

The examination at Reidville, in the Male School, will take place on the 26th inst., in the Female School on the 26th, the Commencement on the 27th inst. Dr. Brist, of Greenville, will deliver the Annual Oration, on the 27th at 12 m. The public are invited.

Fire.

This exciting alarm is given as we are going to press. The kitchen belonging to Mr. CHAIR, on the lot near the Female College, was destroyed, with most of its contents. We have learned nothing of the particulars.

A New Postmaster.

Mr. FREDERICK HAAS has been appointed and commissioned postmaster at this place. Mr. HAAS, of course, was required to subscribe to the Test Oath.

Maj. J. A. LEE, who has been our very efficient and accommodating postmaster for ten or twelve years past, now retires, being unable to take the new oath of office. All will join us in saying, that no one could have discharged the duties of this office with more perfect satisfaction to the public, during the long term he has held it, than did Maj. LEE.

Reconstruction Committee.

This great farce, of six months duration, has come to an end. They have reported, and for the gratification of the curiosity of those of our readers who are interested enough in its proceedings to be curious to know something of its deliberations, we announce the fact, and give in brief, something of what they have reported. According to their phraseology, its object was "to ascertain the condition of the rebellious States," and report upon their fitness to be represented, and their loyalty to the United States Government. This was the expedient of the congressional majority to delay the restoration of the Southern States to their former positions in that Government. They make an elaborate statement to show that the States are not entitled to representation, which it would be idle to refute, nor do we care to do so. Much of this report is taken up in enumerating and rehearsing a great deal that has become stale to everybody, such as defining the act of secession and the attitude in which it placed such States toward the general Government, and in organizing these States into a Confederacy we "levied and waged war, &c." This Committee say the rebellious armies were conquered by the people of the United States, (the mercenaries of Europe not mentioned) acting through the several branches of the Government, and not by the Executive Department alone, and that the President has no right, therefore, to regulate the terms of settlement and "to confer representation upon rebels and traitors." It has been shown to the satisfaction of this Committee, by the evidence submitted, that the people of the late Confederate States are not qualified to elect Representatives to Congress, except it be the people of Tennessee. We think it would be justice to some of the people of Tennessee to say that we do not believe they possess what this Committee would call "qualifications." It appears from this report that more indemnities, greater security, and safeguards for the future are thought to be necessary, before restoring the rebellious States to a participation in the direction of public affairs. If unarmed, impoverished and disorganized we cause such apprehensions, what a terror these States must have been when armed and organized and investing their Capital! They see in the evidence brought before them, symptoms of a bitter hostility to the Government and the people of the United States, and insist that security for the future "peace and safety" should be required, that treason should be made odious, that protection of the loyal people against future claims for the expenses incurred in support of the rebellion be given—advise changes in the Constitution to determine the rights of citizens, &c. Senator Reverdy Johnson, Representatives Henry Grider and Andrew J. Rogers were the dissenters of the Committee from the report. The whole matter of reconstruction is where it was when this Committee commenced its onerous duties last December. It is referred back to Congress, each House must determine for itself the qualifications of applicants for membership in the respective Houses.

We believe that our people are becoming indifferent as to the doings of the Congress and Committees at Washington, and we think many who were anxious at the close of the war, to get back into the Union, are now careless about it. They think every concession has been made—every expression of the States that would guarantee "the future peace and security" of the United States Government and its people, has been given. If more is required of us than to be law-abiding citizens—if they demand our love for their people or admiration for the Government—reconstruction is an event to be looked for in the deep, hidden future—a vista through which no eye can look.

Richmond, June 13.

Bishop Early, who was so seriously injured by the accident on the Danville Railroad, is better, and it is thought he will recover.

New York, June 14.

Gen. Murphy and other Fenians refused bail at Malone, and await their trial, which occurs at Canandaigua on the 19th.

Another death occurred from Cholera in 36th street, yesterday.

Exchanges.

The Daily South Carolinian, of Columbia, comes to us in new shape, enlarged, and much improved in appearance. It is a good newspaper, and one of our most valuable exchanges. The editor says: "We are compelled to take this step first, because our advertisements occupy too much space; and secondly, because our large circulation—now the largest outside of the city of Charleston, demands a corresponding increase of enterprise on our part."

