

Mexico.

THE REPORTED CAPTURE OF SALTILLA AND MONTREY BY THE LIBERALS—IMPERIAL DECREE DEFINING THE GOVERNMENT AND BOUNDARIES OF THE EMPIRE, &c.—The non-arrival of the British steamer from Vera Cruz deprives me of the pleasure of writing you a long letter. I can only give you a couple of lines of very doubtful news, brought yesterday by the British steamer Bolivar, from Tampico. The captain of this vessel states that at the moment of leaving the following dispatch was placed in his hands:

OFFICIAL.—Saltilla and Montrey have fallen into the hands of the liberals under Gen. Negrete.

Ciudad Victoria, capital of Tamaulipas, has capitulated and been occupied by Mendez.

Those who choose to believe this despatch, may do so; but wisdom suggests a few days quarantine. Negrete, at last accounts, was with Juarez in Chihuahua, endeavoring to organize an army. Mendez has done nothing worthy of mention since he pillaged Juarez, where he got wounded. It is just possible that both individuals may have done what is attributed to them in the above dispatch, which is dated from no town and bears no signature.

The steamer Liberty arrived yesterday from New Orleans, and is announced to leave for New York on next Monday, the 8th.

A very small balance of strangers will remain here after the departure of the Eagle and Corsica to-day, and the Liberty and British steamer on Monday.

The steamer Creole, from New York, arrived last evening about sundown.

A large Spanish steamer came in last evening from St. Domingo, carrying part of the returning troops from that ex-colony of the Spanish crown.

No more arrivals or departures of blockade runners, whose occupation is now about gone. The famous Denbigh, which has made so many successful trips to and from Mobile and Galveston, was sold yesterday for six thousand five hundred dollars. Another, the Lanna, goes back to England, and so on. *Sic transit, &c.*

THE PRESS DISPATCH.

HAVANA, May 6, 1865.

Vera Cruz journals received here state that the Emperor Maximilian has issued a decree defining the provisional status of the imperial government while the definitive organization is proceeding. The decree is divided into eighteen chapters, and subdivided into eighty-one paragraphs. Some of the leading features may be briefly stated:—

The form of the government will be a limited hereditary monarchy, with a Catholic prince at the head.

In the case of the death of the Emperor, or of any other event which may incapacitate him for the exercise of his powers, "his august spouse, the Empress," will be *ipse facto* regent of the empire.

The Emperor or Regent on assuming power must take this oath:—"I swear to God by the Holy Evangelists to further, by all means in my power, the welfare and prosperity of the nation, to defend its independence and preserve the integrity of the country."

The Emperor, who represents the national sovereignty, will be assisted by a ministry of nine departments.

The territory of Mexico is defined as bounded on the north by the lines decided upon by the United States at the conventions of Guadalupe and Mesilla; on the east by the Gulf of Mexico, the Sea of the Antilles, and the English establishment at Belize; on the south by the republic of Guatemala, and on the west by the Pacific.

Nothing is said about Texas.

The government guarantees to all the inhabitants of the empire equality in the eye of the law, security of person and property, and liberty of free speech.

The national colors will be green, red and white; and their disposition on the national flag will be defined by a special law.

A decree, dated May 10, is devoted to a definition of the extent of freedom to be allowed to the press, which will be subject to about the same restrictions as in France or Austria.

The duty on imported tobacco has been largely increased.

The Emperor has granted a concession to Don Louis Binel for a railroad from Mexico to and at San Cosme, Papotia, Taenba, Tlalucpantia, Cuantitlan, with the terminus.

The funeral of Jose Manuel Ponce occurred to-day. He was a young man of the most promising talents, a member of the University, and connected with many of our principal families. He was beloved by all who knew him. He was an invalid, and the news of the assassination of President Lincoln, incautiously told him in his weak condition, affected his brain and resulted in his death.

AN "UGLY" STORY.—In the eastern part of Delaware Co., there formerly resided a man named B—, now a Justice of the Peace, and a very sensible man, but by common consent the ugliest looking individual in the whole country, being long, gaunt, sallow, and awry, with a gait like a kangaroo. One day he was hunting, and one of the mountain roads he met a man on foot and alone, who was longer, gaunter, uglier by all odds, than himself. He could give the "Square" fifty and beat him.— Without saying a word, B— raised his gun and deliberately levelled it at the stranger.— "For God's sake don't shoot," shouted the man in great alarm. "Stranger," replied B—, "I swore ten years ago that if I ever met a man uglier than I was, I'd shoot him, and you are the first one I've seen." The stranger, after taking a careful survey of his "rival," replied, "Wal, if I look worse than you do, shtute; I don't want to live any longer!"

