

The Newberry Herald.

Devoted to the Dissemination of Useful Intelligence.

Editors T. F. GRENEKER.
R. H. GRENEKER.

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The Repeal of all Test Oaths a Requirement of Peace.

The experience of mankind is against either the policy or wisdom of test oaths. They are inconsistent with the existence of Republican institutions. They are utterly opposed to the spirit or legislation of a free people. They are the emblems of vengeance. They can scarcely be regarded as among the symbols of liberty.

It is, therefore, with pleasure that we record the efforts of the Hon. W. E. Finck, one of the representatives from the State of Ohio, in favor of their repeal. All honors to those statesmen, of every section, who, amid the clamor and fanaticism of the present, remain firm in their adherence to the Constitution and to the great cause of public right. Rising superior to the madness of the hour, they still preserve the freedom of the country, in deed as well as in name. They have not yielded to the domination of a partisanship, which would, in the blindness of its fury, sweep away every landmark of justice and accustomed law. Fettered as the South now is, her people can do but little more than render to the President and all true lovers of their country the honest tribute of their patriotic judgment.

Having a few days since briefly alluded to the unconstitutionality of these oaths, we would now say a few words in reference to their inappropriateness.

Their effect certainly is neither to harmonize the country or to promote kind and fraternal relations between the different States. Their result is to shut out nearly the whole of the people of eleven of the Commonwealths from any practical participation in the affairs of the Government.

Mr. Finck thus clearly illustrates their logic: "Now what is our duty to the people of the South? Is it to crush them, and while we impose upon them the burdens of Government exclude them from its benefits? It is to seek by our legislation to degrade them and make them outlaws? We have determined that they shall remain with us, citizens of the same common government. Shall they remain with us as our equals or not?"

"I want them to return to their full and complete allegiance to the Constitution, not as an inferior or degraded people, but in their true manhood, as the equals of the people of every other State. We must have confidence in them. They and their children are destined to live with us and our children for generations to come. It is best that we should live together on terms of friendship and equality."

The continuance of these oaths upon the statute books is contrary to the amnesty which has been granted by the Executive.

The power for this prerogative is beyond the authority or control of Congress. It is derived from the Constitution itself. The second Section of the second Article vests in the President the power to grant pardons and reprieves for offences against the United States. The grant is without limit or qualification, with the single exception of cases of impeachment. Not only so, but Congress itself has recognized the wisdom of this provision of the organic law, and committed itself in favor of the policy pursued by the President in reference to this matter.

By its enactment of the 17th July, 1862, it declared that the President was thereby authorized, at any time thereafter, by proclamation to extend to all persons who may have participated in the existing rebellion, in any State or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions and at such time and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare.

In pursuance, therefore, of the Constitution itself, and with the sanction of Congress explicitly upon the record, the President, on the 29th of May last, did by proclamation announce his terms of complete amnesty, which have been accepted and complied with by the people of the South.

The necessary result is that they are thereby restored to complete and entire equality with the people of every other State as if the war had never occurred, or any civil struggle taken place. The amnesty sweeps away every statute of disability. It destroys not only every pretext, but every weapon of war, whether on the field or in legislation.

takes away the punishment it still leaves the disabling consequences of the alleged offence operative. But this is contrary to the declarations of the law. This announces that the effect of the amnesty is to remove not only the punishment, but all the legal consequences of disabilities. The statement of the proposition is its own demonstration.

And to the same purport are all the authorities. Bishop, in his celebrated treatise on the criminal law, says: "The effect of a full pardon is to absolve the party from all the legal consequences of his crime and of his conviction, direct and collateral, including the punishment, whether of imprisonment, pecuniary penalty, or whatever the law else provides."

In fact, as Bacon states in another part of his abridgment, a pardon so far clears a party of all consequences of his charged offence that he may have an action against any one who shall afterwards call him a traitor or felon. And the reason of this principle is thus clearly set forth: "For the pardon makes him, as it were, a new man."