The Daily American Patriot, is a newly established paper at Columbia, by J. E. BARRON, esq., who has considerable experience in journalism, of which the Patriot bears evidence. It is well edited, neatly printed, and will doubtless be a success.

The Pickens Keowee Courier comes to us, enlarged and greatly improved in appearance. It is printed very handsomely, and bears evidence of experience and good taste in its editorial conduct. It is well edited by ROBT. A. THOMPSON, esq.

The Sumter News, recently established, has been placed on our exchange list. It is a deserving candidate for public patronage. From the neatness of its typographical execution, and the evidence which it brings with it of ability in its editorial department, we are warranted in saying that it is in worthy hands, and its merits will insure success. It is published by H. L. DARR, at \$4. a year. F. J. MOSES, Jr., esq., editor.

COLUMBIA, June 19.—COTTON—18 to 23; gold, 23 to 32, currency. CORN.—\$1.55 to 1.70 per bushel.—FLOUR—\$11 to 15 per barrel.

NEW YORK, June 18.—Gold 164; exchange nominal and quiet. Cotton dull; middling 41 @ 42.

For the Spartan. Thoughts in Spots.

DEAR MR. EDITOR: While the land has been flooded with pieces and poems, epistles, and even books, upon the rebellion, the war, reconstruction and other things, I have been lying low. The times have been so hot I could not have the hardihood to ask you to leave out important matter to make a place for anything I could "think," especially as I am disposed to "think" round rather in "spots" than after any given system. I have had all the while, however, thoughts of my own—for other men's thoughts I never would think—and the fear that posterity might construe my silence into assent to the operations that are going on in the busy world generally, I have felt a great disposition to write; and now, that the smoke and din of war have died away, and we are beginning to breathe easy (but we live pretty hard) do let me "think" a few small chapters, if you please.

Mr. Lincoln's election was a mere accident—not the spontaneous suffrage of the country. The game might have been managed differently. But after he was elected, the boys and the men of Columbia need not burn tar barrels and fling away their hats on hearing of it. If a great Government, such as we have had, is to be burst up, let it be done with appropriate solemnity, nor need the preachers come upon the track—their sphere is modestly to submit to any government the naughty world imposes upon them. But we got out at last, though Virginia and North Carolina ruined the prestige of the thing by being so long about it. Kentucky and Missouri "flashed in the pan." Our men made a capital start for a Government, and if they had elected Stephens president we might have made the trip. He is the greatest living statesman (of his inches) on this continent. Davis is a good man, and in certain respects a great man. His conception is excellent, his firmness sufficient, but he never could manage. His credulity was his ruin. He should have known that Vicksburg was secure, though half the army had been required to hold it. Just as well "burst the boiler" now as later in the day. He should have removed Bragg from retreating from Kentucky. He should not have made the Georgia speech. He should have sent 50,000 men to meet Sherman before he got to Atlanta. But he did (as he and his advisers thought) for the best, and history will show that he was every inch a patriot, and in every characteristic, except not a very superior man to Abraham Lincoln. May he and his magnanimous wife come out of all their troubles, and enjoy a green and glorious old age.

But strong "ceceah" as I am, to the very bottom of my liver, I can't see what better to do, than accept the "situation," and make the most we can of it. The day I marched forth, with the death-dealing weapon upon my shoulder, I determined never to leave the field as long as the star of hope shown down upon us; but when that reckless old hog-driver (Sherman) smashed up the dear little star with a great ruthless bombshell, I knew the "dog was dead." My friend, R. E. Lee, could have fought on perhaps, until now, but no sensible man fights (when they shoot bullets) just for the fun of it.

The war was not gone into on account of the negro, by either party—the question came up afterwards. I have very little doubt, however, that the Almighty favored the liberation of the slaves; not in their account, for they are worsted, but in mercy to us. We had overrated the institution, and our children were being ruined by idleness and extravagance. Our daughters could do little but run their ps ps in debt, dress and flirt—had very little idea what it took to make a good biscuit. Our sons, so far from plowing or digging, wanted a "boy" to hand fire for the cigar, and then help get their feet on the mantle-piece.

