New-York Daily Tribune

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1865.

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THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE has a circulation larger than that of any other newspaper, and a large proportion of its subscribers take no other journal. The space in this sheet allotted to advertisements is necessarily limited, so that each has the advantage of being easily seen, and all are generally read with as much interest as news-matter. There is—as those who have tried it know—no advertising medium in the country so cheap, because there is none so profitable, to the advertiser. The paper circulates among the industrial and thrifty classes—the Farmers, Manufacturers, Merchants and Mechanics of the country—and is carefully read by their wives and daughters. It is safe to say that each advertisement in it is read every week by not less than half a million of the most intelligent of the people. He who makes his business, his merchandise or his manufactures known to this immense number, scattered all over the loyal States, cannot fail to do so to his own manifest and great advantage.

Advertisements on the fifth page are $1 50, and on the eighth page $1, a line. For this week's issue they must be handed in to-day.

The Tribune in London.

STEVENS BROTHERS, (American Agents for Libraries, 17 Henrietta st., Covent Garden, W. C.), are Agents for the sale of THE TRIBUNE. They will also receive SUBSCRIPTIONS and ADVERTISEMENTS.

To Correspondents.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty for his good faith.
All business letters for this office should be addressed to "The TRIBUNE," New-York.
We cannot undertake to return rejected Communications.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

GENERAL NEWS.

The grand Indian Council at Fort Smith, Arkansas, is proceeding smoothly. On Saturday the Government agents submitted certain proposals which look to the consolidation of the various tribes into a single Nation. On Monday replies were received from the delegations present who declared themselves favorably impressed by the proposition.

In the Wirz trial yesterday the counsel for the accused produced a partial list of the witnesses desired by them, and statements of what could be proved by each. Several witnesses were also examined, who testified further of the terrible barbarities to which the Andersonville prisoners were compelled to submit.

The emigrants on the foreign steamer Villa-France were so barbarously treated by the officers on their passage to New-York that they made complaint to the United States District Attorney on arrival, and caused the arrest of the offenders. Their treatment, as represented, was brutal in the extreme.

A large number of forged soldiers' discharges have recently been presented and paid by different paymasters located in the large cities of the Northern States, and it is supposed an organized gang of forgers of this class, wearing the United States uniform, are responsible for these impositions.

By the Census of 1860, sugar refining in the Western States is represented by five establishments with an invested capital of $1,175,600, paying for raw material $2,519,600, for labor, $132,060, employing 374 male hands, and producing annually products to the amount of $3,089,390.

G. Volney Darsey, Treasurer of the State of Ohio, was arrested at Columbus, Ohio, on Monday on a charge of embezzlement and breach of trust. Mr. D. gave bail in the sum of $600,000. The Governor has issued a proclamation declaring the office vacant.

Laural Mills died in Brooklyn yesterday under such suspicious circumstances as to induce the arrest and imprisonment of her husband, to await the result of the Coroner's investigation. The man and his consort were Southern refugees.

A prefatory trial between the Algonquin and Winooski began here yesterday, and the latter it seems worked much better than was expected. A report of the execution of the engines of both vessels will be found elsewhere.

Catharine Smith, 36 years old, jumped from a second-story window in Buffalo, and striking the sidewalk, was bodily injured, so much so, that she shortly died. She was formerly from Troy, and was addicted to intemperance.

A protracted Cabinet meeting was held yesterday at which Secretaries Seward and McCullough, and Attorney-General Speed "assisted" in person, and Secretaries Stanton and Welles by proxy.

The stream of applications for pardon continues to pour into the Attorney General's office daily, keeping the clerks busily employed in their classification for presentation to the President.

Capt. Victor Praxmarer, 46th New-York Volunteers, has been acquitted of the charges preferred against him, and has been released from arrest by order of the Secretary of War.

On Saturday last Charles H. Williams and Edward Frederick fell from the mast of the bark Frank Lovett, lying in the North River, and were almost instantly killed.

Gen. C. P. Davis, commanding the District of Savannah, arrived in this city yesterday a passenger on the steamer Nevada. He comes North on private business.

The colored people of North Carolina are to hold a Convention at Raleigh on the 20th inst. A number of prominent gentlemen have been invited to participate.