And yet, in violation of its conflict with the terms of the oath prescribed by the Constitution, in violation of the fact of its being a mere war measure, in violation of its inconsistency with the provisions of the amnesty of the President, the test oath of 1862 is still unrepelled, and, in fact, is enforced with increased severity and stringency. We trust that a wiser and more enlightened spirit will prevail, and that the full orb of complete peace will soon dawn upon every portion and section of the country.

Hampton Road Conference.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF IT FROM SECRETARY SEWARD.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, February 7, 1866.

MR. SEWARD TO MR. ADAMS.

Sir:—It is a truism that in times of peace there are always instigators of war. So soon as a war begins there are citizens who impatiently demand negotiations for peace. The advocates for war, after an agitation longer or shorter, generally gain their fearful end, though the war declared is not infrequently unnecessary and unwise. So peace agitators, in time of war, ultimately bring about an abandonment of the conflict, sometimes with our securing the advantages which were originally expected from the conflict.

The agitators for war in time of peace, and for peace in time of war, are not necessarily, or perhaps ordinarily, unopposed in their purposes and motives. Results alone determine whether they are wise or unwise. The treaty of peace signed at Guadalupe Hidalgo was secured by an irregular negotiation under the ban of the Government. Some of the efforts which have been made to bring about negotiations with a view to end our civil war are known to the whole world, because they have employed foreign as well as domestic agents; others with whom you have had to deal confidentially, are known to yourself, although they have not publicly transpired. Other efforts have occurred here, which are known only to the persons actually moving in them, and to this Government. I am now to give you your information an account of an affair of the same general character, which recently received much attention here, and which doubtless will excite inquiry abroad.

A few days ago, Francis P. Blair, Esq., of Maryland, obtained from the President a simple leave to pass through our military lines, without definite views known to the Government. Mr. Blair visited Richmond, and on his return he showed to the President a letter which Jefferson Davis had written to Mr. Blair, in which Davis wrote that Mr. Blair was at liberty to say to President Lincoln that Davis was now, as he had always been, willing to send Commissioners, if assured they would be received, or to receive any that should be sent; that he was not disposed to find obstacles in forms. He would send Commissioners to confer with the President, with a view to the restoration of peace between the two countries, if he could be assured they would be received. The President, thereupon, on the 18th of January, addressed a note to Mr. Blair, in which the President, after acknowledging that he had read the note of Mr. Davis, said he was, and always should be, willing to receive any agent that Mr. Davis, or any other influential person, now actually residing in the territory of the Government, might send to confer informally with the President with a view to the restoration of peace to the people of our common country. Mr. Blair visited Richmond with his letter, and then came back again to Washington. On the 22nd instant, we were advised from the Camp of Lieutenant-General Grant that Alexander H. Stephens, R. M. P. Hunter and John A. Campbell were applying for leave to pass through the lines to Washington as Peace Commissioners to confer with the President. They were permitted by the Lieutenant-General to come to his headquarters, to wait there the decision of the President. Major Eckert was sent down to meet the party from Richmond at General Grant's headquarters. The major was directed to deliver to them a copy of the President's letter to Mr. Blair, with a note to be addressed to them and signed by the Major, in which they were directly informed that if they should be allowed to pass our lines they would be understood as coming for an informal conference upon the basis of the aforementioned letter of the 18th of January to Mr. Blair. If they should express their assent to this condition in writing, then Major Eckert was directed to give them safe conduct to Fortress Monroe, when a person coming from the President would meet them. It being thought probable, from a report of their conversation with Lieutenant-General Grant, that the Richmond party would in the manner prescribed accept the condition mentioned, the Secretary of State was charged by the President with the duty of representing this Government at the expected informal conference.