But as I was going to say, ten years from to-day, the planters of the South (different men from those who used to plant) will realize more profit from negro labor than ever before. Slavery has existed in some form or other ever since God made the race black and kinky-headed. And all this rant, in New and Old England, about the equality of the races, is a lie and intended for a lie. Just as well say that goats and buffaloes are equal, because they all have horns and hair; or that a goose is intended to soar as high as an eagle, because each has feathers and a gizzard. Excuse the humble thoughts of a SOLDIER.

"Arthur," said a good-natured father to his hopeful, "I did not know till to-day that you had been whipped last week." "Didn't you, pa," replied hopeful, "I knew it at the time."

Keep Your Lands.

Land is power, as all history testifies; and the best interests of our people, political and monetary, demand that no real estate title should be relinquished except under such circumstances as, in ordinary peaceful times, would lead owners to willingly alienate. If approached by speculators, drive them from you by a stern refusal to play Esau's part, and if forcibly dispossessed under any color of authority, no matter whence emanating, enter such a protest as may serve to show hereafter in the courts that you did not consent to your own wrong. The following is from the Richmond Enquirer:

Congress, as it sits by the tax it proposes to lay upon all forms of tobacco, by the inordinate tax of five cents per pound which it threatens to lay upon cotton, and by its action in regard to the collection of the internal revenue, is anxious to derive large revenues from the Southern States, while it would, at the same time, repress Southern industry and prosperity. It recognizes the revenues from the South as necessary, while it diminishes them by its stringent measures. It would make the South pay taxes, but it begrudges her the products on which those taxes are laid. It would make the South a waste to punish the people, and yet it would have it affluent in crops so that it might yield revenue to the Government. It cannot do both of these things, and will have to choose between them. If the Government desires to profit by Southern industry and prosperity, it must encourage them.

"We sometimes fear, and we have reason to fear, that the scheme of the men now uppermost in the councils of the North is so to clog Southern industry with such impediments and drawbacks as to discourage and disgust those engaged in it, and induce them to throw their lands into market. The glut of lands would be so great as to reduce the price to a standard that would enable Northerners to pick and choose, and purchase up the desirable estates in every locality. The millions of unemployed capital at the North could find no more profitable investment. The investment of paper money in cotton lands would be almost tantamount to its conversion into cotton, the equivalent of gold, and without any loss of discount. Such a scheme, pertinaciously adhered to, might result, in the course of a few short years, in an entire change in the proprietorship of the soil. The whole soil would be transferred to Northern hands, and cultivated by the negro laborers now resident on it, who would be hired by the new owners at a scale of prices regulated by no competition, and adjusted at the option of the new owners. These new proprietors, thus colonizing the South, would have all the aid that friendly Congressional legislation could give them. Many of them would remain at their homes in the North, and cultivate their lands by deputies.

This would introduce the feature of proprietary absenteeism that prevails in Ireland. Some would settle here and superintend their own farming interests. From those thus settling here, and the deputies of those remaining at home, would be chosen the Federal officers for the several States—the Judges, Attorneys, Marshals, Clerks, Collectors of the Revenue, Postmasters, &c. A part of the scheme would be to confer suffrage upon the negroes, and then the Northern settlers and negroes, combining with the so-called Union men of the South, would aspire to control the States in their internal domestic policy. In process of time, they would outvote the Southern whites all the State offices with their own men, and make all the laws to suit themselves. Owing the soil, having the labor of the negroes, favored by a sympathizing Government in every respect, they would reap and enjoy all the immense profits of the cotton, tobacco, sugar, rice, corn and wheat crops. In the meantime what would become of the Southern whites after parting with their lands?

In numerous instances they would be cheated out of the purchase money. When honestly paid, it would perhaps be invested in stock that would become valueless—some fancy stock gotten up for the occasion by shrewd New Englanders. If well invested, in nine cases out of ten, the interest would be inadequate as a support. The principal would have to be encroached upon, until interest, principal and all would be consumed. Then would be presented the melancholy spectacle of almost a nation without lands, without money, without employment. Would they come down to manual labor? If so, they would have to work side by side with the negroes, and on the soil they once owned, for the New England proprietors and task masters. If they did not work, they and their families would have to starve—for white paupers are not embraced in the charities of the Freedmen's Bureau. Some few might be able to emigrate to Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, but nine out of ten would not have the means to remove their families.

