

Who burnt Columbia? A Suggestion. We have taken a second look into the pamphlet published by the counsel for the claimants before the "Mixed Commission on British and American Claims" in Washington, in which the importance of the question of who burnt Columbia is presented to the people of the South, in the testimony of the two leading officers of the United States as it relates to this question, and in extracts from depositions for the claimants. The object is that the people shall see that the matter is not insignificant. It concerns their honor and possibly their interests, and it concerns truth and justice. As far as in them lies, they should contribute their aid to settle it. No doubt, much valuable information may still be brought forward. It is certainly desirable that it should be done. We think that we see a double utility in it. Our people, who know how things were here, who know the guilt of Gen. Sherman and his soldiers to be indisputable, do not fully realize how prone the judgments of men are to side with the victors in any contest. It is the upper dog in the fight who gets the most cheering. Sherman and his people deny the deliberate burning of the town, and although their own statements and denials, read as we know how to read them, are almost sufficient to convict them of the crime which they are evidently apprehensive will be fixed on them, we must remember that they will appear in a different light in communities which admire the military conduct of Sherman, and who, regarding him a great General, are unwilling to credit charges against his humanity and truthfulness. The facts should all be brought out with the greatest possible fullness. Let us have a blaze of light, in which the falsehoods, prevarications, suppressions and evasions of Howard and Sherman shall be made manifest to all the world, as they are to ourselves already.

It may suit General Sherman, yielding the baton of power, and basking in the smiles of governmental and popular favor, while, as we have no doubt, smarting at the same time under the charges which his conscience tells him are true, to say that he "would not, on the mere say so, or even the oath of any person in Columbia that night, when he would state that he saw a fire kindled in a house, or in a shed, whereby it spread to the adjoining property, he would not believe it, unless it were confirmed by some of my (his) own people." Such incredulity may be popular to-day, but time will come when the truth will be regarded. As it rolls on and facts become settled, they will be separated from such prejudices as cloud them now, and relieved from such clogs as Sherman would impose on them. The question is a wide and open one. General Sherman may influence it to a just extent, but, thank Heaven, he cannot absolutely determine it. All who have any positive knowledge of the events of the dreadful night of February 17, 1865, in Columbia, should come forward and aid to elucidate the question. They should do so as men who are able to further the ends of justice, by throwing the light of their information, of their knowledge of facts, upon a disputed point, destined to have historic value.

We suggest, further, that such testimony may become of value in another point of view. Hate, prejudice and injustice cannot last always. The time will come when, prejudices having faded away, a better feeling will re-appear, and the long-banished sense of right and justice to the South shall return again. Time will be a friend of those who, having suffered wrong, yet remain true to duty, and who, maintaining their integrity, commit their vindication into his hands. We may not live to see it, but in all probability, in a few revolving cycles of time, investigations will be instituted into the losses sustained by individuals in the South, arising out of violations of the laws of war. Some day, there may be another commission, before which it will not be necessary to establish "loyalty," so-called. The proof of loss unlawfully incurred, of suffering inflicted unnecessarily and contrary to the usages of civilized warfare, will be sufficient to establish claims for a just remuneration and proper atonement. The spirit of justice in the Government towards us may be quickened by a sense of the power which it may yet be our destiny to wield. The future may have its retribution and its vindication for us. Those will fare best, then, who are best prepared with authentic documents certifying their losses and exhibiting their wrongs and injuries. Such statements as we find in this pamphlet, as made by Messrs. Stanley, Shelton, Glaze, McKenzie, Chambers, Gibbes and Bates, ought all to be carefully filed away, and if we