The party of European capitalists, headed by Sir Morton Peto, arrived in Cincinnati on Monday evening. A grand banquet was given them yesterday.

The Congratulation Pic-Nic of the Veterans took place at Jones's Woods yesterday, and proved a very pleasant affair to all who participated in it.

Five stores were robbed last week at City Point, and the stolen property recovered on the Richmond boats on their arrival at Norfolk.

The anniversary of the battle of North Point was celebrated at Baltimore yesterday, with a gay display of flags and military parades.

A merchant of Washington has contracted to furnish 1,000 tuns of coal to the Treasury Department at $11 43 and $11 55 per tun.

The American Institute Fair opened in this city last evening, on which occasion Gen. Sickles delivered an address.

At the grand Cricket Match between Boston and New-York yesterday the New-Yorkers won by 25 runs.

The National Horse Fair opened at Hartford yesterday. The racing was satisfactory.

The receipts from Internal Revenue yesterday amounted to $[illegible],124 21.

Gen. A. J. Smith has arrived at Cairo from New Orleans on route North.

Gens. Sheridan and Wright have arrived at San Antonio, Texas.

Gold was hardly so firm yesterday. The opening rate was 144½, closing at 143¾. The Government sold a quarter of a million. Government Stocks continue firm and in quite active demand. In State Stocks little doing. Railway Mortgages are firm and salable at better rates. The mis. [illegible] list was stronger. The Railway Share list was stronger, and the disposition to buy for an advance is on the increase. Money is still easier at 5@6 per cent on call, with more offering than can be used by stock houses. In commercial paper little doing. The rates are 6@[illegible] per cent for first-class and 9@10 for second grade.

Returns from 208 towns in Vermont establish the election of 193 Unionists and 12 Democrats to the Legislature. In three places there has been as yet no choice. Last year these towns elected 193 Unionists and 15 Democrats. Gov. Dillingham's majority will be nearly 18,000, against 18,977 given to the Republican candidate last year. In Maine the Senate will be unanimously Union, and the number of Democratic members of the Legislature, which was last year 29, will be considerably reduced. Although the vote cast is much smaller than it was last year, the majority for Cony will this year be larger than it was last year.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

The World—which so vehemently and so brutally assailed President Johnson when a candidate, as disgracefully unfit for the second office, quoting his Nashville speeches as the effusions of vulgar ruffianism—has recently discovered that this same Johnson is a capital fellow, a gentleman, a statesman, and a first-rate Democrat. If so, why did *The World* cover him with such outrageous abuse one little year ago?

Mr. Johnson *was* a Democrat till the great body of his party became traitors to their country, when he left them to their treason and joined the Union party, by whose votes he was chosen Vice-President, and thus became President.

Of the *sixteen* Democratic Governors of States in office on the 1st of January, 1861, no less than *twelve* early and openly became leaders of the Rebellion; while *not one* took ground fairly and openly with Andrew Johnson in favor of fighting and putting it down. Of the *thirty-six* Democrats who were members with Mr. Johnson of the Senate of 1860-1, *twenty-three* (including his own colleague) became open, deadly Rebels; while among the lean minority were such *Unionists* as Jesse D. Bright, Joseph Lane, L. W. Powell, James A. Bayard and Willard Saulsbury. Of the *ninety-eight* Democrats chosen to that XXXVIth Congress, not less than *fifty-six* have been deep in the Rebellion, and would gladly have paid a good price for Andrew Johnson's scalp any day of the last three years. Yet *The World* talks as though the President had become suddenly enamored of these gentlemen and their Copperhead allies, and was about to throw himself unreservedly into their arms! When he does, we shall all doubtless know it.

The World is not content with appropriating the President it so foully defamed while he was a candidate: it abducts Gov. Sharkey of Mississippi—a lifelong Whig—and talks of him as "in 1860, a leader of the Democratic party"—which he always opposed. So did the loyal Governors of Tennessee, Alabama and Florida. Even Gov. Hamilton of Texas was chosen to Congress as a Unionist over the regular Democratic nominee. Democracy in the South has a bad record on the Union question, and the President knows it.