A people thus hemmed in, thus impoverished, thus driven to desperation, would have but one resource—revolution. If successful, this might enable them to recover their lands and their lost position. An earthquake, the forked lightning, an avalanche, are not more to be dreaded than a brave race thus driven to the extremity of despair. It matters not that they would be ultimately subdued; that consideration would not perhaps deter them. Their first rush would be upon the occupants of the lands upon which they and their children were born and reared, and it would be like the rush of hungry tigers upon their prey.

We do not imagine that any Congress could be guilty of the great iniquity of robbing us of our lands. For a direct robbery no defence could be made. But we sometimes think that the Radical policy contemplates as an expedient, goading us by tyranny into some outbreak that will give them a pretext for general confiscation, as a means of getting possession of our soil. Our advice to any one not known to be a friend, and under no circumstances, no provocation, no pressure, engage in any outbreak, or commit any act that can, by possibility, give them such a pretext. A year has passed since the war closed, and we still have our lands, our houses, our flocks and herds. Let us cling to them and never part with them. This is a sacred duty which we owe to posterity.

SINGULAR DIVORCE CASE.—A singular divorce case came off recently at Cannelton, Indiana. A young lady in Perry county was married, to all appearance, happily; but ten days after the celebration of nuptials she filed a petition in the Clerk's office for divorce, setting up as a plea that the individual she had married was not a man. The evidence on the trial was sufficient to establish this fact, and the divorce was very properly granted.

It is calculated that American families can travel in Europe for twenty-five per cent. less than it costs them to stay at home. Beef is only six pence sterling a pound in Bremen. Heretofore rich people have gone abroad for pleasure, but unless prices moderate, poor people may eventually have to go abroad for the sake of economy.

[From the Paris Siecle, May 25.]

The German War Question.

When the Conference shall at last have met, when we shall have passed through all the phases of this interminable procedure, every plenipotentiary will refer to his Government if the slightest accident—if an unexpected interpretation or pretension should happen to arise. During that time, what will come to pass? His diplomacy, which proceeds with such prudent slowness in the midst of the most pressing perils, has it a means of appeasing fermentations and international hate? Will it prevent a spark from being communicated to some train of powder and provoking a general conflagration? Italy entire is up, quivering with impatience; armed multitudes are in presence of each other. Whose is the powerful voice that shall say to these angry waves, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no further!" The diplomatists truly take matters far too easy, and the journals which speak of the length of diplomatic proceedings does not seem to consider the desperate and ruinous situation entailed on the finances of Austria, Prussia and Italy. These 1,500,000 armed men who only await a signal to precipitate themselves on the field of battle, these horses, cannons, munitions and immense stores absorb every day the substance and savings of twenty States. All business is suspended, every interest is menaced, labor is arrested on all points at the same time. Since the moment that these great disputes, like so many swords of Democles, have been suspended over our heads, it is not too much to estimate at two thousand millions of francs the expenses and damages they have already occasioned. Every day in Germany, Austria, Prussia and Italy, more than fifteen millions are thrown into an abyss from which they cannot by any possibility ever return. The vital forces of each nation are paralyzed; the youngest and most vigorous arms torn from the plow and the workshop are unproductive; and now you speak, forsooth, of diplomatic proceedings, and you find it will be necessary to mount to the Capitol and thank the gods if, about the 15th of June, the members of the Conference can meet! But immediate war would be a hundred times better than these sad and painful negotiations, which in all probability will not result in peace! This Conference should have met—these Cabinet couriers should have passed along the highways the day that Prussia and Austria, associated together in a cowardly and wicked action, fell together on Denmark—two giants against an infant—to snatch from her the prey which to day they are quarreling over. The accomplishment of that crime should have been prevented. But the most iniquitous pretensions, the most subversive ambitions were allowed free scope, and the world is now astonished at the reaping what it sowed. To accuse Italy—to reproach her with the faults which she may commit in a state of exaltation which she has reached—that is easy. Was it Italy culpable in aspiring to unity? Was it not France that held her at the baptismal font, and for first principle, and for first dogma, did she not teach her that she ought to be free from the Alps to the Adriatic? Pile up conference on conference, diplomatist on diplomatist, Pelion on Ossa, you will never persuade Italy that she is wrong in wishing for Venetia. Nor France that she was wrong in designating such an object to the ardent activity of that people, only yesterday born to a national life. Can the conference expect to be more fortunate when it undertakes to conciliate Prussia and Austria? No! vain words will not suffice in the dangers of the existing situation.

