

(Correspondence of the Beacon.) Washington, Jan. 4, 1869.

THE HAPPY FAMILY.

There seems to be something wrong going on—trouble in the camp, if I may so call it. What is up and out, no one can tell. The President elect swings round the circle, gets back and Washburne and Wade take a dive at him—Then you may see groups of the faithful in low, but very earnest conversation and may hear an occasional allusion to the Deity and some one's eyes and soul—What the matter can be we are unable to say, up to date. Faces certainly are long, Washburne, it is said, left the President elect a few days since in a very bad humor. Strolling in Grant's neighborhood about the same time, we encountered Ben Wade getting home by the back streets with all possible dispatch. Ben is not remarkable for his pleasing countenance at best (in other words a man would not like to sleep in the same room with the President of the Senate unless well acquainted with him) but on that occasion he looked much darker than usual. He had a large case in his hand and gave us such a look as we passed that we took to the curb-stone with all possible haste—What the difficulty is will, we suppose, leak out in time, to the pleasure or mortification of some one.

THE FUTURE OF THE BEACON.

The next Vice-President's was rather dry, considering the day. Both males and females thought lemonade and coffee were not just the things to keep damp off one's stomach on such a day, and made, in the quickest possible time, for more general quarters, and when they got there, the way that large numbers of egg-nog, glasses of wine, whiskey, cake, oysters or anything that came to hand, solid or fluid, disappeared was wonderful to behold—Temperance was entirely left sight of and the Temperance cause sunk ten degrees below zero in the shortest time. You could see them swell sensibly before your eyes. One very long specimen with large gold spectacles, a mixture of the clerical and horse-drover, took, before our very eyes, seven large tumblers, with large quantities of fruit-cake and oysters. When we saw him last he was mixing a large glass of whiskey straight to prevent the cake rising on his stomach and we heard him tell a strong middle-aged woman near him that he would take a glass of wine with her in a few minutes. It is astonishing what an amount of these fellows can hold when they don't have to pay for. Numbers of them went out an ounce for the next week, you may depend. (We noticed one fellow with Uncle Sam's livery on, who must have been somebody considerable from his marks, taking possession of the entire street, sometimes on the curb-stone, then taking up against a brick house as if to see which was the hardest. When we saw him last he was standing half knee deep in the mud in the middle of the street, with his arms round a big nigger's neck trying to get something out of his stomach. Excepting numerous cases of head-ache and sick stomach the day passed off without serious incident.

THE FUTURE OF THE BEACON.

Speaking of drinking reminds us of the Police Commissioners of this city. A set of fanatics have got on the board who are carrying things here with a pretty high hand. They have taken on themselves to give out licenses just to such as they choose, to stop what they please and do as they please regardless of law. In a very short time the people of this city will not be allowed to walk in the streets on Sunday except to and from Church, and only to such Churches as their masters will please to dictate. All musical instruments will be stopped by law, no dancing or singing will be allowed except at Church and then Psalms only will be permitted. The men who dare to kiss his wife on Sunday, or to look out of his window, will be immediately sent to jail. Terrier-dog, seen smelling at a horse, will be hung on Monday. Cows found with milk in their teats on Sunday will be knocked on the head and dragged out as carrion. Any man known to have a barrel of beer in his cellar that works on Sunday must pay five hundred dollars fine. The Police Commissioners certainly have the welfare of the citizens greatly at heart—We would suggest an extra-force of able bodied psalm-singing policemen whose duty it shall be to march refractory sinners to Church on Sundays and back—If Heaven can be taken by storm the Police Commissioners will do it. How sadly the people of this city are in need of a vigilance committee!

THE FUTURE OF THE BEACON.

Gen. Grant ran off to Philadelphia on New Year's day to show himself to the faithful and keep clear of the President's reception, acting more like a boy than a man and making himself ridiculous in the eyes of all sensible people. We have had more than a week of horrible weather. A glimpse of sunshine would be a treat. We believe the clouds are so thick that it will take till late in the spring before the sun can get through them.

JACKSON AT FREDERICKSBURG.

The story, which has had some currency, to the effect that General Jackson proposed a night attack at Fredericksburg by his own corps—the men stripped to the waist and armed with bowie knives—has received a very complete refutation in a letter from General Early to the Savannah News. The points made by him are so practical that one can scarcely realize the credulity with which the stupid statement of General Jackson's eccentric purpose has been everywhere received. In the first place, no such plan could have been devised without the knowledge of General Early, who then commanded a division in General Jackson's corps; in the second, the weather was so cold that the men would have frozen to death; while in the third, the fact is presented that there were not bowie knives enough in the whole army of Northern Virginia to arm a single company. So much for the story, which, like hundreds of others of similar absurdity, has been accepted by the unthinking, and will, one day, form the subject of a special chapter and a flaming illustration in some forth-coming Yankee common-school history.

THE SQUABBLE BETWEEN REED AND GLEASON.