be true to ourselves and our children, we will not neglect it. "I saw a man," says Captain Stanley, "with the uniform of a United States soldier, on the store of Mr. Robert Bryce, and with a fire-brand about four feet in length, wrapped on one end with canvas, put fire to the store of Mr. Bryce under the roof." "I saw persons," says Mr. Glaze, "in the uniform of United States soldiers, setting fire to the city in various places. I saw two such persons fire Mr. Phillips' auction warehouse. They opened the door and threw balls, which they had set on fire," &c. Says Mr. McKenzie, "the fire occurred in twenty or thirty different places at the same time, and so far from each other, that they could not have been connected." Mr. Bates testifies: "I saw several instances of Federal soldiers actually applying fire to buildings. I saw United States soldiers carry the fire by torches, and apply it to the buildings which were not then burning." Mr. Jas. G. Gibbes saw soldiers fire his father's house, after it had escaped the general conflagration. Mr. Chambers saw Federal soldiers, commanded by an officer, setting fire to houses in the upper part of the city. Mr. Shelton witnessed a party of soldiers fire a residence corner of Washington and Bull streets. Testimony such as this may prove of great value some day. It is, at least, a duty, and will not cost much to collect and preserve it. Our friends North, we are sure, if they had such a possession, would turn it to good account.

SOCIAL EQUALITY AT THE INAUGURAL.—Some of the Northern journals are offended at the social equality feature of the grand inaugural ball. One spectacle in particular, they say, "called forth special indignation"—a "perfectly white man sandwiched between two colored women." In view of the President's inaugural speech, which they have so loudly applauded and loyally approved, this "awkwardness" of our Northern-brothers seems, both ill-timed and absurd. The doctrine of civil rights, which Gen. Grant so earnestly urges upon the equality, amounts practically to nothing more nor less than social equality. If the colored people are to be forced into Southern hotels, theatres, churches and schools, we do not see why they shouldn't go to balls and lift their heels with the upper crust of Northern society. Saucy, which is proclaimed a good thing for the goose, can't be objectionable when applied to the gander.

THE TYPE METAL STATUE TO HORACE GREELEY.—The proposed erection of a type metal statue in New York in honor of Horace Greeley, through contributions from the typographical and newspaper fraternity throughout the United States, promises to be a complete success. This design to perpetuate the memory of a man who shed such a halo of honor upon the "art preservative," in the just distinction which he earned as the great printer-editor of America, is as appropriate as it is deserved, and commends itself as well to the appreciation of the craft in South Carolina, as to their brethren of New York, or elsewhere. All donations of money should be sent to the "President of New York Typographical Union, No. 6, No. 22 Duane street," and all type metal sent to the "President of New York Typographical Union, No. 6, care of John G. Lightbody, No. 24 Beekman street, New York city."

MORE TERRITORY.—The new King of the Sandwich Islands is willing to give the United States a chance to secure a foot-hold in his dominions, and offers to cede to the Government the bay of Pearl River, to be used as a naval station. As the Administration has laid down the proposition that the more territory we acquire—no matter in what part of the globe it may be situated—the stronger we become, the offer will probably be accepted, and a foundation be laid for the annexation at no distant day of all of these islands.

AT WORK.—It is stated that the surveys on the Norfolk and Charleston Railroad will be made at once. One surveying party has already left Norfolk, or are about to leave that city—coming South, and that another will, in a few days, leave Charleston going North. The people on this line will, before long, be allowed to decide how much their Counties shall contribute to this enterprise, which will be of immense advantage to that section of the State. If they manifest the interest it is believed they feel on the subject, the road will be completed and in running order before two years have rolled around.

"J. N." CORNERED.—The Savannah News, yesterday, says: "The notorious champion national 'dead beat,' who announces himself as 'J. N., the philosopher,' endeavored to come his usual game over the proprietors of the Pulaski House, on Saturday, but miserably failed, and had to pay out one dollar for his voracious appetite at dinner."

