

The Rev. A. L. Hay is our authorized agent for the Northern and Western Parishes of the State.

Religious Notice.

The usual services of the Episcopal Church may be expected at the Town Hall on Sunday next, the 18th inst., at 11 o'clock, A. M.

General Hood.

It will be seen by reference to our advertising columns that General John B. Hood has settled in New Orleans as a Commission Merchant. General Hood would be a great acquisition to any community, and we congratulate the people of the State on becoming the adopted abode of such a distinguished citizen.

Arrest of Criminals.

Two men calling themselves John I. Smith and Charles Thompson were arrested in this town one day last week, on the information of parties from Caldwell parish, charging them with the commission of large robberies and thefts in Caldwell and adjoining parishes.

We have received several anonymous communications, lately, from persons making grievous complaints against a certain official in these parts, who, they say, "throws every impediment in their way contrary to law and regulations. We cannot publish them. Nor can we make our paper the medium of croakers' complaints.

The fine passenger Steamer Maggie Hays, will leave this place for New Orleans, on Saturday the 17th inst., at 10 o'clock A. M.

The Police Jury were in session four days, last week, and adjourned to the first Monday in June. They did nothing. We will publish their long proceedings in our next.

Senator Kelso and Representative Hatch have supplied us with papers and State documents. Senator Scruggs, of Natchitoches, has "gone and did" likewise. Beau coup merci.

The Saratoga, Cottle, Cuba, Countess, Maggie Hays, Mollie Fellows, Champion, Doubloon and Starlight have supplied us with late papers.

We are again thankful to the Red River Express Company for a file of the latest New York papers. This Company have secured the services of John Clements, of this town, as their agent.

We have to record the sinking and total loss, since our last, of two more steamers, the Lizzie Tate and the Fleeta. Both were lost near Campet at the "Steamboat Grave Yard."

The creditors of the Parish of Rapides will please notice the advertisement of the clerk of the Police Jury. Rapides is arranging her house to pay all her debts, and takes this method of ascertaining the amount of her indebtedness.

The Steamer Starlight will leave this place for New Orleans, to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

The Fine Packet Doubloon, W. C. Harrison master, leaves for New Orleans this morning at 10 o'clock.

The English revenue for 1865 was nearly \$350,000,000.

The Reconstruction Committee.

There is in each House of Congress what is called the "Reconstruction Committee," whose particular province it is to enquire into the condition of the Southern States, and to devise the means of hampering them in their efforts to regain their lost rights.

Now the "Reconstruction Committee," has recently set itself to work to amend the Constitution of the United States. The Radicals fear that that venerable instrument, which is so silent on the nigger question, that the word does not even occur in any of its provisions, might accidentally intimate to a remote posterity that white men have some rights which a negro is bound to respect.

The last specimen of Constitutional tinkering which emanated from this "Reconstruction" workshop, is the following amendment proposed for the Constitution: "Representation shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to their respective numbers, consisting of the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed; provided, that whenever the elective franchise shall be denied or abridged in any State on account of race or color, all persons therein of such race or color shall be excluded from the basis of Representation."

This amendment passed the House by the large vote of 126 to 40, nearly every Republican voting for it, and as it received the necessary two-thirds majority, it is to be proposed to the Legislatures of the different States for their adoption.

It will be remembered that the Constitution, as it came from the hands of its founders, provided that three-fifths of the negroes should be counted in the basis of representation. This was done in order that the slaves, who were both persons and property, should enter into the representation of the South, to strengthen the weaker section and assert in protecting it against encroachment on the part of the North.

The letter-writers from Washington give it out that as soon as this amendment shall have been disposed of, the Reconstruction Committee will produce other amendments. 1. To make National and State laws apply to all men without regard to color; 2. To prohibit the payment of the rebel debt; 3. To provide territorial governments for the South; 4. To ratify the President's acts if the Southern States will abolish all distinctions of race and color; 5. To force the States to give the right of suffrage to all negroes who have been in the army, &c. &c.