THE DUTCHMAN'S CIDER.—Not long since there lived in the small village of B., in the State of Pennsylvania, a phlegmatic old dutchman, who was famous for making the best cider in the neighborhood, and was equally famous for keeping it, and, as yet, no person, except himself and family had been permitted to taste the "good stuff." At last one of his near neighbors said he was bound to taste it.— Accordingly he went to the Dutchman's house and entered into conversation with him concerning the crops, &c., and by degrees, led him to speak of his cider. He then said to him: "I understand you make very good cider?" "Yaw," replied the Dutchman; "Hans, my boy, go bring a mug full!"

Hans soon returned with a mug brimming full and handed it to the Dutchman, who drained it to the bottom at one draught, then turning to his astonished visitor, said:

"Dere now, if you dosh not dink dat good cider joost you schmell of te mug."

THE TERM "LADY."—The name *lady* is an abbreviation of the Saxon "*leafday*," which signifies *bread giver*. The mistress of a manor, at a time when affluent families resided constantly at their country mansions, was accustomed once a week, or oftener, to distribute among the poor a certain quantity of bread.— She bestowed the gift with her hand, and made the heart of the needy glad by the soft words and gentle actions which accompanied her benevolence. The widow and the orphan "rose up and called her blessed;" the destitute and the afflicted recounted her praise; all classes of the poor embalmed her in their affections as the *leafday*, the giver of bread and dispenser of comfort, a sort of ministering spirit in a world of sorrow. Who is a lady now?

CRAZY PEOPLE.—What absurd ideas sometimes get into the heads of crazy people!— There is a patient in the asylum of Utica, who has been employed for the last two years in getting up a steamboat whose engine shall be worked with Epsom salts. Another gentleman in an adjoining room proposes to put elliptic springs under Niagara, "to ease the water when it jumps," while another is busily engaged in getting out timber for a "six-bladed horse" and a leather frying pan. The philosopher who said that the only reason why lunatics differ from other people, is because they were more largely imaginative than other folks, was not as far out of his reasoning as some people imagine.

A GOOD WAY OF HEARING FROM HOME.—A young man in California, whose friends had not remembered him as he thought they ought, adopted the following expedient:— sat down and wrote some half dozen letters to different persons at home, inquiring the price of land and stock—what he could buy—a and some farm of 200 or 300 acres for, &c., intimating that he had large sums to invest, and was very rich generally. By return mail he received no less than seven letters, all anxiously inquiring after his health, when he was coming, &c., and has received three or four every mail since, including some very warm ones from an old and very cold sweetheart.

OPPOSITION.—"A certain amount of opposition," says John Neal, "is a great help to man. Kites rise against and not with the wind.— Even a head wind is better than none. No man ever worked his passage anywhere in a dead calm."

A BRAVE MAN.—One who dares go ragged, till he can pay for better clothes!

Special Notices.

SOLDIERS' BOARD OF RELIEF.

To the payers of the Tax in Kind to the Soldiers' Board of Relief.

YOU ARE IN ARREARS FOR THIS TAX, AND have not paid it yet. The persons for whom it was intended, by law, are now suffering. This Board earnestly implores you to pay the same forthwith.— They have considered the reasons assigned by many persons for not doing so, to wit: That the enemy under Gen. Sherman and Gen. Potter, and the cavalry corps of the Confederate States, have eaten up, or destroyed, all their corn, and other provisions; that you have not enough for your own use, and are now borrowing from others, to enable you to live, and this Board have concluded that these reasons cannot stand, and are not proper.

The Board cannot release this tax, without repealing the act of the Legislature which imposes it—this the Board has no power to do. The laws of the State are in full force and vigor, and unrevoked, and it is the duty of every citizen, stronger now than ever, to obey them. When might becomes the practical law of the land, no man is safe in person or property.

If your corn and other provisions have been taken from you, then you can purchase more. If you ask where, we answer by the information before the Board, that an unlimited amount of corn can be had around Sumner Court House at seventy-five cents in specie. If you have no specie, then use other property to get it, and thus buy the corn, or give a satisfactory note, payable next winter in good money. You can do this, better and more effectually than the poor wife or widow. You have property, or you would have no Tax to pay. Use it to raise the amount of your tax. This aid is intended for destitute women and children. They have no property and cannot help themselves. You can help them by doing your duty under the law. They cannot raise specie to buy corn—but you can, by doing your duty.

