

INTELLIGENCER.

Anderson, S. C.

VOLUME I. NUMBER 4.

MEMORIAL.

At a meeting of the citizens of Abbeville District, held on the 21st ultimo, the following memorial to the President of the United States was unanimously adopted, and each paper in the State was requested to copy:

To his Excellency, Andrew Johnson,
President of the United States:

The memorial of the citizens of Abbeville District, South Carolina, assembled in mass meeting, respectfully sheweth,

That South Carolina has laid down her arms, hostilities have ceased in her borders, and yet our people enjoy neither the blessings of peace nor the protection of law. We have not, and know not any persons in this State, who have the purpose or the inclination to renew the contest in any form. The speedy and complete restoration of our relations to the Constitution of the United States and the Union, and the peace and security which they guarantee to the citizen, are our unfeigned desire and the great want of our whole country. In view of these desirable ends, we pledge, in good faith, ready and unreserved submission and obedience to all lawful authority.

The state of our exhausted means and resources requires the fostering care of law and order. Parts of our State are under the inconvenient restraints of military authority, whilst large sections, including that in which we live, are without any form of government. All civil rule and rulers are suspended, and men are subject to no other restraint than those which habit, or their own sense of propriety imposes. All experience attests that these voluntary restraints are inadequate to repress the rapacious and other vicious passions of men. Crime, outrage and wrong are perpetrated with impunity upon the peaceable and helpless. Our community depends upon voluntary and irregular organizations for the protection of persons and property, and a sense of insecurity depresses the energy and disturbs the repose of our people.

The efficiency of the great laboring class of the State has been seriously, and, we fear, disastrously, impaired by inconsistent military regulations. This whole body of laborers has been demoralized by the removal of the domestic regulations to which they have been accustomed, and the failure to substitute any other discipline or government over them. The able-bodied men and women have, in many instances, abandoned the farms upon which they were employed, leaving behind them the children and the old to be supported by the proprietors. In some instances husbands have deserted their wives and children, and we have known both father and mother to abandon their infant to be cared for by others. We have not seen that these laborers have been required by

any order to remain upon the farms and to labor for the present year, or even to assist in making and harvesting the growing crops. Many of those who left the farms have taken with them the mules and horses which were indispensable for the farm work. Those who remain upon the farms are generally indisposed to labor as they had previously done, or to be orderly and industrious, and many are loitering idle and mischievously through the country.

The devastation of whole districts of our State by armies or raiding parties—removing or destroying every animal for labor or food, every article for the subsistence of man or beast, every implement and appliance of agriculture, has left the whole agricultural population of the country in a most deplorable condition. The cotton crop of the last four years has been inconsiderable, as but a small area was allowed by law to be planted; and even now the supply of the mere necessities of life is not only meagre everywhere, but in some districts wholly exhausted. This section is without mail facilities, and its communications by railroad have been wholly interrupted, and are not likely soon to be restored.

These evils are greatly aggravated by the total absence of any circulating medium. Gold and silver are possessed by but few, and by these few in small sums. The stock of cotton on hand will supply but little if any more money than will be necessary to pay taxes, and we fear that a large number of farms must inevitably be sold for that purpose. The growing crop of cotton can add but little, it is believed not one fourth of a million of bales, to the existing stock, which probably does not amount to one and a half million of bales.

Amongst the great disasters which the wise and prudent amongst us behold in the immediate future of our unhappy country, is a conflict between the white and black races, which there is much in their sundered relations to incite, and in many parts of our State no power of civil or military government to repress. This danger is fearfully augmented in its imminency and in its horrors, by the superior numerical strength of the blacks over the whites, and by the fact that the latter are generally being disarmed of all offensive weapons, while many of the former are in the possession of fire arms and are expert in the use of them.

These political, social and industrial evils have greatly paralyzed the mechanical and agricultural industry of our country, and sadly depressed the spirit and energies of our people.

In tender consideration whereof, we crave the prompt aid of the government, by remedial and preventive measures, to mitigate the evils that disturb us at the present, and to avert the calamities that menace us in the future.

We pray that our legislature may be allowed to hold its usual sessions, and may have wisdom to devise measures suitable to the necessities of the State. That a convention of the people may be assembled; that the Congress of the United States may exhibit the magnanimity and

statesmanship which the difficult posture of affairs requires; that the President of the United States may so exercise the high powers entrusted to him by the constitution and laws, as to acquire for himself imperishable renown, and for his country the blessings of peace, harmony and universal prosperity. That courts—Federal and State—may again exercise their beneficent powers among us, crimes be restrained, contracts enforced, controversies peaceably settled, and opportunity given for easy access to judicial authority. That postal facilities may be again afforded to us. That our public offices may be re-opened, and our private avocations safely and profitably resumed. And that in all respects our State Government may re-assume its functions, and the relations of our people and State to the Constitution and Union be speedily re-established.

We recommend to our fellow citizens in other parts of our State, an early exposition of their views on the subject of our deliberations. We desire that this memorial be respectfully laid before the President of the United States; and to give greater effect to the voice of the State, as it may proceed from primary meetings, we suggest that a deputation of citizens should, if permitted, wait upon the President. We, on our part, nominate as one of such deputation, our fellow citizen, the Honorable Armistead Burt, who is possessed with the sense of this meeting, and the ills we suffer, much more fully than we have been able to express them; and if this should be agreeable to other meetings, we hope they will confirm the appointment of Mr. Burt, and add to him other suitable persons from their respective districts or sections.

RE-ORGANIZATION.—The work of re-organization of the States is being pushed rapidly forward. The following have elected regular governors:

Kentucky, Thomas E. Bramlette; Maryland, Thomas Swann; Tennessee, William G. Brownlow; Virginia, Francis H. Pierpont; Missouri, Thomas C. Fletcher; Louisiana, James M. Wells.

The President has appointed the following Provisional Governors for the following States:

North Carolina, William W. Holden; Georgia, James Johnson; Mississippi, William L. Sharkey; Texas, Andrew J. Hamilton; Alabama, Wm. E. Parsons.

Provisional Governors are yet to be appointed for the States of South Carolina and Florida.

TAX ON COTTON.—As there appears to be a wide difference of opinion, even among well informed men in all quarters, as to the precise effect of the Executive proclamation of the 13th instant on the cotton trade, it is thought proper to state that all restrictions on trade in that article east of the Mississippi are removed, and the only tax it is now required to pay is that of two cents per pound imposed by the internal revenue laws.—*N. Y. Herald.*

Cotton has been selling in Columbus, Ga., at 22 cents. It is worth 18 cents at Abbeville in green-backs.