

A Valuable Suggestion.

A respected correspondent, who warmly commends the course of our journal, and whose name stands amongst the highest in South Carolina for patriotic feeling and practical sagacity, writes us a private letter, which embodies a suggestion that we think proper to make public.

We proceed to give an extract from the letter, containing a suggestion worthy of serious consideration:

"The people are opposed to paying the exorbitant taxes levied upon them, but they are equally averse to resisting the laws of the land. Already, thousands are rushing to the court houses, to pay up promptly and escape the impending penalty."

"Our anomalous position is not known throughout the Union, and we need not anticipate relief, except from ourselves. It seems to me the boil is now ripe to the core, and should be brought to a head."

"Let the native members of the bar in Columbia call for a mass meeting of the citizens of Richland County, to discuss the propriety and feasibility of making issue with the tax-gatherer on the subject of the taxes, whether or not we should pay all, three-fourths or half the levy; let them, too, advise their brethren to issue similar calls throughout the State."

Suspension from Practice of the Attorneys of the Citizens' Savings Bank.

When the attorneys of the Citizens' Savings Bank made their return to the rule requiring them to show cause why they should not be held to be in contempt of the court, it was thought the matter was near an agreeable solution.

Weeks have rolled by, the attorneys have been denied status in the court, and now we have a formal order, reiterating that the respondents are in contempt of its authority and orders.

"And it is further ordered, adjudged and decreed, (runs the language of this order,) that each of the respondents be, and he is hereby, suspended from his office of attorney, solicitor and counsellor in the Circuit and Probate Courts of this State, and forbidden to practice therein, until the property and effects of the Citizens' Savings Bank of South Carolina shall be restored to the custody of this Court, and until all fees received by him since November 22, 1873, from the funds of said bank, shall be restored to the said bank and to the custody of this Court."

We anxiously await the publication of the opinion, to see upon what grounds Judge Carpenter places his extraordinary order and decree. Evils and troubles seem to be thickening in every department of the State Government.

Adjourned Meeting.

As will be seen by notice of the chairman of the public meeting held in this city on Monday last, the adjourned meeting is postponed to next Wednesday, the 21st inst. The committee were unable to have an interview with Gov. Moses on yesterday, owing to his absence from his office, caused by indisposition.

BILLS OF THE BANK OF THE STATE.

A meeting was held in Charleston on the 12th, to take such action relative to the bills of the Bank of the State as would cause them to be received for taxes, as decreed by the highest legal authority in the country—the Supreme Court of the United States.

Montgomery Blair on Some of the Secrets of the War.

A correspondent of the New Orleans Picayune writes thus of Sidney Johnston at Shiloh and Hood at Atlanta:

The writer, in looking over a Virginia paper, the Lexington Gazette, was forcibly struck with an article which contained the substance of a conversation or interview of the Hon. Montgomery Blair, at the Virginia Springs, this past summer, upon some of the secrets of the late war.

"BLAIR'S INTERVIEW OF HIMSELF.—While spending a day or two at the Rockbridge Alum, last month, the visit of the Hon. Montgomery Blair, in 1868, to the same springs, was brought to mind, and some things connected with the late war and related by him were freshened in the memory. At this distance of time, entire accuracy is impossible, but the report is correct in the main. Mr. Blair made a public address at the Alum; but his conversations in his porch of evenings were specially interesting. He was Mr. Lincoln's Postmaster-General, and knew much of the inside of the Washington Government. His brother, Gen. Frank Blair, served in the Western army. He said it was twice in the power of our Southern commanders to have achieved great victories. At Shiloh, (they call it Pittsburg Landing,) a great fight was won, but the fruits thrown away. When the Confederate forces halted, the Federals were ready to surrender. Thirty minutes more of active firing and pushing would have ended in the capture of Grant and his command. Half of his troops had already thrown down their arms, and were sheltering themselves under the river banks. The gun-boats were firing, but their shot passed over the Confederates. The bluffs along the river required too high elevation of the cannon. He had heard that the shells from the boats burst among the high officers in the rear of the Confederate army, and led them to think their soldiers were suffering severely in their approach by the river, and ordered a halt. He mentioned a sally from Atlanta by Hood, killing Gen. McPherson, one of the most talented officers of the Federal army. The death of this great soldier and the impetuous and unchecked advance of Hood threatened the United States forces with destruction. Sherman and his generals were aware of the crisis, and not hopeful of a happy issue. He weakened his line at other points, and crowded Hood with fresh troops, till his terrible advance was slackened and stopped. If half the enterprise exhibited by Hood had been shown by his subordinates, the ranks of the Federals, weakened by the men sent to oppose the victorious onset of the Confederate General-in-Chief, would have been broken through, and Sherman put to flight or collapsed into a surrender. Mr. Blair said his brother, Gen. Frank Blair, drew for him the battle-field, and assured him that the movement of Hood would be rated among military men as probably the most brilliant of the war, and that the escape of the Union army from ruin was owing more to supineness in some Southern officers than from any skill in the Federals."