The Squabble Between Reed and Gleason.—Governor Reed of Florida, the earnest proponent of leading colored men, in Jacksonville, as we learn from the Florida Union, addressed a public meeting in his own defence last Monday in the "milk in the cream" of the Florida's impeachment, in part, as follows: The Legislature had authorized the issue of bonds to the amount of \$300,000, and they were anxious to control these bonds. Gleason went to Washington and arranged the following programme with a party there: This party was to take all the bonds at seventy cents, or rather they were to be pledged to him, in advance of that price. Then he was to buy State scrip at fifty or sixty cents, or as low as he could get it, and pay for the bonds in this scrip. In this way he would actually get the bonds at about thirty cents on the dollar, making an immense profit out of the transaction; and Gleason proposed to me that the bonds should be disposed of in this way, and that the profits should be divided between us. I refused to sanction such a robbery upon the people, and so I must be removed, in order to enable Gleason to get the bonds under his own control, to dispose of for the profit of the ring. And how had I offended Senator Osburn? I had refused to make appointments at his dictation, and to allow him to control the State, regardless of my own judgment; but, worse than this, I had told one of his schemes for plunder—Senator Gleason proposed to us that we should obtain from the United States Government the grant of a large tract of land at Pensacola for the State, and that I should then influence the Surveyor General so that the land might be sold at a more nominal price to Senator Osburn. I refused to countenance this scheme, and so I must be removed, that a more pliant might take my place, and the ring might plunder to its heart's content.

POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES.—We have received from Hon. Alexander Delmar the annual report, dated November 15, 1868, of the bureau of Statistics to the Secretary of the Treasury. We find in it interesting statements both of our population and foreign commerce, besides many other valuable facts. It gives the following as the results of the census which was obtained by the bureau during the year 1867, in accordance with the practice instituted in the year 1866. The results have been obtained by means of inquiries instituted through the internal revenue organization, the jurisdiction of whose numerous officers covers the entire area of the country. The population for 1867 is put down as follows: Six New England States, 3,480,397 whites, 30,741 colored—3,511,138 total. Middle States, 3,972,647 whites, 332,469 colored—4,305,116 total. Southern States, 6,794,028 whites, 1,416,522 colored—8,210,550 total. Western and Pacific States, 12,336,951 whites, 411,493 colored—12,748,444 total. Free Territory, 438,774 whites, 34,176 colored—472,950 total. Total United States, 32,109,227 whites, colored 4,633,371—total, 36,742,598. This is an increase from the total population of 1860 of 2,237,376, and a total increase since 1850 of 5,245,118. The total colored population (slave and free) in the Southern States in 1860 is set down in this report at 3,890,047, and in 1867, 3,884,332, a falling off of 5,715. In consulting the census of the United States, however, we find that it gives the number of colored persons (slave and free) in the Southern States in 1860 at 4,435,709, and in this is correct the falling off of the colored population of the Southern States since 1860 shows the large aggregate of 561,377. During the ten years from 1850 to '60 their increase was 939,947, and every previous decade for seventy years and shown a steady and large increase. The total population, white and black, of the Southern States has increased from 10,257,017 in 1860 to 10,649,490 in 1867. The white population has increased in the South since 1860, 338,348, so that the colored losses of the war in that section are more than compensated. Whilst, however, this is a slight gain, notwithstanding the losses of the war, it will be sufficient, in order to estimate what a check to her progress in population the South has received, to remember that the actual gain of the whole population in the fifteen slaveholding States from 1850 to 1860 was 2,927,000. The value of total domestic exports from the United States during the twelve months ending June 30th, 1868, was \$454,188,500. Of these breadstuffs were valued at \$68,784,348, cotton, \$192,782,810, gold and silver \$83,746,161. The total re-exports were \$22,189,438. Value of total import entries \$343,409,448. The tonnage of American and foreign vessels which entered and cleared at each collection district of the United States from and to foreign countries during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1868, was: Entered, American, tonnage, 8,397,690; foreign, 4,495,465—total, 12,893,155. Cleared, American, 3,747,866; foreign, 4,561,000—total, 8,308,866.

CIRCUITS AND PEACH ORCHARDS.

CIRCUITS AND PEACH ORCHARDS.—The Messrs. Waters, of Du Quoin, have kept hogs in their peach orchards. They kept up all the fallen fruit. The second year after they adopted this idea but little comparatively of the fruit was stung, and for the past three years their loss from circuits has been of no consequence. The same plan has been adopted by A. Mitchell, Esq., with the most satisfactory results. Where it is impracticable to keep hogs in an orchard every particle of fallen fruit should be picked up and fed to them, or otherwise disposed of, so that the ground in it cannot lie. The stung fruit should never be allowed to lie on the ground during the night, for the grub gnaws the diseased fruit only at night, and burrows in the ground. If every fruit grown would use these suggestions, its ravages would cease.

WISDOM AND VIRTUE.

Wisdom and virtue are two invaluable specifics against all the crosses and misfortunes of human life.

THE ANNEXY PROCLAMATION.

The trouble with the recent Annexy Proclamation of President Johnson is, that it does not, because it could not, reach the full measure of relief needed, and indeed demanded by public sentiment. It is powerless because of the Fourteenth Amendment and the Reconstruction Laws to benefit a very large class of people in the Southern and in the States of West Virginia, Missouri and Tennessee. This class is excluded by these laws from any other participation in State affairs than the pleasant privilege of paying the bulk of the taxes. Mr. Johnson, of course, is not to blame for this, but it does seem that he is liable to ensure for delaying what he could do in the way of relief to the very latest minute of the eleventh hour. Indeed the chief defect of his whole executive management has been, not that his face was not set in the right direction, but that he lacked determination and energy at critical moments. The annexy, however, is a good thing so far as it goes, and we willingly acquiesce in Mr. Johnson's course, though we do not think they were not the best possible.

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