. News.

Later from Europe.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT—COMPLICATIONS STILL UNSETTLED!

NEW YORK, June 5.

The steamers Hermann and Southampton, with dates to the 23d, have arrived. A Paris telegram to the London Post states definitely that arrangements have been made for a conference of France, England and Russia on one side, Austria, Prussia and Italy on the other, with Drouyn D'Luys as President. The London Herald says that conferences can do nothing, and that war is certain unless the combatants become exhausted under the burden of preparation. The Dresden official journal says the conference was to meet May 25th, but that Austria was evincing a disinclination to participate. If persisted in, she will be represented pro tem by England. There is no relaxation in military preparations by Russia, while there is a universal feeling that there will be a pacific solution.

Prussia has issued a decree that, in the event of a war, the enemy's merchant ships will not be liable to capture on the high seas, provided similar rules are adopted by her antagonists. The Austrian Commandant has notified the Venetians that any attempt to enlist in Italian Corps, or to encourage desertion, shall be dealt with by martial law. Austria has refused to discuss any proposition for the cession of Venetia. The formation of Volunteers into Regiments commenced on the 21st. A Vienna dispatch says that the treaty between Prussia and Italy is offensive and defensive, and continues until the end of the present year. A Prussian corps is concentrated at Wittz Kererful Reisse. To prove that Prussia accepts the mediation of a conference, the departure of the Prince Royal and Prince Frederick Charles has been postponed. The report that an Austrian patrol has crossed the Prussian frontier is denied by the Austrian commandant.

The latest European news is from Queens-town May 23d. The crisis is unchanged. The statement, that all the powers had assented to a conference is premature, although the invitations have been sent out.

EUROPE IN ARMS.

FLORENCE, May 14.

Europe is in arms! Austria has raised her army to 600,000 men, Prussia to 500,000, Italy to 400,000. All the German States are mobilizing their smaller forces, which, may together, amount to 200,000. Switzerland, in order to guard her frontiers, calls 15,000 men, under arms, and now we hear that Denmark, Spain, Belgium, France, Russia and Turkey prepare for war. The continent seems to be already giddy, and three millions of men their full force are taken away from the plough, from the factory, and from the counting-house. All the finances of the States are deranged, and the ominous words of the French Emperor seem to be the presage of a long and bloody war, terrible principally for Germany, where it must assume the character of a civil war. Austria, which for a moment seemed to be doomed in her isolation, is, after all, not so badly off as was believed, all the minor States of Germany, with the exception of Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, and Electoral Hesse, being ready to back her. Thus the opposing are nearly equal, and France becomes once more the empire in Europe.

Now, Napoleon is not the man to go headlong into the abyss of a terrible continental struggle, and at the eleventh hour he makes the greatest efforts to stay the war, seconded in that errand by England and partially by Russia. He proposes once more, and for the last time, a peaceful settlement by a Congress upon the basis of the cession of Venetia to Italy, and of the North Albingian Duches to Prussia. His diplomacy has for a moment caused a lull in the brewing storm. Garibaldi received a letter from the King not to stir from Caprea until he is called. The order for the completion of 200,000 red shirts at Pistoja was yesterday evening suspended. Ricasoli is not yet Minister. An autograph letter from the King of Prussia to Victor Emanuel was yesterday presented at the palazzo. Pitti and Bismark hang fire, through the Federal Diet at Frankfurt, by a vote of ten to five, accepted the complaints of Saxony about the violation of Article II, of the Federal Constitution by Prussia.

Still, even at Vienna discontent is rising—people openly blame the Emperor for his big-headedness in refusing to listen to any French proposals for the ceding of Venetia to Italy, and in losing time in coming to terms with Hungary. At the present moment, Chancellor Majnath is indeed at Pesth, but, according to our advices up to Friday last, he has not yet met Deak, the only man who really represents Hungary.

But, if Austria's position is not enviable at all, Italy has her difficulties. Relying upon Prussia, she appealed to the enthusiasm of the nation, and at the greatest sacrifice mobilized her army, and 200,000 men are already concentrated on the Mincio and Po.

If, now, Prussia should prove false, Italy could scarcely retrace her steps, but would be forced to encounter Austria single-handed. It is, therefore, with full reason that La Marmora said in the Chamber, "We must advance, for behind us is an abyss." The war enthusiasm would turn against the monarchy if the army should once more have to return without striking a blow, and every Italian would endorse Mazzini's words, that monarchy is unable to achieve the unity of the nation.

The same uncertainty which troubles us in Italy reigns likewise in Moldo-Wallachia.—Prince Charles of Hohenzollern has not accepted the throne, but he has not refused it, though the Paris Conference decided against a foreign prince, and for the separation of the two Principalities. In the meantime, Russia is arming and pushing her regiments to the South.—Cor. of New York Tribune.

THE CHARLESTON AND CINCINNATI RAILROAD.

A meeting of the several Delegations of the City Council, Chamber of Commerce, and Board of Trade, which propose to visit the city of Cincinnati with a view to forward the projection and construction of the railroad between the cities of Charleston and Cincinnati, was held yesterday morning at the Hall of the Insurance and Trust Company, in Broad street. It was agreed that the delegations should meet in the latter city on the 16th instant. No other business was transacted.—Courier.