Now this is a pretty broad negro platform, and is capable of upholding all the advocates of negro equality and amalgamation. We have not the slightest doubt that all the measures spoken of will pass the Reconstruction Committee and be ratified by the requisite majority of both Houses of Congress.

It will be observed that while all this Constitution making is going on, the South, for whose special benefit it is all intended, is rigorously excluded from any participation in the legislation which produces it. The Southern members are not to be admitted into Congress, nor is the South allowed to have a voice in its deliberations, until all the legislation necessary for her degradation and political bondage shall have been passed on and decided. It would be difficult to find another instance in history of such foul injustice and illiberality of spirit.

The South is satisfied with the Constitu-

tion as it came from the hands of our fathers, and has always been satisfied with it. She never complained of the Constitution as it stands; but she did complain that its provisions were set at naught and trampled on by the people of the North.

Amid all the tumult in the halls of Congress, and all the tyrannical conduct of the Radical majority, it is consoling to know that occasionally a friend of Constitutional liberty makes an effort to obtain justice for the people of the South. Though those efforts are unavailing now, there is a faint hope that all this Black Republican fury will wear itself out, and that that infamous party will yet be forced to give way before the rising spirit of conservatism and enlightened justice among the Northern people.

Georgia Senators.

The Legislature of Georgia has elected Hon. Alexander H. Stephens U. S. Senator for the long and Hon. Herschel V. Johnson for the short term. Mr. Stephens had refused the use of his name for the Senatorship but has concluded to accept the office tendered by his old friends in so flattering a manner.

As a parliamentary debater Mr. Stephens has no equal on the continent. His style of oratory is suited to large and popular assemblies; hence he has heretofore persistently refused to become a candidate for the Senate, preferring his seat in the House of Representatives. We believe that, if he had his choice now, he would choose the House, and exercise his legislative gladiatorialship on the same floor with Thad. Stevens, Colfax, Julian and other Black Republican leaders.

Mr. Johnson is an able statesman, was Senator for a short time some years since and the Douglas candidate for the Vice-Presidency in 1860. Thus Georgia, which voted for Breckinridge, and gave Douglas a very small vote, has elected two leading Douglas men to the Senate of the United States; so completely have old party lines been obliterated.

Dr. Davidson.

The friends of Dr. J. P. Davidson will regret to learn that he has left the parish and opened an office for the practice of medicine in New Orleans. He has been a citizen of Rapides for many years, had enjoyed the whole time a lucrative and successful practice, and had endeared himself to all by the amiability of his disposition and his many private and social virtues.

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Letter from Capt. Waddell, late of the Shenandoah.

A gentleman from this city has received a letter from Capt. Waddell, formerly in command of the cruiser Shenandoah, dated December 27th, Waterloo, near Liverpool, from which we are permitted to make such extracts as may be of interest to the general public.

The Captain appears to feel bitter disappointment over the result of the late war. He says that the South has played false to her cause—he has very little respect for her—he does not believe she was in earnest—she will never again take the field, etc. Regarding himself, he says:

I am now in exile, but far from being a ruined man. I won't go to sea any more if I can help it. The feeling shown towards me through the restriction placed on my wife is decided. It is just the feeling I like, though the tyrant to her is humiliating to the nature of man. I have written her to release her bondsmen and inform the Government that she owes her allegiance to her husband. As my case now stands, I do not think the bond is worth the paper it is written on. In a court of law, I know it would fall.

After reaching Behring's Sea, I captured the ship William Thomson and brig Susan Abigail; both had left San Francisco in April last. These captures were made about the 23d of June, and from each I received San Francisco papers. Those papers professed to have the correspondence between Generals Lee and Grant, concerning the surrender of Lee's army.

After leaving Behring's Sea, I fell in with no vessel until I communicated with the British bark Barraconta, from San Francisco, 2d August, 14 days, bound for Liverpool. She informed me of the capture of Mr. Davis and a part of his cabinet; also of the surrender of Gen. Johnston's, Smith's, and Magruder's armies.