The writer was in both of the battles referred to, occupying a front position in both. At Shiloh his line was advanced on the evening of the 6th until it was in easy musket range of the banks of the Tennessee River, where were huddled in a wild, frightened and shuddering mass the remnant of Grant's powerful army, which had been hurled back with tremendous losses and an annihilated organization to the water's edge by the masterly strategy and unequalled onslaught of General Albert Sidney Johnston, commanding the Confederate forces. Never was morale and organization so completely destroyed in an army by one blow, as in the Federal army under Grant on the evening of 6th of April at Shiloh—the sun rose that morning upon as proud an army as the Federal Government could boast, and set that evening upon a "hapless host of fugitives," crushed and cowering under the sheltering bank of the Tennessee. If the death blow of that grand old chieftain, of whose life, genius and patriotism his native Kentucky and her sister States may well be proud, had not been given, the star of Grant, then glimmering in the ascendant, would have gone down in a sea of bloody and irretrievable disaster—in the critical moment, when the hands of the Federal army were extended to their enemy for a merciful surrender, a halt was ordered. A few gun-boats in the river kept up a scattering but innocent shelling of our lines, while Buell, with a large Federal force, marched rapidly by forced marches to the succor of Grant, and thus was saved the Federal army. One brigade of ours, if moved forward after the fatal halt, would have received the surrender of all that was left of a once proud army.

At Atlanta the other event occurred where Sherman came near losing his whole army. General J. B. Hood had just been placed in command of the Western army, worn down, as it was at the time, by an unremitting policy of retreat, inaugurated by his predecessor, to two-thirds of its original strength, he determined to strike the enemy with his whole force the first opportunity that was presented. One soon occurred. The Federal army had crossed the Chattahoochee, and was moving on Atlanta to the right. General Thomas, commanding the army of the Cumberland, was between the Chattahoochee and Peach Tree Creek, the latter a considerable stream and affording quite an obstacle at the time for an army to cross. General Schofield, commanding the army of the Ohio, had crossed further up, and had taken position on Peach Tree Creek, which stream ran in a North-easterly direction and entered into the Chattahoochee, near the railroad bridge,

while General McPherson, commanding the army of Tennessee, was moving to the South-west, on the Georgia Railroad, to Decatur, or near that point, with a view of turning the extreme right flank of our army and cutting its communications.