All in Europe suffer under the same evil—the great iniquity which was committed in 1815, and mounts to the heart and stifles us. Nations are not shared out like sheep with impunity; the vanquished are not humiliated without a day of reckoning. A simple conference does not suffice; it is a European Congress which might, perhaps, repair in 1866, the sovereign and crying injustice of 1815. But let us not deceive ourselves; this reparation is inevitable, and if a Congress cannot give it pacifically, be certain that war will give it at any price.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY.—The Carrollton (Illinois) Democrat says:

"For some time past a party of Indians, numbering fifteen, belonging to the Cherokee tribe, have been encamped on the banks of the Illinois river, ten miles from this place. Their ostensible object was fishing, hunting, &c., but it appears from recent developments that their chief aim was to secure a hidden treasure of seven arks of Spanish coin which had been imbedded in the bluffs at that point in years gone by by their ancient forefathers. They seemed to be extremely cautious in their maners, lest the pale face should discover the cause of their presence in that particular locality, and wrest from them the coveted prize, for which they had traveled many miles. After diligent search, which occupied some ten or twelve days, they succeeded in finding the spot where lay concealed the secret of their researches. Little remains to be told. Suffice it to say that, after due exploration, their brightest anticipations were by far more than realized. The urns of gold and other sacred relics spoken of by their chiefs, long since gone to the happy "hunting grounds," were secured, and on yesterday morning these untutored children of the forest took their departure for the far West, with many thousand Spanish dollars to cheer them on their long and tedious march."

A PRAYER FOR EX-PRESIDENT DAVIS.—Rev. S. W. Rogers, of Memphis, rector of St. Lazarus Church (Episcopal) in that city, on Whit Sunday issued a pastoral letter to his congregation, in which he exhorts them to offer up the following prayer "every night when you go to bed, and every morning as soon as you rise":

"O God, whose mercies are everlasting, and whose power is infinite, look down with pity and compassion upon Thy servant, whom Thou hast laid in a place of darkness and the deep. Give him always a sorrowful sense of his sins and of Thy fatherly love and correction. Give to his judges tenderness and compassion, and to us a meek and forgiving spirit toward all who have offended him. Raise us friends to pity and relieve him. Give him the continual comfort of Thy Holy Spirit, and so sanctify his affliction so that they may work for him an eternal weight of glory through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord."

A decided impression was made upon the guests at the hotel table, at Meridian, Mississippi, a few days since, by a Union soldier, who rose from his seat and kindly waited on a one armed Confederate soldier, who could not help himself well. The attention was naturally and delicately paid, and gratefully received The Meridian Messenger, which relates the incident says:—"The spirit of the gray-haired Federal soldier would do more towards reconciling North and South than any spirit which was ever invoked the room: where the Committee of Fifteen hold their sessions, and pump all sorts of stories out of all sorts of witnesses."

MANUFACTURE OUR COTTON.—The Memphis

Avalanche makes some wholesome suggestions to the people of the South that are well worthy of serious consideration. The remarks of that journal are as follows:

"There is but one remedy for the South, as far as we can see. It is for us to begin to turn our attention to the manufacture of all the cotton fabrics we need. This will be a slow advance toward independence, but it will be sure. During the continuance of the war, thousands of spindles and looms were started in the South Machinery for the manufacture of cotton goods was slowly, but getting a foothold among us, and our people took pride in being seen in 'homespun dresses.' If we can but begin this improvement, in earnest, we can, in a few years, snap our fingers at all the impositions of New England. Nations do not count their existence by years, but by decades and centuries, and if we but begin this work now, the next generation will find us able to manufacture not only all the cotton we need, but all we can desire. This process will ramp us. It will compel us to live with rigid economy. It will compel us to discard all the present ruinous mania for luxuries. We must raise all the food we need as well as manufacture all the cotton goods we wear. We must depend more upon ourselves and our own land, for what we eat and wear than we have ever done before. In doing this we shall perhaps prolong our years of poverty and toil, but we shall have won our true and lasting independence."