The Secretary arrived at Fortress Monroe on the night of the 1st day of February. Major Eckert met him in the morning of the 2d of February with the information that the persons who had come from Richmond had not accepted in writing the condition upon which he was allowed to give them conduct to Fortress Monroe. The Major had given the same information by telegraph to the President at Washington. On receiving this information, the President prepared a telegram directing the Secretary to return to Washington. The Secretary was preparing

at the same moment, to do so, without waiting for instructions from the President. But at this juncture Lieutenant-General Grant telegraphed to the Secretary of War, as well as to the Secretary of State, that the party from Richmond had reconsidered and accepted the conditions tendered them through Major Eckert, and General Grant urgently advised the President to confer in person with the Richmond party.

Under those circumstances the Secretary, by the President's direction, remained at Fortress Monroe, and the President joined him there on the night of the 2d of February. The Richmond party was brought down the James River in a United States Steam transport during the day, and the transport was anchored at Hampton Roads.

On the morning of the 3d, the President, attended by the Secretary, received Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, on board the United States steam transport River Queen, in Hampton Roads. The conference was altogether informal. There was no attendance of secretaries, clerks, or other witnesses. Nothing was written or read. The conversation, though earnest and free, was calm, and courteous, and kind on both sides. The Richmond party approached the discussion rather indirectly, and at no time did they either make categorical demands or tender formal stipulations, or absolute refusals. Nevertheless, during the conference, which lasted four hours, the several points at issue between the Government and the insurgents were distinctly raised and discussed, fully, intelligently and in an amiable spirit. What the insurgent party seemed chiefly to favor was a postponement of the question of separation upon which the war is waged, and a mutual direction of the efforts of Government as well as those of the insurgents to some extrinsic policy or scheme for a season, during which passion might be expected to subside, and the armies to be reduced, and trade and intercourse between the people of both sections resumed. It was suggested by them that through such postponement we might now have immediate peace, with some not very certain prospect of an ultimate satisfactory adjustment of political relations between this Government and the States, sections or people now engaged in conflict with it.

This suggestion, though deliberately considered, was, nevertheless, regarded by the President as one of amity or truce, and so announced that we can agree to no cessation or suspension of hostilities except on the basis of the abandonment of the insurgent forces and the restoration of the national authority throughout all the States in the Union. Certain propositions which were then announced, the anti-slavery policy of the United States was reviewed in all its bearings, and the President announced that he must not be expected to depart from the positions he had heretofore assumed in his proclamation of emancipation and other documents, as these positions were reiterated in his last annual message. It was further declared by the President that the complete restoration of the national authority was an indispensable condition of any assent on our part to whatever form of peace might be proposed. The President assured the other party that while he must adhere to these positions, he would be prepared, as far as power is lodged with the Executive, to exercise liberality.

His power is limited by the Constitution. And when peace should be made, Congress must necessarily act in regard to appropriations of money and to admission of Representatives from the insurgent States. The Richmond party were then informed that a Congress had on the 21st ultimo adopted, by a constitutional majority, a Joint Resolution, submitting to the several States the proposition abolishing slavery throughout the Union, and that there is every reason to expect that it will soon be accepted by three-fourths of the States, so as to become a part of the national organic law. The conference came to an end by mutual acquiescence, without procuring an agreement of views upon the several matters discussed, or any of them. Nevertheless, it is perhaps of some importance that we have been able to submit our opinions and views directly to prominent insurgents, and to hear them answer in a courteous and not unfriendly manner. I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.
CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Esq., etc.

A New ORGANIZATION—The Mason Citizen, of March 26th, makes known the existence of colored men in Georgia, under the title of the "Equal Rights Association," the members of which are requested to meet "to attend to the business of great importance."

The Citizen says the new organization have a newspaper of their own, which they call the "Loyal Georgian." The object of the colored people, as set forth in the "Loyal Georgian," is to initiate a movement by which a colored man will be sent from each Southern State to inform the President fully in regard to the condition of the race. The "Association" also propose to send a delegate to Congress as soon as sufficient money can be raised for the purpose. In commenting on the foregoing statements, the Citizen says the wildest and most incoherent views are entertained by the colored masses with reference to an anticipated dawn of bliss, and ends upon the State Executive to ask assistance from the United States authorities to avert impending danger.