THE FENIAN WAR.—NEW YORK, June 9.—A St. Albans special dispatch reports an engagement between Col. Scanlan's regiment and the British cavalry, near Pigeon Hill. The British cavalry were dispersed and fled in confusion. The Fenians captured 100 horses and three flags. Four Fenians were wounded and one Briton killed and three wounded. Scanlan subsequently ordered the regiment to withdraw from Canadian soil, but Gen. Shear still remains.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has been in session at Raleigh, N. C.

Lines to the Bereaved Ones.

BY HARRY HOFFMUL.

[Died in Spartanburg, Mrs. Joel Foster, a pure Christian, loving Wife and tender Mother.]

Weep loved ones weep, for Oh! how dear The love you bore that lifeless form; We cannot chide the falling tear, We cannot check the weeping storm. Our hearts with sympathetic grief, Would beat in unison with thine; And fain would tender kind relief, And kneel beside, at "sorrow's shrine."

How calm and placid was her life, The Christian's hope, her only joy; She was indeed "a loving wife," Her acts all pure with no alloy. The vacant chair will now be seen, The mother will be sought in vain; No soothing words for anguish keen, No gentle hand in hours of pain.

But come with me bereaved ones, To yonder glorious happy sphere; List but a moment to those tones, The angel choir is singing there; And midst those sweet celestial sounds, Methinks I hear your dear one's voice— Hear how the swelling notes resound, Within that sphere they all rejoice.

Then with the Christian's cheerful grace, With hope confiding to the end; The over draught of grief efface, And pray God resignation send. Yes, pray that when your time is o'er, Your race on earth is duly run; You too may sing on Canaan's shore, Thy will, O! God, be ever done.

BY THE LAST MAIL.

WASHINGTON, June 11.—Shen, one of the counsel for Jefferson Davis, made a motion before Judge Underwood in chambers, in order to test the jurisdiction of the courts in Virginia, involving the power to hold the prisoner to bail. It being a judicial question with which the President has nothing to do, Judge Underwood expressed the same opinion which has always been insisted on by Chief Justice Chase, that so long as martial law or military surveillance was enforced in Virginia, the courts were a mere adjunct, and to be used in aid of the military power. Judge Underwood declines issuing a writ of habeas corpus to bring the prisoner before his court, until he received from the President a relinquishment of the accused from the civil authorities, Mr. Davis being now a prisoner of war.

New York, June 11.—The Fenian invasion terminated in a fight about eight miles from St. Armand; a brigade of British regulars charged upon a small portion of Shear's army that had remained behind, and captured sixteen prisoners; some of the Fenians were killed, but how many is not known.

This fight took place almost on the boundary, across which the Fenians were compelled to retreat. The English, however, had no idea of stopping on account of boundary, and they charged forward across the line, firing upon the retreating band of Fenians. They also made some captures on American soil; this affair has been reported to Gen. Meade, who is at present investigating it.

The Fenian Council of War, at Buffalo, has decided that it is best to order all the troops back to their homes, without arms and money, they think it a useless waste of life to enter Canada.

WASHINGTON, June 8.—The final report of the Reconstruction Committee setting forth the reasons for the action of the majority was read in both Houses to-day. The conclusions of the Committee are briefly that the people of the South have proved themselves insurgents and traitors, and forfeited all political rights and privileges, that the so-called Confederate States are not entitled to representation in Congress, that before allowing it, adequate security for the future peace and safety of the country should be required from them, and this can only be found in such changes of the organic law as shall determine the civil rights and privilege of the citizen in all parts of the republic, that the representation should be on an equitable basis, that a stigma be fixed on treason and protection be given to loyal people against future claims for expenses incurred in the rebellion and for slaves emancipated by the war, together an express grant of power in Congress to enforce these provisions to their end.

The Committee advocate the joint resolution amendatory of the Constitution, and the two separate bills designed to carry the law into effect. The Committee claim, in conclusion, that these bills are the result of conciliation and concession. The report is signed by ten Republican members. The dissenters are Senator Johnston and Representatives Gridg and Rodgers.

CORCORAN, N. H., June 8.—It has been officially announced here, from the War Department, that there will probably be a necessity of calling out the militia to preserve neutrality.

PHILADELPHIA, June 8.—Anthony Probst, the murderer of the Deering family, was executed this morning in the presence of a few spectators.

MONTGOMERY, June 7.—A majority of the Supreme Court have decided the first and eighth sections of the stay law, postponing judgment on suits for twelve months to be constitutional. The second, third and fourth sections which stay collections of judgment already rendered before the passage of the law was also decided unconstitutional and void. The sixth section relating to sales under mortgages is also declared void.

WASHINGTON, June 8.—In the Senate the Reconstruction resolutions passed to-day. Yeas 83; nays 11.

TORONTO, June 8.—It is reported that all is quiet on the Western frontier. Parliament meets to-day, and it is understood that the Governor-General asks for the immediate suspension of the habeas corpus act.

An attempt to seize the Canadian steamers Corinthian and Pecheater, at Charlotte, yesterday, was frustrated.

BUFFALO, June 5.—It is said that two Fenian spies are to be shot this morning at Fort Erie. The Fenians are moving from Malone with artillery. On his arrival at Fort Erie, the American Consul was shot at and grossly insulted by the British while in a house, with flag unfurled. He has demanded an apology.

NEW YORK, June 5.—Dr. Bissel reports that the mortality among patients is alarming. At quarantine the disease is very virulent. Some die in a few hours after being taken. The ship Eugene which arrived from Hamburg, reports twenty deaths, and eleven on the steamship Herman from Bremen. The disease on these two vessels is not stated.