Lieutenant-General A. P. Stewart's corps and Hood's old corps (Cheatham commanding) held the lines in front of Atlanta, confronting Thomas and Schofield, while Lieutenant-General Hardee was dispatched with his corps South of Atlanta on the night of the 21st of July, by the McDonough road, towards Decatur, with instructions to completely turn McPherson's left, even, if in order to do so, he was compelled to go beyond the town of Decatur. In this movement he was assisted by Major-General Wheeler, with the entire cavalry. The plan was most admirably devised, and its proper execution would have destroyed Sherman. Hardee and Wheeler on his right were to begin the attack on McPherson at daylight on the 22d, or as soon after as practicable. As soon as Hardee would succeed in forcing back McPherson, Cheatham was to attack on the right, and, continuing the movement from the right, force the enemy from right to left down Peach Tree Creek. Lieutenant-General Stewart was to follow up the movement with his corps, in the same manner as Cheatham, when the action became general. Hardee failed to get in the position directed—did not get far enough around; but his troops fought with courage and impetuosity, doubling McPherson's army up, and jeopardizing it in the extreme. Cheatham moved forward to prevent a concentration upon Hardee, and carried the enemy's works in his front, taking a large number of prisoners, and capturing a number of pieces of artillery. Stewart was unengaged. Hardee and Cheatham captured upwards of three thousand prisoners, sixteen pieces of artillery and nineteen standards. Had this attack been followed up as directed, Sherman's army must have succumbed, or been crushed between Peach Tree Creek and the Chattahoochee. As it was, its position was hazardous in the extreme. The Federal army was entirely disorganized. Brigades melted into squads, and regiments fell into inextricable confusion. The army, on account of its dispositions and the fearful and unexpected attack of Hood, could not be manoeuvred for attack or retreat. Like the snake in the circle of fire, it must die there. It was one of those occasions where consternation seemed to take hold of the army and paralyze it for the time. Officers and men glared dumfounded and with stony looks into each other's faces, and an impending doom seemed to settle upon an army which had hitherto borne its haughty standard "full high advanced," and flaunted them in the face of an army compelled by a fatal policy to forego the blow which its great martial heart so yearned to give before its strength was impaired and its spirit humiliated. But that fate which frowned so darkly at times through the rifted folds of the checkered sky that bent above our young Confederacy, seemed to again stretch forth its hands, and stay our proud army in the very flush of victory, and roll back our hopes into the shadows of despair.

Public Meeting.

In consequence of the failure of the Committee of Thirteen, appointed to confer with the Governor, upon matters of public interest, to meet him, in consequence of indisposition, yesterday, the meeting which it was expected would be held to-day has, upon consultation, been postponed to next Wednesday, the 21st instant. It is hoped that the attendance on that day will be large and prompt. The times demand the people shall consult together. By request of J. McKENZIE, Chairman.

A. C. MOORE, Secretary.

STARVE OUT THE THIEVES.—A government without money or credit is as harmless as an adder without its fangs.

He that supporteth a corrupt government is a traitor to the State. He giveth aid and comfort to its enemies.

Verily, he warmeth a viper in his bosom, which stingeth him to death.

All that the thief wanteth is thy money. He giveth it to the wife of his bosom, who hideth it away. He rubbeth his hands for more.

He that hasteth to pay taxes doeth as the fool. He is not wise. He lacketh understanding.

He that giveth to the wicked leadeth to the devil; verily, he shall suffer therefore.—PROVERBS.

HOTEL ARRIVALS, January 13, 1874.—Wheeler House.—R M Sollow, Memphis; T A Jeffers, Richland; A H Davaga, Chester; W H Fowler, A W Dixon, New York; W B Metts, J D Witherpoon, J S R Thomson, Yorkville; B F Jackson, city; A M Sader, J W Dargan, Sumter; Jas W Brown, Texas; W A Bradley, Augusta; B P Bryan, Wilmington; W Laughlin, Charleston; E M Johnston, New York; J C Minter, Union; Tho C Perrin, Abbeville; L J Jones, Newberry; R G Harper, Baltimore; John Coffield, Spartanburg.

Hotel House.—W B Anderson, S C; H A Gibson, T B McKinstry, Fairfield; Mrs Brakley and child, Savannah; O P Law, Grahamville; A J Horseford, J B Livingston, Richland; Y P Mitchell, Blackstock; W M Shackelford, Newberry; M Glover, J H Fowler, Orangeburg; W K Kennedy, F M Neely, J Q Davis, W J Davis, Ridgeway; J T Horton, Abbeville; H W Owens, Monticello; P R Mayo, Alston.

A SAD CASE.—It is said that Private John Barry, of Battery H, First Artillery, stationed at the Citadel, Charleston, died recently, under circumstances which excited the commiseration of his companions in arms. He applied several times for relief from duty on account of sickness, but was not excused.

OTTY MATTERS.—Subscribe for the PHENIX.

The days are getting perceptibly longer.

CASH will be the rule at the PHENIX office hereafter.

We are promised more simple fashions for spring.

The "Gom" apron is now the useful and coquettish article of attire.