HOIST BY THEIR OWN PETARD.—THE NORTH WEST KU KLUXED.—The following article, which we extract from the World, "points a moral," as well as "adorns a tale." The great West, which has been helping to keep down the South, now begins to feel "the blessings" of the late legislation of Congress, and will soon "know how it is itself." We trust the experience may be salutary, and lead it into the safer paths from which its people have strayed in following the delusive lights of the Northern ignis fatuus. The West is the natural ally of the South—and always was—although it became the unnatural enemy, rival and oppressor, under false teachings. We hope and believe a better and brighter state of things are coming. But in the meantime the Ku Klux Act is about being played in there. Here is the way it works:

KU KLUX IN ILLINOIS.—Probably it will surprise some of the law-abiding people of Illinois, who are engaged in a struggle for existence against the legalized monopoly power, to learn that there is an imminent likelihood of their being brought under the provisions of the Federal "Ku Klux law." Surprising though it may be to them, nevertheless such is the probability that no threat is too remote. The application of the North-western Fertilizing Company (a corporation chartered by the Legislature of Illinois) to the Federal Court in this city for a writ of certiorari to transfer the proceedings against that company, for unlawfully creating a nuisance, from the State Court to the Federal Court, under the Ku Klux Act, seems likely to be granted. If granted, the proceeding will make a precedent of which every railroad company, and every other legalized monopoly in this State, will make haste to avail itself, upon the commencement of any legal proceeding against it under the laws of Illinois. Thus virtually will the laws and the authority of Illinois over the lawless corporations of its own creating be set at defiance by the creatures. Thus will the sovereign people of Illinois be treated as "Ku Klux," and put under the heels of the monopolists, in virtue of that most infamous and most despotic enactment of a Credit-Mobilier-infected Congress.

This is the new and portentous danger that now threatens a people struggling to escape from the devouring jaws of legalized robbery. In a day or two, the decision, already foreshadowed, will be rendered by Judge Drummond, when the victims of paternalism in Illinois will know whether they are to be treated by the monopoly power as "Ku Klux" or not.

THE BRIGHT SIDE.—The last number of the Camden Journal contains a trenchant article, evidently from the pen of its new editor, Gen. Jos. B. Kershaw, which turns the attention of the reader to the bright side of the picture, as it exists at least in Kershaw County. The editor says:

Croaking has been so universal since the war, it was so well nigh justified by the hardships and trials we have undergone, that it was tolerated and encouraged until it has become a habit, and with many it is a confirmed chronic disease, worse than the evils it groaned over. A calm though hasty glance at our surroundings will convince any one that there is no further justification or excuse for the croaker. True, taxes are high and unjust—Government, State and County is oppressive, tyrannical and partial—demoralization is very common, even out of politics—but grumbling offers no cure.

In a political and social sense, we in old Kershaw are far better off than in most sections of the South, while in material matters we are prospering. Let the facts speak for this business season:

- 1. More cotton and corn have been produced than any other year since the war.
- 2. More cotton has been bought and sold in Camden.
- 3. More cotton has been shipped on our railroad, and less corn brought to us.
- 4. More money has been handled by our farmers, merchants, lawyers, &c.
- 5. More horses, mules and oxen are owned and worked in Kershaw County.
- 6. There is scarcely a vacant house or farm in the County.
- 7. Perfect health, peace and good order prevail.

Now, that list shows a tolerable condition at least. GRANT'S FUTURE.—A remarkable theory is put forth in a Western paper, and taken in connection with some hints thrown out by certain papers known to be in the confidence of the Administration, it is worthy, at least, of passing notice. The idea is, that General Grant is a candidate for a third term, that he knows he cannot hope to compete successfully with the impatient and aspiring statesmen and intriguers in the Republican party for the next nomination, that he is going to throw himself into the arms of the South, and that his forthcoming tour is a part of that programme. In other words, having exhausted his popularity with the Republican managers, he expects to get a new lease of official life through the support of the South and its friends. If there is any truth in these speculations, we would suggest to the President that the shortest way he can convince the South of his change of heart and future good intentions is to kick the usurping Kellogg Government in Louisiana out of doors.

A colored man, named Charles Caraghan, has been overhauled in Augusta, Ga., charged with robbing a gentleman of Barwell County, S. C., of \$65 worth of property.

A POOR CONFED.—The Battleboro (N. C.) Advance says: "On Saturday last, at Clayton, a man was found on the railroad, lying on his back; the blood was running from his mouth and ears, his body was stiff and cold, and to all external appearances, he was dead. The unfortunate man was taken up and carried into the railroad office at that place, and a fire made, in order to restore animation. In a short time, he raised up, and from his mouth there flowed a large quantity of clotted blood. Soon he was able to speak, with very great effort, in a whisper, when the following facts were learned concerning him: His name is Joseph Simmons. He has been in South Carolina, and is on his way foot to his home, twenty miles this side of Suffolk, where his mother resides. He was a Confederate soldier in Longstreet's corps, and was severely wounded at Petersburg. Since his last wound, he has been subject to these attacks, but they have become more frequent of late. He shows scars from four wounds; one through the hand, another through the mouth, one through the top of his head, and another through the breast, entering the right side, passing entirely through the lungs. The last named wound, he said, was the cause of the flow of blood from his mouth. He was cared for by friends until Monday morning, when ticks and money were given him to enable him to reach his home. He came all right as far as Enfield, and we learn that he was taken with another attack, and stepped from the train and was left. He was found on Monday evening almost frozen, and friends again took him in charge, and he was restored. On Tuesday morning, on being asked where he wished to go, he said Wilson. He was accordingly put on the train and started to that place. It is thought his mind is impaired, which we believe to be the case.

INQUESTS.—On last Tuesday, a colored woman, named Malsey Robertson, while working in a field in St. Andrew's Parish, attending to the burning of the corn stalks and refuse of the crop, took fire from the flames, and was so badly burned before assistance could be rendered her, that she died in a short while after the accident.

An inquest was held on Saturday, at No. 32 Line street, over the remains of a white infant two months old, and a verdict of death from neglect and starvation rendered. The mother of the child is the wife of a soldier who was attached to the garrison at the Citadel, but deserted from his command some time ago, and left his wife and child to take care of themselves. The mother became ill, and not able to give proper nourishment to her infant, gave it to another woman—the wife also of a soldier—to take care of for her. The emaciated condition of the child and the testimony adduced at the inquest, showed that it absolutely died as previously stated.

The coroner was informed, yesterday, that a colored man, known as Burrell, was drowned in Goose Creek, near the Tremont place, on Tuesday or Thursday last. He was on a flat with two other colored men, and fell off, his comrades report, and was drowned. The body was not recovered. The coroner will send one of his deputies to the locality to investigate the matter, and see if it occurred as reported.

CAUGHT THE SCOUNDREL.—Our readers will be really gratified to learn that the scoundrel who threw a billet of wood through the window of a car on a passing mail train, on the Wilmington, Columbia and Augusta Railroad, near Whiteville, some time since, by which Capt. B. G. Bryan, the conductor, has lost an eye, has been detected at last, and is now safely lodged in the jail at Whiteville. The miscreant is a negro by the name of Doc McClain, and has been employed as a track hand for some time past. For certain reasons, we abstain from giving here the manner in which his detection was effected. Suffice it to say, that it was skillfully planned and well carried out, and originated with President Bridgers and Superintendent Anderson, who were determined to spare neither pains nor expense in ferreting him out and bringing him to justice. Their well-laid plans have been crowned with a complete success, for the offender is now not only secured, but the evidence against him is said to be positive and convincing.—Wilmington Journal.

A serious affray occurred on Saturday night last, at Major W. W. Hutto's place, below Blackville, between two colored men, Nelson Stephens and Mattin Lawton, which resulted in the death of the former. Whiskey was the cause of the disturbance, one having accused the other of stealing his flask containing it, and both under its influence. Stephens was cut to the heart, and lived but a few minutes afterwards. A warrant of arrest was issued for Lawton, but up to the present time he has not been taken.

Mother Mary Videant, nee Mahoney, who was for many years Mother Superior of the convent of the Sisters of Mercy in Savannah, died in Atlanta last Saturday morning. Mother Vincent came to this country with Bishop England, in 1834, and entered the convent of the Sisters of our Lady of Mercy in November of the same year, at Charleston. She remained with them eleven years and then went to Savannah, the latter part of 1845, as first Superior of the convent on Liberty street.

FIRE IN GREENVILLE.—The gin-house of Capt. William Goldsmith, on the outskirts of Greenville, was burnt Friday morning. It is supposed to be the work of an incendiary. It contained four bales of cotton, 500 bushels of cotton seed, seven tons of Wando fertilizer and much else of value; loss estimated at \$2,500. No insurance.

Local Items.

CITY MATTERS.—The price of single copies of the PHOENIX is five cents. Accounts due the PHOENIX office must be settled promptly, as further indulgence cannot be given. We must have money to carry on business. Old newspapers for sale at PHOENIX office, at fifty cents a hundred. The latest styles wedding and visiting cards and envelopes, tastily printed, can be obtained at the PHOENIX office. Messrs. R. & W. C. Swaffield have adopted a novel mode of advertising. They attached their business cards to several rubber balloons, yesterday, and started them skywards. The ladies connected with the Baptist Church of this city give a promenade concert, in Mrs. Hinrichson's store, (nearly opposite PHOENIX office,) on the 18th and 19th instants. See advertisement. Prof. Carswell, the eminent temperance lecturer, will deliver an address in Irwin's Hall, this evening, at 8 o'clock. He has an enviable reputation. Yesterday, there was another commingling of the spring months, March, April and May—wind, rain and sunshine. It is said that a meteor fell Monday night, just North of the city, at about ten minutes past 10 o'clock. It was very large and brilliant, and fell perpendicularly to the earth. The light was of a bluish tint, and left a streak of light as it passed through the air, but the ball or meteor itself inside the flame was of a reddish cast. The night train over the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta Railroad ran off the track, Monday night, near Batesville, but, luckily, hurt nobody. A broken rail was the cause. A colored man, named Foster Johnson, who is now in *durance vile*, has been found to be the possessor of a quantity of clothing and nearly 200 keys. Some of the recent robberies may be traced to his door. The incessant tooting of railway whistles at night is becoming a nuisance. Cannot some other mode be adopted to announce arrivals and departures? Devout boarding-house keepers are scrupulous in their observance of the Lenten season. Messrs. Albrecht & Hoffman have just received a lot of monster Irish potatoes. They are extra fine and mealy. One of them will answer for a dinner for an ordinary eater. They are of the "White Peach Bloom" variety. Dr. D. H. Trezevant has been dangerously ill for several days, but we were pleased to learn, last night, that he was decidedly better. He is one of our oldest and most respected citizens. This is the season for planting, and those who have ten square feet of ground cannot use it better than by putting there some vine, or shrub, or flower. The taste of each individual must indicate what to plant, but be sure to plant something—it will pay. The main "Guy" of the Wheeler House was again caracoling through our streets, yesterday, upon his gay Rosinante. They (the horse and rider) were the observed of all observers. If the whole world should agree to speak nothing but the truth, what an abridgement it would make of speech.

PHOENIXIANA.—"This house for sale" reads a sign on Colfax's residence in Washington. The owner was bought some time ago. The latest verdict recorded was upon a gentleman who expired in a fit of insubordination. The jury returned: "Death by hanging—round a grog shop." Why does a photographer use a black cloth? To make his camera obscurer. Is it fair to define baby clothes as "bawl dresses?" The only food that is always cheap and abundant is the food of laughter. Christian statesmen are like gamblers—so uncertain.

