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ANDERSONVILLE'S HORRORS

SPEECH OF GENERAL BUTLER

SUFFERINGS OF THE UNION SOLDIERS

SHOOTING AT THE DEAD LINE

[From the New York Standard.]

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., May 30.—Decoration Day was observed here by crowning the graves of all soldiers buried in the different cemeteries with floral offerings and flags. City officials, schools and citizens generally joined the procession, and General Benjamin F. Butler delivered an address descriptive of the treatment and sufferings endured by Union soldiers at Andersonville prison.

GENERAL BUTLER'S ADDRESS.

The annual opening of the flowers accompanying the closing spring-time brings with it the sacred occasion to which we have yearly consecrated their blossoms to deck the resting places of our patriot dead who gave their lives to save their country. No more fitting purpose could have been selected for the beautiful bloom of nature than this adornment. No day could be better dedicated than the one which calls us, year by year, to the side of the graves of those whom we loved when living, and whom we revere dead, and honor with our tribute of floral decorations. We bring now the first fruits of the spring-time to lay them on their sepulchres as altars where rest the remains of those we have sacrificed for the nation—victims more precious than Isaac of old, given as a willing offering with more than the faith of Abraham.

This day, to this generation, is neither a fast, a feast nor a holiday. Fathers, sons, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, widows, all now come hear with gladness tinged with sorrow, to do honor with tokens of affection and reverence to the lov-d ones gone. The occasion is not a fast, for we can not very much grieve or regret the glorious deaths of those we have lost. But hereafter, when our and their children shall perpetuate decoration day—as we fondly hope and trust will be done from generation to generation forever as long as the fires of patriotism and love of liberty are lighted in the American heart—when all tinge of grief has gone, the occasion shall be a holiday and a feast day, on which, remembering the virtues of those whose deaths they glorify, they shall rejoice and be exceedingly glad. Rejoice that their fathers were inspired with that courage, that devotion due to the country, that constancy and valor which caused them to lay down their lives that the nation might live, and that free institutions and government under law might be perpetuated which their posterity has received at their hands. And our children's children shall hereafter bring their children to these graves, there to learn the lessons by which they shall be made fit to govern and maintain untarnished in high honor republican free America.

Then, here shall be rehearsed the story of the deeds of daring, of high valor, of battles won, of victory crowned with the greatest of all achievements known to mankind by the citizen soldier in their quiet return to the pursuits of civil life on the approach of peace. But these deeds need not be recounted now. They are all imprinted on our hearts and fresh in our memories. At this hour, all over the free North, in every hamlet and village—yea, on every soldier's grave—flowers are strewn upon the ashes of the defenders of liberty who sleep in their burial places there.

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I have thought that it may not be inappropriate to spend a few moments upon this day of commemoration of the absent dead in recalling to our minds in what manner and by what means these our comrades perished; to review the story of their wrongs and sufferings that we may appreciate how much our country has cost us. For it is not the number of the dead, but the manner of death, that swells the dread account. The mere numbers of men simply, who die in a good cause, is hardly to be reckoned, for death comes to us all, sooner or later; and when it ends a life well spent, and the dying man is surrounded by every comfort of life, accompanied by the sympathy of friends, blessed with the consolations of religion and a vivid hope of life to come, there is nothing specially terrible in death.

> "And to the hero, when his sword
> Hath won the battle for the free,
> Thy voice sounds like a prophet's word,
> And in its hollow tones are heard
> The thanks of millions yet to be."

Time will not suffice to describe in any considerable detail to you how our soldiers suffered death in each rebel prison. Thousands of pages would not permit even slightly to sketch their accumulated horrors. I will take one as a sample for all, and place before you only facts taken wholly from official sources and sworn testimony, from a public document where they now lie hidden from sight and memory.

If, in telling this sad and mournful story, I shall recount that which shocks the mind and harrows the soul; if I relate facts improbable, and almost impossible; if I make you a statement that will quite freeze your blood and cause you to turn away in shuddering disgust at the narration, the fault is not mine. It will only be the truth passed into history, of cruelties, wrongs and horrors too shocking to be believed, except that they are made too true by the corpses of thousands dead and by the solemn oaths of many hundred living, some of whom I doubt not are now present, and in their own persons have felt and known whereof I speak.

Passing by other and lesser, but not less horrible places of confinement, in which Union soldiers, prisoners of war, perished, I come to sketch to you for a moment the great prison-pen at Andersonville, in which more in number of my soldier-comrades of the Union died in one year than of British soldiers who were ever killed or wounded in any battle.

Andersonville prison was in the heart of Georgia, the empire State of the South, one of the most fertile and richest of them all, in the midst of a heavily timbered country, well watered, where plenty of sites for a depot of prisoners might have been found suitable for the purposes for which this was used.

[Here General Butler read from the official report a description of a wretched place, where thirty-five thousand of our soldiers were compressed, giving to each man "but four feet by six for walking and sleeping, for exercise and rest, for cooking and eating or sickness and death."]

Such was the place where our soldiers were confined by the confederate authorities, and that such were the reasons for its selection is abundantly borne out by the testimony and the results. But not all, even of this place, was given up for the use of the Union prisoners.

Fraught as the whole of it became afterward with danger of sickness and death there was set apart a more dreadful portion still.

Inside of the stockade, parallel with its lines and about twenty feet distant, was the "dead line," marked by scantling nailed upon upright posts, which were planted in the ground at regular intervals. It was indeed the line of death. To pass it or to encroach upon the fatal precinct beyond, brought the penalty of death to all without distinction.

THE FOOD FURNISHED OUR PRISONERS.