"Hats off," at places of amusement, now applies to the ladies.

Good New Year's resolutions are already beginning to fall through.

Weather, yesterday, cold, rainy and terribly disagreeable.

A precocious boy, yesterday, observed that the sky had a bad attack of the dropsy.

It keeps Uncle Toby's angel weeping like a California fresher to blot out the oaths caused by letters dated 1873.

The Burns Club, of this city, will celebrate the anniversary of the poet's birth, on Monday, the 26th—the 25th falling on Sunday.

See what Solomon's prices are, and govern yourselves accordingly. All kinds of currency taken in exchange for goods.

We are in receipt of a card of invitation to the anniversary celebration of the Ciceronian Literary Society of Roanoke College, Virginia, on the 23d of February, 1874.

We find it necessary to repeat that anonymous communications, whatever be their nature, will receive no consideration at our hands. Correspondents must sign their proper names.

A lot of seventy-five Italian immigrants arrived in Charleston, by the steamer South Carolina. They were cared for by the Immigration Society and afterwards forwarded to the up-country.

Messrs. E. E. Davies & Co. have just received a fine lot of shad and other fresh fish. They are receiving daily fresh supplies of Norfolk and Wilmington oysters. Prices reduced. Small profits and quick returns, C. O. D.

An advertisement in another column imparts the information that a lot of Italian immigrants have arrived in the city and are in search of employment. A party of twenty have been engaged by Major Morgan.

The Board of Directors of the Monument Association desire to announce that there will be an exhibition of tableaux vivants on Monday, January 19, for the benefit of the Monument Association. The tableaux will be followed by refreshments. Full particulars will be published on Thursday, 15th.

Some people are never satisfied. We observe a number of our exchanges indulging in dismal forebodings of a sweltering summer, without any ice wherewith to cool their parched tongues.

In a short time, we shall probably have them chronicling, as usual, the coldest weather in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

THE CITY HALL AND OPERA HOUSE.

The plans for the interior of this new and magnificent building have been changed, and materially improved, at the suggestion of Messrs. Eugene Cramer, Harry Watkins and other competent judges of what a theatre or opera house should be. The stage has been enlarged and the space beneath deepened, so as to furnish a suitable depth for traps, dressing rooms, etc. A "star" dressing-room adjoins the stage. The galleries have been depressed, and will form a half circle, so arranged that a full view of the stage can be obtained. The chairs in the parquet will have movable seats of the latest style. The large room in the third story front will be used as a refectory, and that on the second floor as a gentleman's retiring room. The ticket office will be at the head of the broad stair-way—leaving ample room on the landing for at least fifty persons. The columns supporting the galleries are to be iron. Fire escapes will be attached to each of the windows, and every provision made to clear the house in the shortest possible time, in case of an alarm. The plans for the Council Chamber, Clerk's office, Mayor's private room, etc., have not yet been decided upon, we believe. The building has an extensive frontage on Richardson and Washington streets; and will, when completed, be one of the handsomest buildings of the kind in the South.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND ADVERTISERS.—Orders for advertisements, job work, etc., must be accompanied with the cash. No exceptions can be made. Ordinary advertisements \$1 per square of nine printed lines for first insertion; fifty cents each subsequent insertion; weekly, monthly and yearly rates furnished on application. Advertisements inserted once a week, \$1 each insertion. Marriages and funeral invitations, \$1. Notices in local column fifteen cents a line, each insertion.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Carolina National Bank, held yesterday, the following gentlemen were re-elected Directors: Messrs. L. D. Childs, J. W. Parker, John T. Darby, R. O'Neal, Jr., Edward Hope, C. D. Melton, John S. Wiley, J. B. Ezell. At a meeting of the Directors, held the same day, Col. L. D. Childs was unanimously re-elected President and Dr. J. W. Parker Vice-President. The other officers of this bank are: Captain O. J. Iredell, Cashier; Mr. Wiley Jones, Teller; Mr. John Bell, Collection Department; Mr. Louis Simkins, Bookkeeper; Mr. John Metz, Clerk; Maj. C. D. Melton, Solicitor.

PHENIXIANA.—The pleasure of doing good is the only one that never wears out.