The World is not satisfied with appropriating the President it so blackballed: it assumes to read his thoughts and declare his wishes. The President has never indicated a desire that the Blacks should not, nor avowed a conviction that they ought not to be enfranchised; yet *The World* unwarrantably proclaims him an opponent of Negro Suffrage, and seeks to read its advocates out of the Administration party! Hear it discourse of the troubles which, it assumes, disturb the Union ranks in our State:

"The main point in dispute, be it remembered, is the rightfulness or expediency of indorsing President Johnson's policy of reconstruction. But, if the Republican party were unanimous in their approval, they could go no further in this direction than the New-York Democracy. They are not only notoriously not unanimous in its favor, but would be very nearly unanimous against it, if it were not for the certain overthrow of their party which would result from present opposition. Republicans who profess to support it dissemble their real sentiments. *Why should they approve a policy which is certain, if successful, to bring their political opponents into power? The Southern States, if the negroes are kept from the ballot-box, are certain to be overwhelmingly Democratic;* and the stiff opposition of Messrs. Wilson, Butler, and other Radical leaders, is founded on that idea. The difference between the Radical and the Conservative Republicans is, that *the former are more provident and long-sighted.* The Weed-Raymond faction wish to carry *this* election, which they know there is no chance of doing without a vigorous indorsement of the President. The Greeley-Wilson faction think such a victory would be dearly purchased by the success of a policy *which must inevitably uproot and destroy the Republican party, and keep men of their stamp out of power forever.*"

—Here the President of the United States is held up to public view as conspiring not merely to defeat and overthrow those whose efforts and votes made him President—not merely to put them out, but "to keep men of their stamp out of power *forever*"—and to secure the control of the Government to their deadly, proscriptive foes. *The World* has no warrant for these calumnies on the President, and the future will show that the impudent attempt of his deadly foes to abduct and convert him to their base uses will recoil on their own heads.

The Daily News volunteered the assertion, with reference to the Andersonville murders, that

"The mortality among the Confederate prisoners [of war] was quite equal to that of the Federal."

—We took issue with this, and proposed a scrutiny. The test is simple; the facts easily obtained. At every prison-camp, lists of deaths are kept; and it is easy to ascertain how many died in our hands, how many in those of the Rebels. We certainly held more prisoners, in the average, than they did. Now let us see how many of their men died in our prisons, how many of our men in their prisons, and strike a balance between them. We know that our men went into their hands better fed and clad than their men came into ours. Let us see the comparative lists of mortality, and we can tell on which side was the greater privation and inhumanity.

But *The News* flies its own test, and proposes instead a roving inquiry to determine who was in fault for the stoppage of exchanges. We will take this up in its order. We think there were faults on both sides, and have spoken as freely of the one as of the other. But the Rebels *began* the difficulty, by refusing to exchange or treat as prisoners of war our Black soldiers. There is no escape from that fact. And then sent to the battle-field their unexchanged men whom we had captured and paroled at Vicksburg. Face the facts!

DANA.

The Chicago Republican of the 8th has an article on the Weed controversy, which says:

"The truth is that Mr. Greeley has a desire, which is as natural as it is respectable, that his merits and services should be recognized by his fellow-citizens, and that his laborious career should be crowned by those distinctions which are awarded to eminent public men everywhere. We have never known a person of distinction with a keener appetite for the applause of men and the substantial marks of that applause than Mr. Greeley. He longs in his heart to be Representative, Governor, Senator, President. But he will never stoop, and never has stooped, to solicit any man or men to aid him in gaining any of those places. Much as he has desiderated office, he has never directly tried to get it, and has generally exhibited unwillingness when the subject has been proposed to him. Probably he has felt that talents and labors like his entitled him to be taken by the people and borne into official power without ever applying for it. Certainly that was what he required of Gov. Seward; his whole arraignment of that gentleman was that, while he had been too proud to say that he wanted office, Mr. Seward and Mr. Weed had been too unappreciative or too unfriendly to give it to him without the asking. But we submit that his failure, and the bitterness of it, scarcely justify him in his sneer at the very subordinate and modest place which, at considerable sacrifice, Mr. Dana held during the war, and which he left for other pursuits the moment that the return of peace released him from the obligations of public duty."

—The development of Mr. Greeley's secret desires and aspirations we leave entirely to gentlemen like Messrs. