

By referring to the telegraphic dispatches in another column, it will be seen that an additional star gazette in the heavens of the Southern Confederacy. Seven have been there for some time in splendid brilliancy, and new young stars and planets are coming to be seen.

THE CONFERENCE

All of the Cotton States, save Tennessee, have now ranged themselves under the banner of Southern Rights, and Tennessee, with the balance of the Border States, will speedily join the Southern Confederacy. The Peace Conference has proved a delusion and a snare, and its further continuance can do no longer than to prolong the agony of Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri.

THE CONFERENCE

My attention has been called to the following article appearing in the Chicago Tribune, and which appears to be a reprint of an account published in the St. Louis Republican. It is a reprint of a letter from New Orleans, from a gentleman here in Virginia, and who has always resided in the South, and now a resident of that State.

THE CONFERENCE

I am not aware of what source the writer of the above obtained his information, but as a native of Virginia myself, as one who has always resided in the South, and is now a resident of that State, I am presumed to speak of public sentiment here as freely as the author of the letter to the Tribune, and I therefore beg leave to differ with him in almost every statement he has made. I believe the people here had a great deal to do with the Southern movement, and they have, in fact, compelled the politicians to keep up with them.

THE CONFERENCE

By publishing the above, you will oblige many Virginians who are feeling sore.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

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AMERICAN NEWS

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VOLUME XIII.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 26, 1861.

NUMBER 206.

TALK ON CHANGE

The week opened yesterday with some degree of quietude, and a comfortable talk about the staple and the expected falling off in receipts. If the receipts for the past three days are to be taken as a criterion, the short crop estimates have the call. Towards midnight there was considerable inquiry; the pulses of factors were felt; they beat rather high, though not feverish. As the day drew to a close it was manifest that the staple was in a low range was in better position. The prices were well thrown in, and, though the price of cotton, cotton staples, hays, of the same, sugar, coffee, bit-brokers, stock, and even boats, looking for bills, were all on the flag, on the levee in and about the wharves, and on the levee, and in all localities of dealers and traders, connected with the Western trade, it was lively and animated, though the sales of produce were not in the aggregate so large as on some days.

TALK ON CHANGE

There was some talk and comments on the communication of our London correspondent, published in our Saturday issue. As the correspondence, which appears in our columns, is not intended, or designed, to be taken in regard to the views expressed on the supply of cotton, (admitting, as we do, that it will require a score of years for Great Britain to replace American cotton) we have to correct our correspondent when he says, "Great Britain obtains six-sixths of all her cotton from the Southern States." We propose to refer to the fact, which will apply to the two large crops of 1850 and 1860.

TALK ON CHANGE

Instead of six-sixths, we find that only about 71 per cent, not quite three-fourths of the great import for those two monster crops were of Southern or American growth. We don't understand how our London friend arrives at the difference in India or Bombay cotton. It says, "The cotton which is imported into Great Britain has been going on for nearly thirty years, at an immense annual expenditure, and what is the result? Add together the uncertainty of the crop by reason of frequent droughts, and the expense of freight to Calcutta and Bombay, the long voyage hence to England, with freight and insurance, and you have a few shillings for a bale of cotton, which is worth one and a half to two pence a pound dearer than American Sea Island."

TALK ON CHANGE

Instead of being dark colored, coarse cotton, it is the contrary, it is peculiarly being the exact shade of the staple and lighter of its color. Staple fine, but very short. It is bought for its color to improve the appearance of goods made usually from low qualities of American cotton, and instead of being 10d. dearer than Sea Island, according to quotations before us, it is 11/2d. cheaper than the American Uplands; for instance, Bombay and Madras cotton is quoted at 45/3d. Upland Sea Island, and Sea Island 13/6d. We agree cordially with our correspondent that the cultivation of cotton in India to compete with American cotton is a complete failure.

TALK ON CHANGE

While talking of cotton, the question of a general export duty on cotton was brought up to enact a law of this nature. It is applied to shipments and exports to foreign countries with an avowed object to protect the revenue of the United States. We are cordially with our correspondent that the cultivation of cotton in India to compete with American cotton is a complete failure.

HAVANA CORRESPONDENCE

Special to the New Orleans Crescent. Havana, Feb. 21, 1861. Mr. Editor:—The visit of the Pope's Nuncio and so many revered fathers of "Old Mother Church" to this city appears to have made our supreme authority quite religious. It is forbidden that there shall be any masked balls next Sunday, either in this city or in the neighboring "villa" of Guanabacoa. I have often heard it said, "Give the Cubans music, dancing and bread, and they will be over soon enough." Such a prediction, however, is a very poor one, for it deprives the young people of a single ball has produced a degree of excitement among them that proves it would be dangerous to repeat the experiment.