PHOENIX.—A solemn and imposing festival, called Purim, or the Feast of Lots, is celebrated by the Jewish people on the 14th and 15th of the month Adar, corresponding to the 13th and 14th of our month of March; and the festival will therefore occur on Thursday and Friday, in memory of their deliverance from the conspiracy of Haman by Esther. A *bal masque* in honor of the festival is to be given by Gaza Lodge, I. O. B. E., of this city, in Irwin's Hall, to-morrow. The following description of the "Feast of Lots" will prove interesting:

These lots were cast in the first month of the year, and gave the twelfth month of the same year for the execution of Haman's design—to destroy all the Jews in Persia. Thus the superstition of Haman in crediting these lots, caused his own ruin and the preservation of the Jews, who had time to avert this blow by the influence of Esther. In memory of this deliverance, the Jews instituted an annual feast, which they named Pur (lots) or Purim. This festival is celebrated with every manner of rejoicing and hilarity, indulging in every kind of rational pleasure and good cheer. On the eve of the feast they give alms liberally to the poor, that they may also enjoy the Feast of Lots. On the evening of Adar 13th, when the feast begins, they assemble in the synagogue and light the lamps; and as soon as the stars begin to appear, they commence to read the book of Esther. There are five places in the text wherein the reader raises his voice to the highest point. When he comes to the place which mentions the names of the ten sons of Haman, he repeats them very quick, without taking breath, to show that those ten persons were destroyed in a moment. Every time the name of Haman is pronounced, the whole congregation clap their hands, stamp on the floor with their feet, and cry out: "Let his memory perish." A custom prevailed in the early practice of these ceremonies to bring into the synagogue a great stone, with the name of Haman written on it, and all the while the book of Esther was being read, they struck on it with other stones, till they had beaten it to pieces. The next day, early in the morning, they repair to the synagogue, where, after they have read that passage of Exodus (xvii: 8-16) wherein is mentioned the war of Amalek, they again read the book of Esther, with the same ceremonies as before. After quitting the synagogue, they make good cheer at home, and pass the rest of the day and evening in sports and mirth. They compel every one to be present at the synagogue—men, women, children and servants—because all shared in the benefits of the deliverance which Esther obtained for them. On this day scholars make presents to their teachers, heads of families to their domestics, the great to those in mean condition. In a word, the whole day and evening is spent in joyfulness, sports and fasting. As it is said in the book of Esther, ix. 22: "That they should make them days of feasting and joy, and sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor."

MANY MEDICINES IN ONE.—In speaking of the extraordinary rapidity with which Hostetter's Stomach Bitters recruit a debilitated and exhausted system, the preparation is usually referred to as a vegetable tonic of marvelous power. But those who suppose that its operation is limited to its direct effect upon the digestive organs, little understand the true nature of this comprehensive remedy. It is not only a tonic, but also a gentle laxative, an active anti-bilious medicine, a mild diuretic, and a general alterative. It is to this combination of many essential sanitary properties that the article owes its success in a variety of distressing complaints, each of which, in ordinary practice, is subjected to a different mode of treatment. It is impossible to investigate a feeble and diseased organization without regulating and purifying it. The Bitters do both.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Mexican Mustang Liniment. Hagan's Magnolia Balm. John F. Taylor—Wanted. Meeting Columbia Chapter. Wm. Flint & Co.—Agents Wanted. D. B. DeSaussure—Wanted. L. Stark—To Rent. John Agnew & Son—Potatoes. J. C. Dial—Rooms to Rent. Hope & Gyles—Porter and Ales. Key Lost. J. M. Long—Horses and Mules. J. D. Bateman—Apples. Report of Central National Bank. Baptist Promenade Concert.

There is a wicked Boston boy who writes to his parents in the country that he goes to the old South Church every Sunday morning. The post office is there now. A ship from New York was found abandoned and taken to Gibraltar. Everything on board ship was in perfect order, but there was no sign of life on board.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.—The Northern mail opens 6.30 A. M. and 3.00 P. M.; closes 8 P. M. and 11.00 A. M. Charleston day mail opens 6.15 P. M.; closes 6 A. M.; night opens 7.00 A. M.; closes 6.15 P. M. Greenville opens 6.45 P. M.; closes 6 A. M. Western opens 6.30 A. M. and 12.30 P. M.; closes 8 and 1 P. M. Wilmington opens 3.30 P. M.; closes 10.30 A. M. On Sunday the office is open from 3 to 4 P. M.

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