They call defaulting, "affected with the prevailing," out West.

No other living thing can go so slow as a boy on an errand.

A sign of the times—Signing another man's name.

Long felt skirts are advertised as a "long felt want."

It is said that a patient waiter is no loser; but how about the patient man who can't get waited upon?

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. Indian Girl—Cigars, Pipes, &c. Hardy Solomon—Groceries. C. H. Baldwin—Postponement. Arrival of Immigrants. Geo. Symmers—Wanted. Thomas Blair—Dissolution. California Cigar Store. W. Mo. Blair & Co.—Notice. Meeting Columbia Chapter.

Immigration.

MR. EDITOR: Permit me to occupy a small space in your paper to reply to a communication on the above subject, over the signature of Tilman B. Gaines, in this morning's issue. My object is not to throw any obstacle in the way of immigration, but to correct some misstatements contained in it, and to make known to the immigrants, before leaving New York, the conditions on which they are carried here, which has not been done in the case of some women who have been recently brought to this place. If the strictest integrity is not observed with these people when they arrive here, the cause of immigration will be retarded, instead of being promoted.

Mr. Gaines says it costs \$20 to bring adult immigrants from New York to Columbia. The Charleston News and Courier says it costs only \$11.50. Now I can prove that the statement of the News and Courier is very nearly correct; while that of Mr. Gaines is very far from being so. I can prove that the agents of the steamship line carry immigrants in bodies of twenty or more from New York to Charleston for \$8 in the steerage, and give them such board as steerage passengers usually get, and the South Carolina Railroad fare to Columbia is only \$1.95, according to Mr. G.'s own statement, thereby making the cost only \$9.95. Allowing \$1 for car fare and a meal at the hotel in Charleston, the entire cost would be only \$10.95. The cost of children is only half price, or \$5.45. This leaves, in the case of adults, a net profit or overcharge in the hands of Mr. Gaines of \$9.05. Now if this overcharge was to come out of the pocket of the employer, the case would not be so very bad; but when the poor immigrant is made to pay it, it is indeed pitiable. I will here state a case in point. A woman and her little girl eleven years old, was brought here three weeks ago and hired to two respectable and responsible gentlemen, each of whom paid Mr. Gaines \$20, for which they now hold his receipts, and for which the mother and child had to agree, in the presence of Mr. G., that they would work out the amount before receiving any wages. This was \$40 for what cost Mr. G. only \$16.50.

In Mr. Gaines' communication is embodied a certificate (which was not evidently written by any of the gentlemen who signed it) which states that the \$20 is paid by the employer, and as I have shown that this is not the fact, it is evidently calculated to deceive the poor immigrants in New York. The gentlemen who signed it, no doubt, did so under a misapprehension of facts, or without due consideration. Should such injustice as is here complained of reach the Irish or German press in New York, through any unfriendly source, the injury to Southern immigration would be incalculable. The importance of the subject, and the great desire of our people for an increase of our population, is my only apology for trespassing so far and so great an extent on your columns.

P. C.

COLUMBIA, S. C., January 13, 1874.

NERVOUS DEBILITY.—A DEPRESSED, IRRITABLE STATE OF MIND; WEAK, NERVOUS, EXHAUSTED FEELING; NO ENERGY OR ANIMATION; OVERUSED HEAD, WEAK MEMORY, OFTEN WITH DEBILITATING, INVOLUNTARY DISCHARGES.—The consequence of excesses, mental over-work or indiscretions. THIS NERVOUS DEBILITY finds a SOVEREIGN CURE IN HEMPHREYS' HOMEOPATHIC SPECIFIC, No. 28. It tones up the system, arrests discharges, dispels the mental gloom and despondency, and rejuvenates the entire system; it is perfectly harmless and always efficient. Price \$5 for a package of five boxes and a large \$2 vial of powder, which is important in old serious cases; or \$1 per single box. Sold by ALL DRUGGISTS, or sent by mail on receipt of price. Address HEMPHREYS' SPECIFIC HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE COMPANY, No. 562 Broadway, N. Y. For sale by GEIGER & McCREGON, Columbia, S. C.

Dec 17 1874