Let me now give you from sworn statements which are over and over repeated by hundreds of witnesses, what was furnished full grown, stalwart men to eat in such a place of confinement, without shelter either from the burning sun or the piercing cold; for although in a southern latitude, the climate of Andersonville gave a wide variation of temperature from fourteen degrees below zero in winter to one hundred and twelve in the shade in summer; and in the year 1864 there were counted one hundred and eight rainy days, in which there fell fifty-four inches of rain, or about fifteen inches more than the average of this climate.

Say the witnesses: "Our rations per day during the first month were a little over a pint of Indian meal, partly of cob ground with meal, which was made into mush, and which was called by the appropriate name of chicken feed. Once in two days we got about a teaspoonful of salt. At first bacon was issued in small quantities of fifteen to twenty pounds to ninety men, but after the first of July this was dropped almost entirely from prison rations. Sometimes, instead of Indian meal, we got rice or beans, but each bean had an occupant in the shape of a grub or worm. Our modes of cooking were entirely primitive. The meal was stirred into water, making a thick dough, then a little meal was sprinkled on the bottom of a plate or half of a canteen, to keep the dough from sticking. The dough was then placed in a plate or canteen, which was set up at an angle of forty-five degrees, to be cooked before a fire. When the front of the cake was 'done brown,' the plate was fixed upon a split stick, and held over the coals until it was baked or burned upon the bottom. Our meal was sometimes sifted through a split half of a canteen, in which holes had been punched with a sixpenny nail. But even this coarse sieve left us so little meal for food, it was gradually abandoned as impracticable. In sheer necessity of hunger we sacrificed quality to quantity."

Was there any pretense of need that the prisoners should not have fire for warmth, as well as for cooking purposes? By no means.

The country around the Andersonville prison was a thickly studded forest of towering pines, the space occupied by the camp having been cleared for the purpose of its location. In the midst of this abundance, and with the full knowledge of the highest officers of the Confederacy, Union prisoners of war were compelled to eat raw food, and perish for want of fire and shelter.

Let us see how these rations, so insufficient in themselves, without utensils or wood for cooking, were brought to camp for well men, and to the hospital for the use of the sick. I give the testimony of a hospital steward, which, in its horrible, sickening and disgusting details, is confirmed by the evidence of hundreds of living witnesses, many of whom were sworn before the congressional committee:

The greatest deficiencies existed in every department of the prison. For instance, there were only twenty wagons, with two mules to each, provided for hauling the food and any articles necessary to be transported for the use of the stockade and hospital, and the removal of the dead for burial, and everything else necessary to be taken away—twenty wagons and forty mules for the use of thirty-three thousand men—a little less than one wagon and two mules to sixteen hundred men. And here presents a most horrible and sickening fact, so revolting in its character that I would not mention it only for its having been a reality which helpless men were compelled to endure, and must bear in their memories to the end of their lives. I have said that the same wagon which brought the food took away the dead. A number of wagons would be taken around to the dead-house and loaded to their utmost capacity with putrid, purging corpses of men who had rotted alive from sores, wounds, erysipelas, and every disease that flesh is heir to, and driven to the cemetery, a distance of a mile, unloaded, and without the least provision for cleansing—a drop of water, a broom, a wisp of straw—but often dripping with corruption and swarming with flies, were ordered and driven directly around to the slaughter-house and reloaded with fresh beef for the prisoners, and driven back to the stockade and hospital. There was no earthly protection interposed between this poison mass—which in many instances would have been a deadly inoculation to any man whose raw flesh might come in contact with it—and the meat given our poor wretched men to eat, under pretext of sustaining life. Is it any longer a wonder that prisoners rotted alive? In view of the excessive mortality, the question has often been raised if our men were not drugged and purposely poisoned. There was no need of this. Heaven knows the filthy conditions of their captors were sufficient in themselves to poison and destroy any camp of decent men.

RESULTS OF THIS TREATMENT.

I give now the sworn testimony of another witness of the results of such confinement, such treatment, such food thus procured and prepared; and if the whole of it shocks and disturbs us, what must have been the suffering of our comrades who saw and felt it day by day!

"There being no sanitary regulations in camp, and no proper medical provisions, sickness and death were inevitable accompaniments of our imprisonment. Thousands of prisoners were so affected with scurvy, caused by want of vegetables or of nutritious food, that their limbs were ready to drop from their bodies. I have often seen maggots scooped out by the handful from the sores of those thus afflicted. Upon the first attack of scurvy, an enervating weakness creeps over the body which is followed by a disinclination to exercise; the legs become swollen and weak, and often the cords contract, drawing the leg out of shape; the color of the skin becomes black and blue, and retains pressure from the fingers as putty will. This is frequently followed by dropsical symptoms, swelling of the feet and legs. If the patient was subject to trouble with the throat, the scurvy would attack that part; if afflicted with or disposed to any disease, there it would seize and develop, or aggravate it into the system.

"In cases of this character, persons ignorant of their condition would often be trying to do something for disease which in reality should have been treated as scurvy, and could have been prevented or cured by proper food. A common form of scurvy was in the mouth; this was the most horrible in its final results of any that afflicted the prisoners. The teeth would become loosened, the gums rot away, and swallowing the saliva thus tainted with the poison of scurvy would produce scurvy in the bowels, which often took the form of diarrhea. Sometimes bloating of the bowels would take place, followed by terrible suffering and death. Often scurvy sores would gangrene, and maggots would crawl from the flesh and pass from the bowels, and, under the tortures of a slow death, the body would become, in part, putrid before death. In this manner died Corporal Gibson, an old, esteemed and pious man of my company. Two or three others also died in much the same manner. Corporal Gibson especially had his reason and senses clear, after most of his body was in a putrid condition. In other cases, persons wasted to mere skeletons by starvation and disease, unable to help themselves, died by inches the most terrible of deaths, with not a particle of medicine or a hand lifted by those in charge of the prison for their relief."

NO NECESSITY FOR THIS TREATMENT.

