

THE TRI-WEEKLY NEWS.

By Gaillard & Desportes.]

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THE TRI-WEEKLY NEWS

BY GAILLARD AND DESPORTES.

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Notes on the Constitution of the United States.

BY D. B. M'CREIGHT.

No. 1.

History of the Constitution.

The Constitution of the United States, like all other features of human society, is the creature of circumstances. The political principles claimed in, and granted by MAGNA CHARTA in 1215, rolled down the current of time, eddying here, almost stagnant there, and anon dashing on with the fury of a flood, until they rolled out upon the great sea of liberty which swelled up over the dark forests of the New World. The close of the Revolution found the original thirteen colonies recognized as sovereign powers by the great sovereignties of Europe. This new relation to the other powers, this novel position in the world, laid upon the colonies responsibilities unknown to them before. Each colony had become an independent sovereignty. Each had absolute control over its own territory. Each was now in possession of that jewel for which it had fought, and that jewel was the right of the people to say what should be the character of their government. Just emerging from a bloody strife in which their foes contended that they had no right to claim that jewel, it is not surprising that each State (for the colonies had become such) should guard that jewel with the most jealous care.

The extreme caution observable in the "Articles of Confederation," adopted in July, 1778, shows how sensitive the new-born States were upon all matters touching the sovereignty of States. That separate existence which each had been accorded, each was anxious to preserve. Indeed so chary were the States of this principle, that the compact formed by the "articles of confederation and perpetual union," failed altogether in its purposes. Those purposes are clearly set forth in that agreement, and there is no question about the intention of making the union under that compact "perpetual," but the powers delegated to the "congress assembled" were so overshadowed by those reserved by the States respectively, that it required but nine years to prove how inadequate that compact was to fulfill the ends for which it was formed.

It has already been stated that the present Constitution of the United States is the creature of circumstances, and those circumstances are as follows.

The end of the Revolutionary War found the Confederacy involved in a debt for the discharge of which no adequate powers had been vested in the Congress. This debt could only be met by calling upon the States for money. As there was no provision made

for compelling the States to raise the necessary funds, they could heed the call, or not, just as they they chose. And the appeals from Congress did become piteously urgent. But the jealous and sensitive sovereignty of the States stood aloof from what it supposed might be a measure to compromise its powers. From 1781 to 1786 no satisfactory understanding could be reached as between the States and Congress upon the revenue and commercial questions. So a few States sent commissioners to Annapolis in the latter year to meet and consider what was best to be done in the premises. These commissioners, finding that no amicable ends could be reached upon the commercial affairs of the country, organized and proposed a plan which they laid before Congress then in session in New York, to call a convention of all the States for the next May, "to take into consideration the situation of the United States—to render the Constitution of the Federal Government adequate to the exigencies of the Union."

Accordingly the Convention met on the 14th of May, 1787, and on the 17th of Sept. of the same year, adopted unanimously that Constitution for the Government of the United States, which patriots of giant intellectual strength have ever delighted to honor, but which in the hands of Stevens and Sumner is of no more value, and can command no more respect, than the unseemly rag pitched by the scavenger into the cess-pool.

On the day of its adoption the Convention transmitted the new Constitution to Congress then meeting in New York, together with a letter signed by George Washington, President of the Convention. As that letter was sent by the unanimous order of the Convention, and as the framers of the Constitution are certainly the best judges of what were the design and scope of that instrument, and as that letter gives these in a most clear and succinct form, the greater part of it is herein given, and will close this paper on the history of the Constitution.

LETTER OF GENERAL WASHINGTON.

In Convention, September 17th, 1787.

SIR: We have now the honor to submit to the consideration of the United States in Congress assembled, that Constitution which has appeared to us the most admirable.

It is obviously impracticable, in the Federal Government of these States, to secure all the rights of independent sovereignty to each, and yet provide for the interest and safety of all. Individuals entering into society must give up a share of liberty to preserve the rest. The magnitude of the sacrifice must depend as well on situation and circumstance as on the object to be obtained. It is at all times difficult to draw with precision the line between those rights which must be surrendered and those which may be reserved; and on the present occasion this difficulty was increased by a difference among the several States as to their situation, extent, habits, and particular interests.

In all our deliberations on this subject, we kept steadily in our view, that which appears to us the greatest interest of every true American,—the consolidation of our Union—in which is involved our prosperity, felicity, safety, perhaps our national existence. This important consideration, seriously and deeply impressed on our minds, led each State in the Convention to be less rigid on points of inferior magnitude than might have been otherwise expected; and thus the Constitution which we now present is the result of a spirit of amity, and of that mutual deference and concession which the peculiarity of our political situation rendered indispensable.