RATHER STRINGENT.—At the Conference of the New Episcopal Methodist Church, in Cincinnati, on Tuesday, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLVED, That we forbid, by disciplinary enactment, the manufacture, purchase, sale, giving, the receiving or use, in any way, of fermented or distilled liquors, except for mechanical, chemical or medicinal purposes, nor shall any member grow or dispose of any hops, rye, barley or other crops for the purpose of supplying the manufacturers of fermented or distilled liquors.

On motion, it was referred to the committee on basis of union.

WRETCHED MAN.—The Washington papers say that Thad Stephens continues seriously indisposed, his disease being dropsy on the chest. Wretched man! Between negro on the brain, iron works ranking in his hateful heart, and water filling up his chest, he is suffering from a complication of disorders from which death would doubtless be a happy release. He has never impressed the country as acting on a commission from the Prince of Peace.—Carolinian.

RELEASE OF MR. DAVIS.—The correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, writing from Washington, says:

An order will be issued in a short time for the release of Jefferson Davis, but whether on parole or on bail I am at present unable to say. The presumption, however, is that the release will be on the same terms as were accorded to Messrs. Stephens and Clay. Another interview between the President and counsel of Davis was held to day.

ONLY THE FENIAN LEADERS TO BE TRIED.—

In reply to an inquiry of District Attorney Dart, at Potsdam, New York, as to whether any of the subordinate officers and men of the Fenian prisoners should be indicted, the Attorney General telegraphed instructions to day to indict the leaders only, and to prosecute them for breach of the United States neutrality laws with such diligence as would be consistent with the dignity of the United States.

TRIAL OF MAJOR GEE.—The trial of Major Gee, charged with cruelty to the Federal prisoners at Salisbury, has been postponed till the 11th inst. The trial to this time has cost the Government \$150,000. No proof of the alleged cruelty has yet been elicited, but on the contrary, it has been proved that the Major did all in his power to alleviate the sufferings of the Union men in his custody.

Hugh Callan, who stands charged with the murder of Edward Milligan, on the 27th of April last, on the finding of a Coroner's inquest, and who has been at large since that time, surrendered himself on yesterday to Magistrate Whiting, and was by him committed to jail to wait his trial at the approaching term of the Court of General Sessions.—The Courier.

A plan has been suggested by which the Hudson River can be tunneled from New York to Hoboken by laying an iron tube five feet in diameter across the bed of the stream. This tunnel, intended to be worked by the pneumatic method, is designed to transport the freight of the Erie Railroad between Hoboken and the company's depot in New York.

A number of young Germans engaged in commercial pursuits are compelled to leave London, having received orders to join the Prussian and Saxon armies. If they do not obey the summons, they lose the rights of citizenship, and any property they may inherit is forfeited.

Not long since, Elkan Herrmann, Rabbi of a Jewish Synagogue in Brooklyn, New York, was kicked out of his church by a portion of his congregation who objected to his ministrations on sectional grounds. He on Thursday brought an action against them and received \$800 damages.

The ladies of Winchester, on Wednesday last, paid a most imposing tribute to the Confederate dead interred there. The procession comprised several thousand ladies from different sections of the Valley, and extended over half a mile in length. The ceremonies at the cemeteries were most beautiful and appropriate.

The New England Methodist Episcopal Convention closed its session, at Boston, by a centenary festival on Thursday evening. The reports made to the Convention show a remarkable increase of the Methodist denomination throughout the country.

A lump of gold, taken from the North Carolina gold mines, weighing five pounds, is on exhibition at Statesville, N. C. It is the largest lump found in the State since 1828.

A gang of robbers, deserters and other bad characters, have organized themselves into a company for mutual defence against the law, in Western North Carolina.

An insurance agent in Memphis has presented each member of the fire department of that city a policy of \$1000, insuring them against accidents of every description.

An editor out West, who had served on a jury, says that he is so full of law that it is hard for him to keep from cheating somebody.