Was there any occasion for this state of things? Was there any occasion for this want of the ordinary and common decencies of life? Let the hospital steward, now representing us in a foreign country, who speaks under oath and of his own knowledge, again declare:

"There was no excuse for not furnishing nourishing food and any comforts needed by our sick, there being, to my certain knowledge, at one time, a hospital fund of $120,000, which suddenly disappeared without being accounted for or any equivalent rendered. No medicines would have been required if proper food, shelter and the common decencies of life had been afforded to our men."

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THE DEAD LINE.

But sickness, starvation and disease were not the only prolific sources of death in this horrible place. I have already described to you the dead line. Let me give you, from the sworn testimony of a Massachusetts man, one of your neighbors, in what manner our poor soldiers were there murdered:

"One of the great instruments of death in the prison was the dead line. This line consisted of a row of stakes driven into the ground, with narrow board strips nailed down upon the top, at the distance of about fifteen feet from the stockade, and any person who approached it—as many unconsciously did—were shot dead, with no warning whatever to admonish him that death was near. An instance of this kind came to my notice the second day I was in prison. A poor one-legged cripple placed one hand on the dead line to support him while he got his crutch, which had fallen from his feeble grasp to the ground. In this position he was shot through the lungs, and laid near the dead line writhing in torments during most of the forenoon, until at last death came to his relief. None dared approach him to relieve his sufferings through fear of the same fate. The guard loaded his musket after he had performed this dastardly act, and grinning with satisfaction, viewed the body of the dying, murdered man, for nearly an hour, with apparent pleasure, occasionally raising the gun to threaten any one who, from curiosity or pity, dared to approach the poor fellow. In a similar manner men were shot upon the smallest pretext, and that it was nothing but a pretext was apparent from the fact that one man approaching the dead line could have in no manner harmed the cumbersome stockade, even had he been inclined so to do, and a hundred men could not, with their united strength, have forced it. Frequently the guard fired indiscriminately into a crowd. On one occasion I saw a man wounded and another killed; one was lying under his blanket asleep, the other standing some distance from the dead line." * * *

You doubtless will have thought that I have enumerated now every source of destruction possible to come to these prisoners. You are mistaken. It was not in human nature, under the accumulated horrors of their condition, for our soldiers not to make many attempts at escape, although hundreds of miles intervened between them and any possible succor, save from the negroes, who never failed to give aid and comfort to a Union soldier, even in the wilds of Georgia.

THE BLOODHOUNDS.

What precautions, do you think, were taken to prevent such escape, and how were the fugitives brought back, if, indeed, they ever came back? Trained packs of dogs, bloodhounds and others, were kept in the vicinity of the prison, and every morning were led around the stockade to snuff the footsteps of any fleeing soldier, whose track was followed into the swamps, there over taken, and, unless he had found refuge in a tree so as to be out of the way of the hounds when they reached him, his flesh was torn by their fangs, while their hunters sat on their horses coolly looking on, or cheering on the nobler animals; and more than one instance is sworn to where our men were mangled by the dogs, and their lifeless bodies left in the swamps.

THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS.

Your imaginations may have pictured, but your judgments can have hardly confirmed the results of such confinement, such food, such treatment and such cruelties. The whole number of prisoners confined in that prison pen was 40,611; the number of graves was 13,705, or more than one in every three, and this without estimating the number of whose decease there is neither the memorial of a grave nor a record. We all see how much more deadly was rebel cruelty than were rebel rifles, from the fact that it is reckoned that in battle, even the most bloody, only four in a hundred of the combatants engaged are killed. Here every third man died the horrible death which the official evidence has described. No battle since the invention of gunpowder has shown upon one side thirteen thousand deaths. At the battle of Waterloo, which decided the fate of Europe, the loss in killed of the British was only 2,047. The slaughter of ancient times, when very much greater numbers of troops were brought into the field, were much less than the deaths at Andersonville. In the battle of Marathon, which delivered Greece from Persian armies, the Persian dead were six thousand four hundred, and the Athenian one hundred and ninety-two. In neither of these battles have I spoken of the wounded, because hardly one well man escaped from Andersonville; all these were wounded by emaciation and disease.

Such, my comrades, was the treatment of our soldiers in prisons during the rebellion. The number of all who died as prisoners of war, such deaths as I have shown so far as can be ascertained is 44,401, although the graves of 15,816 only are known, leaving 29,585 unknown dead, at whose graves neither friend, widow nor child may weep.

I do not charge these accumulated horrors, of which I repeat again and again there is the fullest evidence, upon the people of the South as a mass. I do put the responsibility thereof upon their leaders, for it happened under their very eye, and the testimony shows frequent reports to them of this terrible condition of things.

But perhaps I am wrong, and ought not even to charge it upon these, but upon the execrable and inhuman spirit that the institution of slavery had engendered in man. And even in your sorrow you will rejoice with me that, although at such a price, slavery has been extinguished forever. Still its spirit has not died out, and we hear coming up from the South daily evidences of that cruelty, lawlessness and disregard of the rights of others that murdered our prisoners in Andersonville and elsewhere, now taking the lives of Union citizens of the United States, both black and white, almost at pleasure. When any man shall deny to you that such outrages do exist, because in his experience of men and communities nothing of the kind could be possible, point him to the unknown graves at Andersonville, filled with the bodies of those who died of starvation, from shooting by the inhuman guards, or lacerated by the bloodhounds of rebeldom, and say, if such things were possible, are not Ku-Klux outrages probable?

THE OUTLOOK.

BY HON. HENRY L. DAWES, M. C.

[From the Independent.]

We have now reached midway in the administration of General Grant; and it should be profitable as well as interesting to look out upon our reckonings and learn, if possible, whither we have drifted and what is before us. Indeed, whatever occasion there is for anxiety in regard to the one arises from uncertainty as to the extent of the other. If there has been no drifting thus far in our course, then there can be little cause for anxiety as to the future, for no administration ever entered upon the discharge of its trusts more firmly grounded in popular confidence, or more strongly girded in the rectitude of its purposes than the one which has as yet hardly finished the work of its first two years.

And yet it has little else upon which to rest an appeal for a continuance of confidence beyond its ability to justify its past. A new administration may be, often must be, taken on trust; an old one can never be. What it has done and has failed to do are always louder than promises, and will ever fill the public ear and shape the public judgment in utter indifference to proffered renewals of broken pledges, or any profusion of new ones. Ability to grapple with the untried future may be generously accorded to new men, but is never to those already in harness. So any attempt to judge of the future of this administration must necessarily involve a survey of its past. It by no means ends, however, with such a survey. The lessons of experience, the follies of opponents, the philosophy of antagonism itself, as well as the tide of events, are all elements not to be lost sight of in making up any estimate of ultimate results.

The administration of General Grant need not shrink from an honest and candid application of any or all these tests in the examination of its claims to a continuance of public confidence and support. It can not, it is true, insist that there have been no mistakes, or that it has met every expectation of its friends. Indeed, one great claim it has on the public regard, never to be found among its opponents, rests on the very fact that it searches with an unsparing vigilance for its own errors, and corrects them before they work it any harm. That body which has strength and courage enough to probe its own sores has also vitality enough to recuperate and restore any loss to the system arising from them. The severest critics of the Republican party are in its own fold. And so long as they remain there, and, in good temper, hold up its faults before its own eyes, they are an element of strength. No greater mistake in political ethics ever took possession of men or party than that concealment of errors and follies was necessary to success. You can as easily and as safely cover up a cancer or hide the consumption.

Chronic grumblers and sore heads do not belong to the class of healthy critics here alluded to. They are as harmless as they are noisy. But that antagonism which, impelled by conviction and not by disappointment or malice, wrestles with the policy of the administration and opposes its measures for cause is, in so doing, as sure to give it strength and power as training does the athlete, or as lifting swells the muscle. All these the administration of President Grant has successfully encountered, and is to-day, because of them, as much as anything, stronger in the confidence of the people than at any other period since its commencement.

In the matter of public expenditures, payment of the public debt, tariff reform, annexation of San Domingo, and the general foreign policy of the government, the administration has met with severe criticism and aroused greater debate within than outside of its own ranks. And yet, in all these the result has been a more cordial support in the end than would otherwise have been attained. The reason is obvious. Those at the head of affairs are neither pig-headed, self-willed, nor corrupt; and have, therefore, been ready to correct errors when pointed out, and modify measures or change policies when the necessity is made apparent, as well as to adhere the more closely to that line of conduct which withstands, unshaken, whatever assaults may be made upon it. This administration can unhesitatingly point to the work it has already accomplished in fulfillment of the pledges upon which it came into power. It has paid in two years more than $200,000,000 of the public debt, which it undertook to put upon the footing of ultimate extinction. One-twelfth of the whole has thus, in the first two years of this Administration been extinguished, and thereby in interest alone $12,000,000 of the annual burdens have been lifted from the shoulders of the people. And at the same time $83,000,000 more of those burdens have been removed by the repeal of internal taxes and foreign imports, in the process of equalization of the public burdens, first undertaken in earnest when General Grant assumed direction of public affairs. All this reduction has been more than compensated in the aggregate receipts of the public treasury by a more faithful and efficient collection of the remaining revenue, and by the growth of every industry under healthy legislation and wise administration, so that the actual receipts and estimates for the present fiscal year show that there will be at its close $100,000,000 surplus over all expenditures, to be applied to a still further diminution of the public debt. If, therefore, there should be no change of policy, and no financial disaster, the four years of this administration will close with a constant reduction of taxation, and yet a yearly extinguishment of $100,000,000 of the public debt—in all, one-sixth part of the entire indebtedness of the nation. There is no parallel to this in the financial history of any other people.

In the matter of public expenditures this administration has been equally fortunate in commanding the public confidence. In addition to a reduction of $20,000,000 during its first year, it has by general law the present year covered into the treasury and passed to the general fund more than twice that sum which stood in unexpended balances to the credit of the several bureaus, and hitherto available at any moment for expenditure, keeping at the same time the aggregate of appropriations as low as that of the first year.

In tariff reform good work has been begun by the addition of more than fifty articles to the free list, and by a more intelligent adjustment of duties, opening the way for a greater work during the next two years in bringing raw materials and labor and consumption into such harmony that they shall, each in its own field, command the markets of the country.

The provision for funding on long time of more than one-half of the entire public debt, at a reduced rate of interest, averaging less than five per cent, and thereby saving, when fully carried out in the matter of interest alone, $15,000,000 annually—now so far advanced as to insure success—is one among the many measures of this administration, both for relief from public burdens and for insuring the ultimate extinction of the public debt, to which its friends may point with confidence and pride.

In matters of reconstruction also—the most difficult of all the tasks inherited by this administration—it has not been found wanting. Never since the fall of the States till now have they all been restored to their proper relations to the Union, and been fully represented in both houses of Congress. And never since they rebelled anew under Andrew Johnson till now have they felt brought home to them the restraining power of law. The Ku-Klux, originating in the license and encouragement of the last administration, encounters in this the penalties of its crimes.

No friend of the present administration need, therefore, hesitate for a moment in putting its claim for a continuance of public confidence upon its past record, for no one that has preceded it has, in two short years, accomplished so much worthy of commendation and support, and in so little has come short of its own promises and the public expectation.

Nor is there less of encouragement in the field of labor into which it now enters for the two years that remain. It has already secured during the entire period an assured majority in both houses of Congress large enough for their own health, and for its support in every measure worthy of success -an indication of abiding confidence not accorded to any of its predecessors for more than a generation, except to that of Mr. Lincoln, in the midst of the war. Adhering strictly to the inaugural, the strongest convictions of the executive are surrendered to the will of the people, expressed through Congress, that ultimate appeal on all questions that concern the republic. San Domingo will fail to distract or divide, for to the people this problem has been referred for solution. In like manner "revenue reform" will come ultimately to be the resultant of seemingly discordant and conflicting views of industrial and financial policy, to which Pennsylvania, Illinois and New England will with alacrity adopt both theory and practice.

At this present writing the labors of the high commission are as yet incomplete, to that any judgment passed on the character of its work would be premature; but the country is well nigh prepared in advance to hail its peace-offering as alike honorable and acceptable, and to extend to these who are carrying on to a successful result those difficult and delicate negotiations the credit due to the vast importance of the questions involved.

The spring elections have also given strength to the administration, and brought weakness and confusion to its enemies. The defeat in New Hampshire, no less than the triumph in Connecticut, bore this double fruit. Warned in season by the one to take heed as to its footsteps, the Republican party girded up its loins for a fierce struggle and final victory in the other, while their opponents, elated by unexpected success in New Hamshire, threw off disguise, and developed their true character in bloody outbreaks at the South, and unblushing defense of Ku Klux outrages at the North. Thus did the enormities which were born of their first success render another impossible, and achieved for them an overwhelming defeat. One of the ablest and most candid of the Democrats in the national councils remarked, on the morning the telegraph announced the result in Connecticut, that "the New Hampshire victory had brought every Copperhead in the party to the surface, and had well nigh worked their ruin, and another such in Connecticut would have completed it."

Thus a candid review of the record on this administration during the first two years of its term, as well as an unbiased examination of its unfinished work and survey of the field before it, leaves no occasion for doubt or distrust, much less does it furnish excuse for withdrawal of support. No earnest Republican, however he may criticise, and whatever may be his personal disappointments, can find either in the past of this Republican administration, its present attitude toward the great questions of the day, or in the path or prospect opening before it, justification for turning his face from it, and this without for one moment putting into the scale the fearful alternative involved. When that shall come to be weighed, also, all cavil is at once silenced, and all hesitancy must disappear.

These views are submitted without regard to the *personnel* of the present administration. The cause represented by the men at the head of public affairs is infinitely above the men themselves, and its importance, as well as the duty of all true and earnest workers for advancing civilization toward it, can and ought to be considered independently of personal aspirations or fortunes. However these may rise or sink, the banner must and will be ever borne aloft.

A Nashville paper reports the "obsequies of the last surviving member of the first Grand Lodge of Masons in Tennessee." Why they buried the poor man alive does not appear.

THE COURTS.

Eighth District Court—Explosive Coal Oil—What the Jury Thinks of It, Etc.

In the case of Nancy Lockwood vs. E. A. Wentzel et al, in which some thirty thousand dollars were claimed, in consequence of a coal oil explosion, the jury has returned a verdict, as follows:

We, the jurors in this case, find a verdict in favor of Nancy Lockwood in the sum of $439 55, without interest; also a verdict in favor of the minor children in the sum of $4000, also without interest.

In the case of John Spalding vs. J. J. Kreider et als, in which judgment was rendered on the twenty-seventh of June, 1870, against plaintiff, the latter has filed a petition that a devolutive appeal be granted him, returnable to the Supreme Court on the first Monday of November next. The appeal prayed for was allowed.

Fifth District Court—Judgment Against the City—Haley, of Commercial Place Sues for $10,000 Damages.

In the suit of J. N. B. Depouilly vs. the city of New Orleans, Judge Leaumont has given judgment in favor of defendant. Depouilly sued the city for the sum of $1125 for salaries due under special provisions of a certain city ordinance. Defendant had occupied the position of Assistant City Surveyor, and was to receive a yearly salary of $1800. Defendant alleged that while peacefully and justly performing the duties of his office he was, without just cause, discharged by W. H. Bell, who had been appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Louis Surgi.

Some time since a suit was brought in this court by Patrick Higgins against C. C. Haley, in which plaintiff sued to recover certain moneys and control of the news business then carried on by Haley, Higgins alleging that the business was withheld from him illegally. The verdict of the jury being against Higgins, Haley has now instituted suit against him for $10,000 damages in that he has suffered to that extent in consequence of the proceedings above-mentioned.

Seventh District Court—Decision by Judge Collens.

In the case of Ernest Turpin vs. Michel Bochet, Judge Collens has delivered the following opinion:

The defense relied on is prescription; and the questions raised under that plea require the court to decide what prescription is applicable to the demand, whether it was ever interrupted, and if so, when that interruption ceased.

On the twentieth of June, 1861, Bochet sued his creditors for a respite, and obtained the usual order of court for a meeting of creditors and a stay of all proceedings against his person and property. The plaintiff is named on the schedule as an acknowledged creditor for $500 per "bill;" and the schedule is sworn to by the defendant. The proceedings, however, were not carried any further—the creditors were not notified specially, and the meeting did not take place. The conditions imposed by article 3054 has precedent to a respite, but were not all complied with. The action was clearly abandoned.

The matter remained in this condition, plaintiff making no attempt to inforce his claim till January, 1871, when on his motion the court set aside the order granting the stay of proceedings. Thereupon he instituted this suit to which defendant opposes the prescriptions of three and five years.

This plea is objected to on several grounds. The first is that prescription was interrupted during the whole time from the date of the order granting the stay of proceedings to the date of the order setting the stay aside. It is argu-d that the order granting the stay, while it subsisted prevented the plaintiff from enforcing his claim judicially, and that therefore the delay thus obtained by the debter can not be counted in his favor as time during which prescription was running. I do not think the law sustains this objection.

The plaintiff was not cited or "summoned" as required by article 3054, and was at liberty to sue, for the proceedings for a respite had no effect against him without such service.

The neglect of the defendant to notify his creditors, and the consequent total failure of the proposed meeting, render the whole inoperative, for since it is the duty of a suitor to cause the necessary process to be issued and served, and since the omission of the essential and necessary process, without which his proceeding could have no effect, was chargeable to Boshet, it must be construed as an abandonment of his petition, and therefore act 3485 applies. But even if this neglect to cite and this failure of the meeting had not of themselves the effect of rendering the proceedings nugatory, and that a revocation of the order granting the stay was necessary before a creditor could sue, it is clear that he could have proceeded in July, 1861, as well as in January, 1871, to enforce his demand by a motion to set the order aside, and since he had an evident right to do then he can not say his right of action was legally prevented. Evidently his silence and inaction were voluntary, and article 3494 applies. The very action he brought last January could have been brought nine years ago.

Then, even if we suppose the proceedings were regular, and had all the effect they could possibly have had, there is the fact that they were only instituted to obtain a respite, and that it was asked only for one year: so that even had it been actually granted by the creditors, they all, at the expiration of the year, would have had the right to sue. In no principle can an order granted on a petition praying for a respite of one year be construed so as to give it effect beyond that time, unless the case had been legally converted into a cession of property, according to article 3065.

The second objection to defendant's plea is that it is the prescription of ten years (not those of three and five) which applies to plaintiff's demand. It is argued that by putting plaintiff on his schedule as a creditor, per bill, for five hundred dollars, and by swearing to this Bochet put plaintiff in the condition of a creditor who has "an account acknowledged," and that, therefore, since article 3503 saves such accounts from the prescription of three years, there is no other prescription applicable but that of ten years under article 3503. Here again I must conclude against the plaintiff. It is doubtful whether or not the admission of a debt on a schedule presented for a respite or cession can be transferred to the creditor's account itself, so as to convert it into an "account acknowledged" in the sense of article 3503. But a decision on this point is unnecessary, since that article has no reference whatever to the kind of account the plaintiff had against the defendant. Article 3503 relates to accounts for rent charge, annuities, alimony, hire of things, money loaned, salaries and fees, and enacts that these shall be prescribed in three years, "unless there be an account acknowledged," etc.

The plaintiff's account is for liquors, sold and is prescribed according to the act of 1862, page 90; but this act is not an amendment of article 3503, which remains intact. The act is an independent statute, and can not be read into the article. It stood by itself and apart from the article till the new Civil Code was enacted in 1870. It prescribed plaintiff's account in three years, without any such extending clause or proviso in favor of acknowledged accounts as is found in article 3503. Prescription is *stricti juris*, and can not be restricted or enlarged by implication or analogy, nor by devination of the intention of the Legislature to add to conditions and term of prescription defined by one statute to those of another statute. The plaintiff's account was therefore prescribed in three years, whether acknowledged or not. So also the note mentioned in the account was prescribed in five years absolutely; for article 3505 does not contain any proviso similar to that of article 3503, so as to make the acknowledgment of a note change the lenghth of time necessary for prescription. The only effect is that the same term runs anew from the date of the acknowledgment.

Judgment for defendant.

United States Circuit Court—Hon. Joseph P. Bradley Presiding.

In the case of Charles Morgan vs. J. Graham, Auditor, A. Dubuclet, Treasurer, G. E. Bovee, Secretary of State, H. C. Warmoth, Governor, and the New Orleans, Mobile and Chattanooga railroad, otherwise the New Orleans, Mobile and Texas Railroad Company, the rule taken by complainant to enjoin the first four defendants from auditing, registering, signing and delivering to the last named defendant certain bonds guaranteed by the State of Louisiana, was, after hearing argument, taken under advisement by his honor, Judge Bradley.

In the case of Myra Clark Gaines vs. the city of New Orleans and other defendants, the pleas and demurrers of defendants were overruled, and defendants were ordered to file their answer to complainant's bills on or before the rule day of August, 1871.

Sixth District Court—Fisk vs. Fisk.

This case, which, for the past two years, has from time to time been attracting public attention, reached yesterday its last phase in the lower court. After a sturdy defense to resist paying alimony in the early stages of the suit, which was unsuccessful before Judge Cooley, and was equally so before the Supreme Court twelve months ago, the defendant, F. M. Fisk, has obtained the deliberate opinion of twelve of his compeers, invoked by him to give a consideration to his case, which he seemed to infer, by calling upon them, had not been sufficiently rendered by the Sixth and Supreme Courts.

After consuming the long hours of the day in taking testimony, varied at length by the able appeals of counsel for both parties, the case was submitted to the jury about six o'clock last evening. The burning and touching words of the counsel for plaintiff, in his closing address, had, however, convinced by their eloquence the last court to which the defendant appealed, and in a few minutes the jury returned with a verdict finding that Mrs. M. A. Fisk had been married to F. M. Fisk, and was entitled to a divorce and to one-half of the community property since 1842.

NEW ORLEANS TO ST. LOUIS.

Remarkable Business Trip of the Steamboat Natchez.

[From the St. Louis Republican, June 8.]

The steamboat Natchez, Thomas P. Leathers captain, arrived in port yesterday, having made a remarkably quick business trip from New Orleans to St. Louis, almost rivaling the time made by her in the celebrated race with the Robert E. Lee in July last. At the time of the departure of the boat from New Orleans, at 5:30 P. M. on Saturday last, a furious storm of wind and rain was prevailing, which continued with unabated fierceness all night and during the greater part of the following day. Some idea of its violence may be imagined when it is stated that it required the use of two tugs to get the boat out from the landing into the stream. Notwithstanding the great disadvantages of the heavy head-wind and driving rain, the run to Donaldsonville was made in five hours and twenty and a half minutes, where the first landing was made and several passengers taken on board.

The log of the Natchez from this point shows the following:

Landed at Gay's plantation for passengers, and received a lot of mill machinery for St. Louis, which detained us twenty minutes. Time to Baton Rouge, nine hours and fifty-five minutes; landed there and put out passengers. Landed at Bayou Sara and took on board passengers and freight; lost fifteen minutes. Passed the mouth of Red river in fourteen hours and thirty minutes, and made the run from there to Stamp's landing, the exact time made by the Lee on her St. Louis run; landed at Lochleven and Fairview, and came to Natchez in eighteen hours and fifty-one minutes; landed, and put out passengers and freight, losing eighteen minutes. Stopped at Rodney and Grand Gulf, to which latter port we were out twenty-four hours, being our ninth landing; stopped at Hard Times and Delta, and reached Vicksburg in twenty-six hours and thirty-five minutes; put out passengers and freight and took two coal boats, losing twenty-two minutes. After dropping our tow, and the weather having cleared up, with the moon brightly shining, the "Big Indian" let himself out, and did such magnificent running as to excite the admiration of every one. Landed at Lake Providence, Cox's Landing, Greenville, Point Comfort, Bolivar, mouth of White river, where we took in tow a coal flat, and made Old Town landing in forty-eight hours. Reached Memphis in two days, eight hours and seventeen and a half minutes; was detained there forty-three minutes waiting for coal and putting out passengers and freight. Upon leaving Memphis we found the water much lower than was anticipated, which caused us to avoid all cut-offs, and compelled us to run the main channel, which, of course, very materially interfered with our making time. We were out three days at head of Island No. 10. Passed the Richmond below Columbus; made Cairo in three days, four hours and forty-two minutes, which was our twentieth landing. Was detained forty minutes putting out passengers, getting coal, etc. Owing to the condition of the river from Cairo to St. Louis, we had no opportunity of doing any running, being under slow bells almost all the time. Landed at Grand Tower for coal, and at the bank below Chester on account of some disarrangement of machinery, and arrived at St. Louis at half-past four o'clock, being out three days, twenty-two hours and twenty minutes, having made twenty-two landings on the trip.

Taking all things into consideration, the number of landings made, the amount of business done, and the difficulties encountered both as to low water and storms, this trip of the Natchez is far ahead of anything ever before accomplished by any steamboat on the Mississippi, and settles the fact that it can with ease make regular business trips from New Orleans to St. Louis and eclipse the wonderful time of the J. M. White, which for twenty years was unsurpassed.

This was the Natchez's first trip of the season to St. Louis. The boat brought upward of one hundred cabin passengers and two hundred and fifty tons of freight.

The time of the boats in the July (1870) race was:

	Days.	Hours.	Minutes.
R. E. Lee	3	18	14
Natchez	3	21	58

North Louisiana Agricultural Fair.

The *Claiborne Advocate* is writing up the interests of that section of the State, and thus mentions the approaching fair:

It is already generally known through the parishes of North Louisiana and of adjacent States that a fair ground has been established in Homer, and that its first exhibition took place last year. It is not, however, so well known that the Agricultural Society of Claiborne are making extensive preparations for the exhibition of this year, and that the grounds are now being prepared in such a way as will leave all others in this portion of the South a long ways behind.

In company with Judge Young and Mr. J. D. Neely, of the Agricultural Association, and the latter of whom is the contractor for the work in hand, we recently visited the Fair Grounds, and made a personal examination of the plans for the new buildings and other improvements. The work will commence with the construction of an ornamental fence around the grounds (designed to give them symmetry and beauty), together with the construction of a doorkeeper's lodge and an elevated pavilion for the use of the band. In the prosecution of this work a great many irregularities which have hitherto offended the eye will be removed, and the whole grounds made to present an imposing appearance.

The next important feature will be the erection of stalls for horses, and pens for the sheep, hogs and horned cattle that may be brought for exhibition. Fifty stalls, it is thought now, will answer this purpose, though, as the last fair has had the effect of creating a great interest in blooded stock in our community, it is possible that more may be required. These stalls will be constructed on the east side of the grounds, and adjoining them will also be placed the outhouses designed for poultry, etc.

The main building of the fair grounds is to be forty feet wide, four hundred feet long, two stories high, and will be L shaped. The whole front of this will be arranged with seats, rising one above the other, and which are intended for the convenience of visitors while witnessing the exhibitions of the arena. Immediately in the rear of the seats the building will be divided into ten apartments, twelve feet by twenty in dimensions, and designed for the various classes of goods which may be brought for exhibition.

The upper floor will be mainly reserved for a promenade, and will be built in balcony form to admit of seeing the out-of-door exhibitions. A ladies' reception room, adorned with mirrors and elegant furniture, will also be upon this floor. The main building will be completed by the middle of July.

The general ground for exhibition will be between the track and the judges' stand. Fifteen feet have been added to the street outside of the wall, making it at the present time fifty-five feet wide. The main entrance will be on the west and south sides. Near the latter entrance will be the ticket office and judges' stand.

The music stand will be an octagonal pavillion of wood, two stories high.

A distinguished orator of the South—whose name need not now be mentioned—will open the exercises with an oration, and varied and appropriate exercises will follow each day. With the Æolian Cornet Band, and the promenade or dancing gallery, the side shows of one sort or another, and delicacies of all kinds, the fair in October will constitute a marked event in the history of Homer, and will amply repay visitors from far and near.

Of the two thousand dollars worth of premiums in the shape of cups, goblets, and medals of bronze, gold and silver, and the still more solid rewards in the shape of greenbacks, we shall have occasion again to speak.

A writer in *Home and Health*, in speaking of the emergencies which often arise in the family, calling for household help from the husband, says:

"I can not tell why it should be any more degrading, even for a man of culture, to make fires, sweep the parlor carpet, do the washing or cooking, or even wash dishes, than it is for his cultured wife to do the same things; nor why it is not just as honorable for him to help her thus about any work for which his nerve and muscle is more adequate as it is for her to indite his letters and attend to his business in his absence or illness, or to read Latin and Greek to him if his eyes should fail him in time of need. The acme of attainment in this direction is that when all men and women are allowed to follow the pursuits for which they find themselves best adapted, those shall be considered the most accomplished lords and ladies of creation who shall be able most readily to adapt themselves to the circumstances in which they may be placed and do what is needed."

At an interview which recently took place between Mrs. Laura Fair and a reporter of the *Chronicle*, the woman acknowledged that a mystery hangs over the supposed suicide of the man whose name she now bears. The lady in this interview says, first, that Colonel Fair committed suicide, and then says that he was shot by some person whom she is very free to connect with the Freemasons. Since Mrs. Fair's conviction her counsel consider it an ugly sign that she should make such assertions, there being in them something almost as sensational as the disappearance of Morgan. It seems that while long ago, she was seated in Mr. Murphy's office, waiting to consult with him in regard to her divorce, she stepped to the door and quietly shot Mr. Fair, dropping the pistol with the same air of nonchalance as she did when she killed Mr. Crittenden. She escaped, and conveniently it was said that Colonel Fair had committed suicide. Whatever informalities there may have been in her recent trial, one can not help believing that she is a most desperate woman, or hoping that informalities may not interfere with her just punishment.

The Atlanta *New Era*, referring to the reception given to Jeff Davis in that city, says:

One pleasant incident of the reception deserves a notice. Among the numerous ladies present were a couple of Atlanta belles, whose enthusiastic regard for the fallen chief of the late Confederacy amounted to the highest degree of admiring veneration. These two young ladies determined not to leave until they had kissed Mr. Davis. After some little reflection, and with much hesitation, they advanced and gave him a kiss. Although somewhat surprised, Mr. Davis stood this novel attack like a veteran campaigner, and, in fact, appeared to like it. Several of the young gentlemen present were so delighted that they resolved immediately to hold a reception themselves.

The *Empire Parish Register*, of the third instant, says of the storm on the river:

Yesterday morning before daylight a stormy wind sprung up in the east, bringing with it masses of clouds, which, at an early hour, fell in heavy showers of rain. The wind continued all day and night from the same quarter, increasing in violence, still accompanied with rain, and at times seemed as if it would swell into a hurricane. The waters of the river were lashed into turbulence, driven back nearly to the late high water mark, and in many places forced through frail and but recently repaired strips of levee, threatening another serious inundation, especially at this point. This morning, however, the wind has slackened and the river is becoming calmer.

Before this rough wind the weather was delightful, and all that planters could wish.

Ex Senator Warner, of Alabama, having been summoned to testify before the Congressional joint committee to investigate Southern outrages, reports that at the recent trial of some men, who a few months ago created a disturbance at a meeting he was addressing, and made an attack on those present, an old man of irreproachable character, and who has been for more than forty years a prominent and highly respected lawyer in his county, was called as a witness. He had nothing to do with conducting the trial, but merely testified to what he had seen. On his way home the boat on which he was traveling was boarded at a landing only a few miles from his residence by a gang of roughs, his state-room was broken open, and he was so severely beaten that his recovery is considered doubtful.

The *Claiborne Advocate* brings us this report of an assassination:

Mr. Charles H. Webb, a whilome gambler of Jefferson and Shreveport, killed Mr. T. Johnson, one of the proprietors of the Crutchfield House, in Dallas. Eight shots were fired, the last of which, from Webb's pistol, struck Mr. Johnson in the left hip, penetrating to the spine and causing immediate prostration, and death in about an hour after the wound was given. Webb was slightly wounded in the chin—a flesh wound. He was immediately arrested.

The Chinee indulges in ways that are nearly as dark as his more civilized brethren, in palming off bogus tea for the delectation of mankind. It is officially reported that half a million pounds of willow leaves were made up at Shanghai alone last season, duly powdered, colored, dusted with tea grounds, and sold as an extra brand of green tea. Whole villages are employed in this new branch of domestic industry. It can be procured at about four cents per pound, and the genuine article bears a mixture of some forty per cent; so that the world takes an extract of willow in its favorite beverage.

A Pittsburg lady recently called upon an old man who had recently lost his wife, with whom he had lived for forty years. She found him sitting, with folded hands, in his lonely room, and while in conversation her eyes rested upon something bright and soft, which lay upon his pillow. With a tremor in his voice, he said: "Ah, madame, it is only my dear wife's old wrappers. You may think me childish, but at night I put the sleeves around my neck, and it comforts me." Could human love find a more affecting expression?

A Fairfield (Connecticut) county man, who "figures pretty loose," feigned sickness the other day, when his wife was to be buried, in order to save his car fare, as she was to be taken to a distant place; but when it was found necessary to take a rope to hold the coffin in the wagon, as it was taken to the depot, he appeared and put in a request that said rope should be returned, as it was handy to tie up the calf.

It is reported that James Gordon Bennett has formally made over the *Herald* to his son, valuing the entire property and good-will at $3,000,000. He has taken no part in editing the paper for some time, and has not been in the office for nearly twelve months. He is now in his seventy-eighth year, quite feeble, and steadily sinking.

At Lincoln, Pennsylvania, a school teacher whipped a girl, when the latter's mother took a whip and thrashed the teacher until she got down on her knees and said to her, "Now I lay me," after which she sued the mother for damages. The teacher wants the school directors to call out the militia.