(Signed) GEORGE WASHINGTON,
President (of Convention.)

His Excellency the PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS.

An Interesting Story of the War—Facts Stranger than Fiction.

There are now living in Cincinnati a family, the history of which forms something so romantic as to constitute a most interesting story:

In the summer of 1859, Charles Geroux became a graduate of a college in the Southern part of this State. He was a descendant of an aristocratic family who lived in Louisiana, and, to be brief, he was then a full embodiment of the "chivalry," just having entered his majority. While attending college, he had formed the acquaintance of Clara G—, who attended a college for young ladies in this city, which acquaintance ripened in attachment and love, and, just before the breaking out of the rebellion, they were married, and removed South. Miss G— was an orphan, possessed of a considerable property, which was held in trust by her uncle, a Southern minister, who had raised her from infancy, and personally superintended her education. In addition to the endowments of a collegiate education, she was possessed of a strong character, bordering almost on the masculine, but tempered with a sweetness and mildness not often combined in the same person. She was at once handsome and womanly.

Within a year after their marriage and settlement in the South, came the fierce, wild blasts of war from Sumter's parapet, and there was none more ready to enter the deadly fray than Charles Geroux. His political tutors were practical secessionists, and he entered upon the war with a fervor and zeal to command the admiration of his friends, and which secured him a major's commission. His wife opposed his mad scheme with all the power of a woman's eloquence, but to no avail. She openly espoused the cause of the Union, and steadfastly refused to co-operate with her new friends and neighbors. Notwithstanding her love for the old flag, and open Unionism, her husband loved her, and while her husband was at home, the neighbors respected her. Geroux invested all his ready property, which included his wife's fortune, in Confederate bonds, placed them in her hands, gave her a kiss for a short farewell, assuring her that the war would soon be over, and, marching at the head of a victorious column of his country's defenders, she would be proud to welcome him. After his departure, her treatment by his relatives and neighbors became almost intolerable because of her hatred of secession.

After two years of service in the Confederate army, he was captured a prisoner by the victorious Sherman, in his march to Atlanta, and sent to Camp Douglas.

This was good news to his wife, who could no longer endure the persecutions she received at the South, and she resolved to make her way North and rejoin him in his prison home, and if she could not secure his pardon, to at least stay near him. Her Confederate bonds were worthless, and she was penniless; she made her way to the Mississippi River, and took passage on the ill-fated steamer Sultana for the North; she sold some jewelry for money sufficient to carry her to Chicago. Arriving at Memphis, her child was taken very ill, and by the advice of the captain of the Sultana, she remained there to secure medical aid for the child. Within twenty-four hours thereafter, the boiler of the Sultana exploded, and 1,200 lives were lost.

Geroux fared ill at ease in Camp Douglas, and made many stratagems to escape. He finally succeeded in bribing a raw sentinel to let him pass; and to avoid pursuit, a resort to deception became necessary. A comrade of his was on the point of death. His mess dressed the dead soldier in the Major's uniform, and conveyed him to the dead house, and gave his name as "Major Charles Geroux, Third Louisiana Regiment, Confederate States army." The next morning the body was taken away and buried, and the rank, name, regiment, and place of burial, were duly recorded in the register of Camp Douglas dead by C. H. Jordan, the undertaker for the Government at Chicago. That night Geroux escaped. His absence created no inquiry, as he was reported dead.

For the purpose of avoiding public roads and conveyances, he took a horse from a pasture near Camp Douglas, belonging to J. L. Hancock, formerly President

of the Board of Trade of Chicago, and by avoiding public roads as much as possible, reached Momence the next day. His actions excited suspicion, and he was arrested on suspicion of having stolen the horse, and was lodged in the Kankakee jail. He was taken out on a writ of *habeas corpus*, and no proof being found to hold him, he was discharged. Coming thence to this city, he obtained a situation in a wholesale grocery house.

After the usual delays in passing letters through the lines, he learned that his two brothers were killed in the battle of the Wilderness, that his father's estate had been confiscated to the United States Government, and his father had voluntarily exiled himself to Mexico. Of his wife and child, the only information was that they had sought to get North, and took passage on the Sultana, since which they had not been heard of, and no doubt remained that they had perished. His true position had been studiously concealed, and he avoided his former acquaintances. Shortly after he received this intelligence from the South, Sherman had started on his grand march from Atlanta, and Grant marshaled his grand army before Petersburg, and the Confederate States army vanished almost as a vision. During the past summer, Geroux returned to the South, and was fully confirmed in the information he had received about his family, and that his real estate had also been confiscated. He gave his wife and child up as lost, and returned to Cincinnati.

After his wife and child had remained in Memphis, and escaped the disaster of the Sultana, she started for Chicago, and reached Camp Douglas. Impatient at the delay, she hastened there with expectations high to meet him who was dearer to her than life. The reader can picture to himself the agony of this sad wife. A stranger, destitute of money, carrying in her arms a weakly child not yet recovered from a severe illness, and she herself worn out with fatigue and anxiety, when she learned that her husband was dead. There was no doubt of his death; the registry kept at Camp Douglas showed it, and the grave was pointed out to her, which bore this description on a pine board:

"MAJOR GEORGE GEROUX,
Third Louisiana Infantry."

The same grave this day is neatly sodded over, and at its head grows a rose-bush.

Broken hearted and bowed down with grief, she wended her way on foot to the great city of Chicago—not knowing why she went. A stranger among strangers, with no one to aid or pity her, save the good God, who, in her utmost heart, she believed had forsaken her.

She was taken in and cared for by the Sisters of Charity until she could hear from her friends in Ohio, from whom she had received no intelligence for the past four years. A letter was received, stating that immediately after the war her uncle had died, and that, soon after, his widow had removed to Iroquois County, Illinois, to live with her married son. Mrs. Geroux was supplied with money to enable her to find her friends in Iroquois County, where she has since resided.

Geroux returned to his situation at Cincinnati, and was sent by his firm to collect a debt due in Iroquois County. While there, he sought out the attorney who had him discharged on the *habeas corpus* to learn the whereabouts of the horse that did him such good service, and to secure his assistance in collecting his debt. He soon made himself known, and while they were discussing about the stolen horse, a lady and child entered the same office. There was a momentary pause, and husband and wife were in each other's arms. We shall not attempt to describe the scene which followed. The husband found a wife and child whom he firmly believed to be dead, and a wife found a husband over whose grave she had shed bitter tears of woe.

Mrs. Geroux was visiting the same attorney to find out about her husband's confiscated property, and to apply to the Government to have his property restored to her.—*Cincinnati Commercial*.

Conundrum by the author of the forged proclamation: Why are cross dogs like ladies in summer? Because they need maulin.

DAILY CAROLINA TIMES, Charlotte, N. C.

IS PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY, and furnished to subscriber, upon the following terms:

Daily Times, one year,	\$10.00
" " six months,	5.00
" " three months,	3.00
Tri-weekly Times, one year,	6.00
" " six months,	3.00
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The Weekly News, containing twenty-eight columns, a transcript of the Daily Times, is published every Tuesday, at \$3 per annum. Clubs of ten or more, \$2.50, and a copy to the getter up gratis.

Terms of advertising.—In the Daily and Tri-weekly Times, one square (ten lines or less) \$1 for first insertion and 50 cents for each subsequent insertion. A reasonable reduction made for advertisements inserted for a longer period than one month.

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All letters on business with the above publications should be addressed to,

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For one month before each subscription expires, a pencil mark on the margin will remind the subscriber to renew his subscription by an early remittance.

All communications should be addressed, John Wilkes, Treasurer, *Church Intelligencer*, Charlotte, N. C. Feb 1

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A NEW SERIES OF "THE BAPTIST BANNER,"

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I AM happy in being able to make the above announcement. *The Banner* will be published every Saturday.

Subscriptions are respectfully solicited. \$3.00 per annum. Address JAMES N. ELLS, Proprietor.

Each newspaper in Georgia and South Carolina will please copy twice, and send bill to J. N. E. sept 28'65—2

The Chester Standard,

BY GEORGE PITHER,

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT CHESTER C. H., S. C.

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BY JULIAN A. SELBY.

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This is the only daily paper in the State outside of the city of Charleston.

The Tri-Weekly Phoenix, for country circulation, is published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, and has all the reading matter of interest contained in the daily issues of the week.

Weekly Gleaner, a home companion, as its name indicates, is intended as a family journal and is published every Wednesday. It will contain eight pages of Forty Columns. The cream of the Daily and Tri-Weekly will be found in its columns.

Daily, one year,	\$10 00
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Weekly, one year,	4 00
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The Keowee Courier,

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