LIBERIA.—The following is an extract from a letter from Henry W. Johnson, Esq., of Monrovia, dated January 6, 1866. Johnson is an eloquent and talented colored lawyer from Canandaigua, New York, where he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court. He emigrated to Liberia in June, 1865, with his family, and rejoices in the country of his adoption.

"I am very much pleased with Liberia. I have unbounded admiration for the country. It has a glorious future before it. It must, sooner or later, be the future home of the black man of America. My family are now going through the acclimating fever. Prof. Freeman, of Liberia College, and family are now thoroughly acclimated, and are enjoying themselves very much. I think, with the blessing of God, and ordinary prudence, my own family will be equally fortunate."

The Destruction of Columbia.

It will be remembered that the letter we recently published from General Sherman concerning the destruction of Columbia was addressed to Mr. Benj. Rawls, of Columbia. Below is a letter from Mr. Rawls, taken from the Columbia Phoenix of yesterday, throwing the whole responsibility of the destruction of that city upon General Sherman; this, too, from a Union man.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 20, 1866.
To Major-General W. T. Sherman,
United States Army.

Sir: Your letter of the 8th March instant is before me, in which you, in positive terms, deny giving orders for the destruction, by fire, of the city of Columbia. I have in my hand an affidavit made before one of the Associate Judges of Superior Court, 1st Sub-District, Western Department, South Carolina, in the words following: "On the evening of the 17th day of February, a soldier at my gate said to me, did you ever see hell? I told him no. Well, said he, you wait until night and you will see hell, for we intend to burn every damned house that there is in the town. Accordingly, about 7 o'clock, or a little after, I saw the fire commence at the next square from where I live." "On the 18th day of February, 1865, a soldier of Gen. Sherman's army met me at my gate; he said that Gen. Sherman had given them a furlough for thirty-six hours to come into Columbia and do as they pleased in regard to firing and the destruction of the city."

But, sir, as regards the liability of the Government to indemnify their loyal subjects for the loss of their property. You were in command; and if the loss occurred through either neglect or incompetency, it is immaterial to the sufferer; he does not lose his right of redress by either.

And it is not to be presumed that the Government would entrust a man with the command of fifty or sixty thousand troops, and that he could not make them obey his orders; and there is the greatest abundance of proof to be obtained here, that the soldiers under your command, on the 17th February, 1865, threw fire-balls, flambeau and other fireworks into the houses, the bed-rooms, and on the roofs, and prevented the fire-engines from sucking the fires, by cutting holes in the leather hose to keep the water from flowing to the engines. You know the old law adage: "What you do by your agent you do by yourself." As for the order of Gen. Hampton causing the destruction of this city, it is inconsistent with nature and with reason, to believe that he would destroy his own home and property. Very properly falling into the hands of the enemy.

You, sir, I presume, believe with me, that our founders, who framed our Government, were wise and good men. But, as all men are born in ignorance, and have to get wisdom by experience, they had not arrived at perfection; nor did they see the absurdity of the State rights doctrine, and the doctrine of the Constitution being the supreme law of all the States, at the same time. This doctrine of State sovereignty was maintained with great tenacity by a large portion of our leading politicians to the close of the late war. In 1852 it ran so high as to cause South Carolina to pass an ordinance nullifying an Act of Congress. But as God would have it, we had in the chair of the Federal Government, at that time, a master spirit, in the person of Andrew Jackson, who, by issuing to the State a spirited and friendly proclamation, declared that all the forces and power at his command in the United States, would be put in requisition to enforce obedience to the law. Would to God a similar proclamation had been issued by Buchanan or Lincoln; for, without that difference, the wheels of Government must stop. But as there is only a very slight difference between Jackson and Johnson, I hope there may be no more difference in their success in restoring the reign of law and order throughout the United States, by doing justice to both parties according according to merit.

"Say ye to the righteous, it shall be well with him, for he shall eat the fruit of his doing; say ye to the wicked, it shall be ill with him, for the reward of his hands shall be given him." This is God's eternal, irrevocable decree; and a person may as well say, I can put my hand into fire and it shall not be burned, as to do evil and escape punishment.

Sir, I rejoice that this bloody, unnatural, uncalled-for war has ended, and settled the question of State Rights and State sovereignty. I hope forever for I know it has been a source of discord ever since the formation of the Government, and even before and at the time of its formation, between the Federal and Democratic parties. My father, brothers and uncles fought, suffered and bled to achieve the independence of the United States. I remember the angry discussion between the Whig and Tory parties (as they were then called), and afterwards, they were the Federal and Democrats.

When South Carolina passed the ordinance of secession in 1861, my poor heart trembled in my breast with the apprehension of a war; but a great many of our people did firmly believe that the United States Government would not make war, but would let the seceding States go in peace. I did have a hope that we would in that way avoid war; for, although I was only a child in the Revolution, I had suffered enough to know some of the evils of a war, besides the destruction of life. The thousands of innocent and helpless women, children, aged and unoffending farmers, tradesmen, and, in fact, all classes of people, it is enough to sicken the heart of any human who has sensibility. And the horrid barbarity, such as that brought to view in the affidavits quoted above, is too bad for the contemplation of any human, much less of any Christian people. To give a furlough to fifty or sixty thousand soldiers, to go into a city among families, children and old men, without any other protection, to do as they please for thirty-six hours; it is not any wonder that a man would feel ashamed to let the world know that he had done so, without he intended to either quit the country, or make the country quit him; far better would it be, and more Christianlike, to go with and keep them under command, and see that they did only what was right, and not inflict pain and punishment on the innocent: "I eat, in destroying the trees ye root out the wheat also."

"Sir, I hope and believe there are in Congress men of good feeling and good sense

enough to do justice, and who know that Gen. Sherman was the agent of the Government; and if he did wrong to any loyal subject, the Government is responsible for it. I say, as I said last August in a letter to His Excellency Andrew Johnson, my own Government has destroyed my living, by burning with fire all my property which I had acquired and laid up for my support in old age, and left me without the necessities of life, and all that for no fault of mine; and I now implore indemnity for my loss from that Government who has taken my living from me.

Yours respectfully,
BENJ. RAWLS.

THE TRI-WEEKLY COURIER.—We resume today the publication of the Tri-Weekly Courier, which was suspended on account of the interruption of mail facilities after the termination of the war.

Now that we are again placed in communication with our old patrons in the interior, by the extension of the various railroad lines, we redeem a promise made some time since, and send the Tri-Weekly Courier to those who have forwarded their subscriptions in advance of its publication.

It is unnecessary for us to make pledges as to what the Courier will be in the future. We, however, confidently refer to its record of the past, which is too well known throughout the length and breadth of the Southern and Southwestern States to require to be recounted in the present day.

The Tri-Weekly Courier will hereafter be published every Thursday, Saturday and Tuesday mornings, and will contain the latest and most reliable Telegraphic, Domestic and Foreign News, as well as the latest Commercial and Marine Intelligence—the whole forming a desirable and instructive sheet either for the place of business or the family circle.

We again return our thanks to the many kind friends who have already sent in their subscriptions, and trust the day is not far distant when we will be in direct communication with all sections of the country formerly visited by our paper, when we feel assured that we will have the pleasure of recording on our subscription books the names of many of our old patrons who have been spared through the long years of war from which our beloved country has so recently emerged, crippled in resources but undaunted in spirit.

With these remarks we close, hoping that through the blessings of Divine Providence, and by the aid of the wise counsel of our patriotic President, our divided country may soon be reunited on an honorable basis, and that the Southern States are yearning may be vouchsafed us, and that all our citizens may speedily repair their shattered fortunes, and again occupy the proud position, both socially and politically, for which they and their ancestors have been noted throughout the world.—Charleston Courier.