If you told Mr. McKain, our collector of State Taxes, that you had lost some property by the enemy and therefore could not pay your Taxes, he would tell you that was no excuse, and you must pay up. In short the proposition is this, because you have lost some property, you ought not to pay a tax on any. This is a mistake, and cannot be admitted. Nor would the Legislature relieve you from paying the Tax, on that plea. The Board earnestly prays you to use all possible means at your command to procure this corn and pay your Tax. Seven hundred and eighty-five children and three hundred and forty-six widows, wives, and aged mothers and fathers, have to be supported by this Tax. It will be a small amount to them at best. Aid them by paying your tax, and you relieve the distressed and suffering.

The Board willingly will do all in its power to aid you, and therefore proposes to receive from you, now, one half of your tax, and the other half in October, out of the growing crop; also to commute the Syrup Tax into corn, and receive one bushel for two gallons.

By order of the Board:

JNO. M. DESAUSSURE,

Chairman.

June 2—1

A GOOD FAMILY OIL.—Melt together over the fire a pint of oil of sweet almonds, add an ounce of spermaceti; the latter should be broken into little bits. When cold stir in a table-spoonful of oil of bergamot rubbed with two grains of civet.

Two Hundred Dollars Reward in Specie.

STOLEN FROM MY STABLES ON THE NIGHT of the 5th inst., two (2) fine BAY MARES, one a large bay mare, will fold in the first of the fall, 7 years old, color a deep bay, black legs, main and tail, very small fore top, too short to be kept or placed under the brow band, no white about her, unless saddle marks; a small scar on the right hind leg at the knee or hock joint, outside of the leg, recently done by ploughing; a very heavy made animal, with great muscular power, fine action, gentle and kind in harness or under saddle; gates, walk trot and lope. Also, one BAY FILLEY, 4 years old, about 14 1/2 hands high, dark bay color, black legs, main and tail; a very handsome animal, beautifully formed with rather a heavy main and tail. No particular marks except a small scar on the left hip near the root of the tail, in the shape of a half moon, caused by a kick. These two animals are very much attached to each other, or, and when separated, restless and uneasy.

I will pay the above reward in specie or its equivalent for the recovery of my mares, or one hundred dollars for either of them. Any information as to the thief will be duly appreciated, and any information as to the mares can be given to James B. Cureton, Esq., or Dr. R. B. Johnston, Camden, S. C., or Hon. James A. Witherspoon, Lancaster C. H., Capt. Thos. Taylor, Columbia, S. C., or myself.

R. M. MILLER,

Pineville, C. & S. O. R. S.

May 24—4 No. Car
Columbia Phoenix will copy four times once a week, and send bill to this office. To be paid in specie.

Rail Road Mill.

A STEAM MILL FOR GRINDING MEAL AND grits, is now in successful operation at the old Depot. Grinding done at all hours of the day. A share of patronage is solicited.

J. JONES, Agent.

May 5

WILL STAND.

THE THOROUGH BRED CANADIAN HORSE A BUCKHILLIARD, at the residence of Benjamin Cook, 10 miles north of Camden. Fees \$25 in current funds. Groom, \$1.00.

May 5

Tobacco for Barter.

TWENTY BOXES NO 1 TOBACCO IN STORE and for sale for specie or provisions.

J. S. MEROBY.

May 8

FOR SALE OR BARTER.

A LOT OF PLOUGH IRON, APPLY AT MATHELON & CO.

May 21

For Sale or Exchange.

A YOUNG HORSE OF FINE BLOOD, APPLY TO JESSEE ARTHUR, Camden, S. C.

May 8

Carriage for Sale.

A FOUR SEAT CARRIAGE, FOR TWO HORSES in excellent order, for sale or exchange for Corn. Apply to B. P. COLBURN.

May 26

Kirkwood Flour and Grist Mill.

THE ABOVE MILL IS PREPARED TO GRIND Wheat, Corn, Rice and Rye. Toll one-tenth in all cases. B. P. COLBURN.

May 26

For Sale.

FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS BACON IN LOTS to suit purchasers. Apply at this office.

May 31

PONEY WANTED.

A LADY'S SADDLE HORSE WANTED IN EX- CHANGE for a mule. Apply to B. P. COLBURN.

May 31

SPECIAL NOTICE.

THE SUBSCRIBER KEEPS CONSTANTLY ON hand a fresh supply of Meal and Hominy in exchange for Corn. Apply at Mr. McCreight's shop on Main street. J. F. SUTHERLAND.

May 12