HAVANA CORRESPONDENCE

The subject of the tariff is again occupying public attention in this island. The people are as last beginning to feel the hardship of paying the enormous duties now imposed upon articles of the first necessity, and several gentlemen have written upon this subject to the Cuban Congress, and a petition has been made in the duties imposed upon flour, corn, rice, potatoes, etc. The *Diario de Marina* treats the subject with great "liberality." It insists that four of the staple quality should be imported from foreign countries into this island paying a duty of only 24 a barrel; that four of inferior quality, imported as above, should only pay a duty of 31 per barrel. The *Diario* also mentions that the United States has concluded a "coasting trade," and that upon articles of foreign production which had paid duty in Spain no new or further duty should be imposed upon their importation from that country into this island.

HAVANA CORRESPONDENCE

It may be, too, that Spain, at length feeling the necessity of treating Cuba and her inhabitants, not as a conquered island and people, but as one of the provinces of her own kingdom, and as a people whose forefathers for many centuries have been loyal to her crown, entitled to similar treatment as that given to Spaniards in Old Spain, and that her (Spain's) best interest will be consulted by rendering Cuba and her inhabitants happy, will grant at this time what will be so material to the future comfort and happiness of the people of Cuba; but if it is supposed that this will efface from their memories the cruel treatment, the garrotting, the hangings from their homes and families, and thrusting them into the dungeons of their fathers, husbands and brothers, then I tell Spain she is mistaken. Would she render the young men of Cuba happy? Then she must give them at least a little liberty! She must withdraw her armies of soldiers from the island; she must keep the large fleet that plays for a considerable portion of the year in the harbor, of no earthly benefit, in the ports of the parent State. She must let the people of Cuba feel, by placing them in possession of responsibility, that if they do any thing they are worthy to be trusted, and their ambition will be raised to render themselves able to obtain and hold these positions. They will then become more worthy the name of men, and true and more loyal subjects to the crown of Spain Fernando.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

In our yesterday's report of Friday's military doings, we made a serious mistake, (in a military point of view) in mentioning Gen. Terry's as the First Brigade, and Gen. Palmer's as the Second Brigade; also, in mentioning the names of the regiments of the 1st and 2nd Divisions. We apologize for the error, and hereby assure you that we will in this respect be more particular as to how we were led into the mistake, but do not deem it worth while.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

The closing exercises of the annual examination of the First District Girls' High School, and the presentation of diplomas to the graduates, took place yesterday. The interesting nature of the occasion rendered the exercises of the graduates in the school-house very crowded, and many had to go away, unable to obtain an entrance or gain any place where standing tip-toe might hold out the prospect of a glimpse at the proceedings.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

The exercises consisted of singing, with piano accompaniment, and the reading of original compositions by the graduates, as follows: Song—"Morning Imagination." Compositions—"Our Education," by Miss Julia A. Hamilton. "The Weight of Truth," by Miss Helen A. Henderson. Song—"Janette." Compositions—"Genius of Italy," by Miss Sarah T. Cooper. "Immortality," by Miss Julia A. Hamilton. "Glorious Greece," by Miss Alice J. Clotney. Song—"Away, away, to Greenwood Shades."

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

At a quarter before 12 o'clock last Sunday night, the body of a white man who had been assassinated was found by the watchman in Deloria's, corner of South Street (outside the walls). Four men were immediately arrested, suspected of being concerned in this assassination.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

There was a masquerade ball at the Teatro Tacca, last Sunday night, at which from eight to ten thousand persons were present. There were some fifteen or twenty persons there, male and female, dressed as Garibaldians. The police made their first appearance this evening at the Teatro on the 12th instant, as a result of the immediate patronage of her excellency the Condesa de San Antonio. Of course the house was crowded from top to ceiling.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

The ship *Yankee* cleared for New Orleans, 20th; and *Sacred*, Virginia and Antioche, this morning. As ever, &c.

TEXAS INTELLIGENCE

The Galveston News of the 21st gives the following account of the capture of the federal defenses at San Antonio by the State forces. On Friday evening, the San Antonio News, G. C. 209 in number, a well armed and equipped body marched out to meet the coming troops under the command of the State forces. The State forces, under the command of Major General Alamo, Gen. Twiggs, accompanied by Major Nichols, met Gen. McCulloch in the main plaza. The horsemen paraded around them, and there was a brief conference. The State forces demanded the immediate evacuation of the place by the U. S. soldiers, without further delay. The U. S. soldiers refused to do so, and the State forces, under the command of Major Nichols, entered the place at 11 o'clock A. M., and the United States soldiers would march in a day or two for Louisiana.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. Campbell afterward read to the audience the tabular showing of Miss Liddell, the Principal, made from notes taken daily throughout the year. In this exhibit there figured numerous young ladies who were not on the list of composition writers or graders.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. J. A. Noyles, one of the founders of the First District High Schools, and for years one of the most zealous of those who fostered public education, was introduced by Mr. Lusher, and addressed the graduating young ladies in words befitting a father, a patriot, and a Christian. It was one of the most appropriate and feeling addresses ever made to any graduating class.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

The graduates then sang a parting song, and soon left the door and school house, never to return again, except as visitors to the teachers and girls they left behind them.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

At a meeting, held at the Engine House of Fire Company No. 23, it was resolved to form a military company. Enrollment books were opened and sixty-nine members subscribed their names.

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