TWO APOSTLES.—Two remarkable sermons were preached Sunday in this city—one from the pulpit of a cathedral, breathing peace and good-will; one in a Puritan temple, howling strife and hatred. Bishop Lynch, pleading for the misery of the stricken and suffering, counselled "calmness, love and good feeling"; Presbyterian Cheever, buying the national triumph, reviled, in priestly bilingsgate, the chiefs of the people, who shrink from oppression and are rebuilding their ruins.

Which bears the Divine Commission—he who urges submission, "so the lawful power which has asserted its rights by force, or who flings dirt upon rulers whose moderation is wiser than his fury? Which is the Christian pastor, the Southerner, whose voice is raised in persuasion of fraternal love instead of complaint over injuries, or the Northerner who denounces the powers that be as "hypocrites and robbers," because they are not wild with his own madness?—X. Y. World, 1st inst.

FIRE AND MARINE LOSSES FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS.—The heavy fire and marine losses during the months of January and February of the present year have borne hard upon weak insurance companies. In January there were seventy-three fires, where the loss of each amounted to \$20,000 and upwards, and the total value of the property destroyed was within a trifle of \$7,000,000. There were forty-six of the same class of fires in February, attended with a loss of nearly \$5,000,000, making about \$12,000,000 for the two months. To this must be added at least \$3,000,000 worth of property destroyed where the loss was less than \$20,000 at each fire. The marine losses for the same time aggregate \$4,000,000, and the losses by steamboat disasters on our rivers and lakes to a million more. Here is a total of \$25,000,000 for two months! Strong companies will, of course, weather these periods of disaster, but weak ones must inevitably go under.—New York Herald, March 2.

It appears, from a communication from the War Department, dated March 28, that the number of volunteer troops in the army, on the 9th of January, was, white, 57,500; colored, 65,769; or an aggregate of 123,269. There were in the service, March 10, whites, 26,171; colored, 39,814; or an aggregate of 65,985, thus showing there have been mustered out of the service, since January, whites, 31,419; colored, 25,952; an aggregate of 57,371. Ordered to be mustered out since March 10, whites, 19,100; colored, 9,597; total, 19,793. Total reduction made and ordered, since January 9, whites, 49,255; colored, 35,411; aggregate, 84,666.

The musters out ordered will be completed by May 1. The work will be well advanced by April 10, and there will then be left in service, 17,065 white volunteers, and 20,217 colored, total, 47,282. It is proper to add that the Seventeenth Reg. U. S. Inf., United States Infantry, has been ordered to Texas, and upon its arrival, Major General Sheridan has been instructed to muster out all additional white volunteers in that department. There are now in service there, 3,681 that he can spare. This contemplated reduction will be additional to that referred to in the above summary.

The Washington National Republican, of Monday, asserts that the President has laid up for prosecution 500 of the most prominent Confederates, whom he holds for the purposes of justice.

Cotton Growing in Venezuela.

The subjoined very interesting report from Mr. Linden, Director of the Zoological Gardens of Brussels, and also Director of the botanical section of the Jardin d'Acclimatation, at Paris, to the Directors of the English Cotton Company, supplies the best proof of the capabilities of Venezuelan soil for the production of cotton.

To the Directors of the Venezuela Cotton Company (Limited) London:

GENTLEMEN:—You have done me the honor to ask me my opinion on an undertaking, the object of which is to extend the cultivation of cotton in Venezuela, and particularly in that part of the Bolivar State bordering the river Tucuayo, in the province of Coro.

Having been entrusted with a scientific mission by the Government of His Majesty the King of the Belgians, during a period of twelve consecutive years in the various parts, extra and intratropical of America, such as the Brazil, the Island of Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico, Guatemala, New Granada, Venezuela and the United States of America, I have had opportunities of forming a sound opinion of the respective advantages which these several States offer for the cultivation of cotton; and I do not hesitate to declare that of all these countries, not even excepting the actual centre of American cotton production, Venezuela possesses within itself the most completely favorable element for the cultivation of the important article of cotton which at this moment is of such absorbing interest, not only to England, but to the continent of Europe generally.