Before communicating with the Barraconta, I intended to look into the Gulf of Lower California; and then to await the arrival of a California steamer bound for Panama.

The Barraconta's news surprised us, and among some of the officers I witnessed a terror which mortified me. I was implored to take the vessel to Australia; that to try to reach a European port would be fatal to all concerned; petitions were signed by three-fourths of the officers, asking to be taken to Cape Town, arguing and picturing the horrors of capture, and all that sort of stuff.

They supported my views, and then followed a letter from the crew—signed by 71 out of 110—saying they had confidence in me, and were willing, nay, desired, to go with me wherever I thought best to take the vessel. I had, of course, a very anxious time, painfully anxious, because the officers had set a bad example to the crew. Their conduct was nothing less than mutiny. I was very decided with some of them; I had to tell one officer I would be captain, or die on the deck, and the vessel should go to no other port than Liverpool.

When the ship was 400 miles from the Azores, a suspicious looking vessel was seen ahead, and apparently lying-to, waiting for us to come up with her. It was sunset, the wind very light, and my suspicions being aroused, I steered my course steadily until darkness closed upon us, and then I wore ship and stood south-west till steam could be gotten up—for I had not even banked fires since parting with the Barraconta. It took two hours to get steam up; when it was ready, I furled sails, steered due east for 16 miles, and hauled on my course, steaming for 100 miles. I believe she was a Yankee cruiser. She was only six miles off when night came on, but I evaded her successfully.

The Shenandoah, under sail, is a six-sen knot vessel; under steam, nine knots; a fine sea craft. She ran from the Arctic to Liverpool in 130 days; from the line on the Pacific side to the Cape in 26 days; from the Cape to the line on the Atlantic in 26 days, and from the line to Liverpool in 24 days. Two of my crew died of disease when near Liverpool; otherwise nothing happened to mar our cruise; no accident occurred during the cruise.

So ends my naval career, and I am called a "pirate!" I made New England suffer, and I do not regret it. I cannot be condemned by any honest thinking man. I surrendered the vessel to the British Government, and all are unconditionally released. My obstinacy made enemies among some of the officers, but they now inwardly regret their action in the Cape Town affair. This letter bears evidence throughout that Capt. Waddell did not write it with a view to publication, but we presume that neither he nor his friends will object to seeing in print the portions we have selected.

The river is now higher than it has been since Spring. It is rising here and as far up as heard from.

Fashions of the South During the War.

Fashion began to reassert its empire in the South. During the war a man was deemed fortunate if he owned a couple of fig bushes, for then he was sure of having his family provided with a suit of prim ivoire clothes, as good as that worn by our first parents, if things came to the worst. Men and women did not care much what they wore, so they wore something. Nor was the style or cut of garments much regarded, for there was a sort of carnival of old clothes. It was not uncommon to meet a gentleman with a coat or pantaloons which looked as if they had been cut out with a broad axe and nailed together hurriedly by a rough carpenter.

The old swallow-tail and shab-belly coat, which is thought by many to be the style worn by Noah when he navigated the antediluvian on the probabilities of an unprecedented freshet, was exhumed and restored to general favor. Trowsers made in the good old fashioned way, with an apron or sort of drop curtain in front, were brought to light by venerable and respected gentlemen, who have never been satisfied with moderate innovations in dress, and for a long time battled stubbornly against them. Hats, too, inapily designated as camp kettles, stovepipes and bee gums, by many soldiers of Lee's army, whenever they encountered the luckless wearer and called upon him "to come out of it," were very prevalent among soldiered civilians; coon-skin and skull-caps, of a strange and unique model, were worn in bold and utter defiance of all previous proprieties of fashion.

The ladies of the South exhibited a similar spirit in yielding to the necessities of the times. The distensions of crinoline were neglected, and our dames and damsels looked as lovely and attractive in homespun and linseys as they had ever done in silks and satins. Bonnets of the coal scuttle, fish top, and chicken coop type, fossils of fashion which were the pride and glory of Elizabethian age, were drawn forth from dusty closets and old time band-boxes, and were subscribed and forced into service. Shoes which were regular old knockers and beetle crushers, covered tender toes and well turned ankles, which had been used to the finest calf skin and most delicate Morocco. There was eminent good sense and good taste in all this, and we hope that the lessons of wisdom and economy, inculcated by the war, will not be forgotten at its conclusion.

The Law of Libel.—Judge Jones, of New York, has rendered a decision, which is of interest to the newspaper press.

The decision of Judge Jones in the case of McCage against the Sunday Mercury, which resulted in the plaintiff being nonsuited, this morning, is of interest to the newspaper press of this country. The Court held that an editor or reporter is not legally liable to prove the absolute truth of any charge or accusation which may be embodied in a fair report of proceedings before a legal tribunal, and it is sufficient justification to show that the facts reported have been ascertained by the reporter, and that the decision were otherwise, every conductor of a newspaper could be forced, at the will or caprice of a litigant, to become the plaintiff or defendant in a suit which might appear in his journal, the accuracy of which might be questioned. The ruling thus decides that an editor is a mere publisher of actual occurrences, and cannot possibly assume in law the position of a litigant in cases which he reports, and of the merits of which he must necessarily be wholly ignorant.

Had the court ruled differently, an editor or reporter could be compelled to take the places of a dozen plaintiffs or defendants in a day—the number to be only decided by the reports which either party to a suit might choose to consider libelous.

The onus of proving the truth of a charge made before a legal tribunal will thus devolve on the party who prefers it, and not on the editor who gives it publicity as a part of the news of the day.—[Vicksburg Herald, 1st.]

The Freedmen's Bureau.—The New York World, in an elaborate article upon the injurious effect of Trumbull's negro bill, says that the Freedmen's Bureau bill prolongs the negro's condition of dependence. It substitutes dependence upon a Bureau upon a Government, for dependence upon a master. The change profits nothing. The master at least compelled industry. The Bureau will breed indolence and pauperism. Dependence can breed naught but the habit of depending. Doing for them can teach them nothing except not to do for themselves. The Bureau takes away the master-stimulus, and will not let the stimulus of freedom work. If a transitory institution, it is evil, and the begetter of evil while it continues, and creates no such intermediate condition as will prepare the black for perfect freedom. It is strange that the men who have purely desired the negro's freedom and his civil equality with the white man, and who for years have argued his fitness for freedom as a reason for giving him freedom, should now deny his capacity to be free, and to run the race of life without assistance, and vote with those whose politics and whose patriotism are all summed up in promoting the welfare of the black man at the expense of the white. Of that expense we have had quite enough.

The Indianapolis Herald has the following paragraph:

The Republicans say John Brown's soul is marching on. We think in this, they are correct. The terrible prevalence of theft, robbery, violence and murder indicate more clearly that old John Brown's soul is marching on. There can be little doubt of it.

Yesterday was Mardi Gras. We witnessed a partial celebration of it in the person of a gentleman from Africa, running through the commons at Lecomte speed, in full Georgia uniform.

The election on Monday passed off quietly, with but a small vote polled. Only forty-eight votes were polled at this precinct. They were all cast for Captain J. W. Texada. He had no opposition.

Senator Howard of Michigan.

This fanatic from Michigan, says the N. Y. News, has at last earned a high niche in the Temple of Infamy. On Tuesday he offered the following resolution in the Senate:

"Whereas, it appears by the report of the Secretary of War that Jefferson Davis and C. C. Clay are held in confinement as having been concerned in the assassination of President Lincoln, and for the murder of Federal soldiers held as prisoners of war. Therefore be it respectfully recommended that Jefferson Davis and Clement C. Clay be tried immediately by a military commission or court martial."

This man Howard has all the qualifications for a pedagogue in some primary school in the backwoods of the Far West; and, how any State that had once been honored by such a Senator as Cass could thus dishonor itself by a Howard would have astonished us if we had not remembered that Massachusetts, who had once sent a Webster and a Winthrop, now sends a Sumner and a Wilson. But it is a day of small things. We might say of dullness, as was once said of greatness. Some men are born to dullness; some men achieve it and some have it thrust upon them. Howard belongs to the first class. Stupidity and dullness were born with him, and ingrained into his very nature; and we have often been forced to listen to his prosy harangues in the Senate, and wondered which most to pity, the representative or his constituents. But all fools are not always good natured, and when malice combines with folly it may work huge mischief in the world in the way of persecution and suffering. It was the malice of the king's jester that kindled a conflagration in Paris, destroying several hundred lives during the reign of Louis XV. It would be vain to attempt to argue with the Michigan Senator about the constitutional right of the Senate to pass any such resolutions, or to endeavor to impress upon him the gross impropriety of any such action; he could not be made to comprehend either. Howard's dullness is something extraordinary we know, like that of Dr. Sheridan, of whom Dr. Johnson once said:

"Sherry is dull, Sir, naturally dull, Sir, but it must have taken him a great deal of pains to become what we now see him—such an excess of stupidity, Sir, is not in nature."

But, poorly as we think of the Michigan Senator, we do not believe he originated this infernal resolution. He has been merely asked to stand sponsor to the brat which really was begotten of the loins of Secretary Stanton. His image and super-scription are written all over it. This man's malice and ferocity are really something superhuman, which they must have been to have induced Seward to hail him as "divine;" for we remember it was St. Just whom Marat said "was divine," which he heard of a series of atrocities committed by him against the aristocrats. Followed by the President in his malignant desire to drag Jefferson Davis and Senator Clay before his military tribunals, over whose gates of entrance might be written the same legend as that over Dante's Hell: "He who enters here leaves hope behind." This fraud, in the guise of humanity, is trying to bring to bear the legislative influence of the Nation on the Executive. Poor stupid Howard has been used as the instrument of this malignity. Stanton knows perfectly well that both Davis and Clay are as innocent of these charges as himself; but he knows also that if he can once get them before one of his Military Commissions, that allegation will there pass for proof, and their murder is fore-ordained. It is high time that President Johnson got rid of the "divine Stanton." If his baggage is checked through on the line of the reconstruction policy," as he said the other day to a friend, then the sooner he dispenses with Stanton's services, and gives his portfolio to another, the better.

REACTION COMMENCED.—Mack, of the observant Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, writes, Jan. 24:

There are slight indications of a reaction in the public sentiment, as evinced in the galleries every day, on the subject of negro suffrage. Within a day or two, opposition to the measure has been applauded in both Houses, much to the surprise of those who heard the vehement applause with which, on Thursday last, the passage of the district suffrage bill, was greeted by the House galleries. Yesterday Mr. Brooks received a salvo of applause for the sentiment, uttered in response to a question from Thad Stevens, that he would rather see the women than the negroes of this country admitted to the right of suffrage. This is a straw that shows how the wind is blowing, I think. At any rate, the same man said much better things a week ago, and the galleries took no notice of him.

CONDORIS OF MR. DAVIS.—How He IS TREATED.—We hear occasionally some news of Mr. Davis, says a Hampton, Va., correspondent of the Baltimore Gazette, and some lately, which is authentic. He has twice been very sick within the past six weeks, suffering from erysipelas, and at one time was at the point of death, so near to it that he gave to his physician many farewell messages to his wife and family, and expressed a wish that the world might know through him (the physician) how pure and disinterested his motives had been in all that he had undertaken. This same physician has been removed from his place, and ordered elsewhere. It is presumed that he showed too much sympathy for his suffering patient. The guard over Mr. Davis, always very heavy, has been recently doubled, and the officer who remains in the same room with him is not allowed to speak, read, smoke or sleep during the twenty-four hours of his watch.

Money is a letter of introduction from the world at large to the individual to tell him to do what he pleases. This is its only intrinsic value.

John Mitchell writes from Paris that it is a foolish impression on this side of the Atlantic, that the French press does not denounce the measures and policy of the government. He says it is not true, and that it is far more dangerous in America to do it.