At a distance, by sailing vessels, of seventeen days navigation from England and France, Venezuela is, of all the southern continents of America, the nearest country to Europe. It has a great extent of coast, and possesses several ports in which ships of the largest tonnage can anchor. Although wholly situated beneath the torrid zone, and in immediate proximity of the line, the northern parts of this vast country, comprised between the ninth and eleven degrees north latitude, and from the sixty-first to the seventy-fifth degrees of longitude (meridian of Paris), enjoy, with the exception of some points on the coast, a healthy climate, moderate temperature, and exemption from those excessive heats experienced on the low plains of the southern parts, known under the name of "Llanos."

The regions suitable for the cultivation of cotton are situated on plateaus several hundred feet above the level of the sea. The cotton plant grows wildly in several parts, and the staple is equal, if not superior to that now grown in the South of the United States. I shall be happy to prove this assertion by sending you a sample picked upon the spot.

I traveled over and explored Venezuela in every direction during a period of three years, and thus you will conceive the Bolivar State which you possess for your enterprise was not exempted from my investigation. I approve of a great part of the land which you have selected, and I particularly wish to call your attention to that part of the country known under the name of "Meseta," which is comprised between the river Tucuayo and the Mountain chain of Arica. Watered by the Tucuayo on the one side, and by many streams descending from the mountains on the other side, these lands have upon them a system of irrigation particularly suited to the cultivation of cotton.

The soil is of prodigious fertility, and the climate leaves nothing to be wished for, in respect of salubrity. The sides of the mountains are covered with magnificent forests, which are covered with a magnificent forest, and the soil is suitable for all building, naval and cabinet-making purposes. It is the chosen spot of the celebrated milk-tree, or (Palo de vaca) "Galactea-dron uila," from which the natives, by making incisions in the trunk, obtain a milk as nutritive as agreeable. The neighboring peninsula of Paragana, being thickly populated, and several other points on the coast of Coro, will supply you with sufficient free labor for the commencement of your cultivation. The wages are about one shilling a day.

The river Tucuayo, navigable far beyond the limits of your property, will facilitate the direct carriage of your products to the port of Puerto Cabello, which is only forty miles distant.

Puerto Cabello is effectually sheltered from these gales and hurricanes which ravage the West Indies. Ships of the largest tonnage can receive their cargo there.

The Tucuayo District consequently offers all desirable guarantees for the success of your enterprise—fecundity of soil, natural irrigation, healthy climate, neighboring population to supply you with labor, and finally, remarkable facilities for the shipment of your produce.

I am persuaded, even if the war had not broken out in the United States, and thus aroused England to develop the growth of the cotton plant in other parts, that sooner or later, and from the price of things, Venezuela was destined to become the most productive country, in cotton, of the two continents of America.

It requires but the presiding genius of Europe to stimulate it, and to disclose the inexhaustible resources of its soil. I shall feel happy if this information contributes to such a result, and if it induces you to persevere in your great and praiseworthy enterprise, which has all my sympathy, and which I look upon as the beginning of a new era for the "extension" of cotton production, while at the same time it will tend to the future prosperity of Venezuela.

Your enterprise is worthy of all the support of the Venezuelan Government, who, it cannot be doubted, will favor it every possible way.

I terminate by offering you my further services in anything in which I can be useful, and beg of you to believe me to be, gentlemen, &c.,
J. LINDEN.

Paris, 21st September, 1861.

Information received from the land office at Little Rock, Arkansas, is to the effect that sales indicate a much more extended resumption of business than was anticipated a few months ago. Money is from some sources forthcoming in considerable sums for the purchase of lands, and agricultural prospects are brightening wonderfully.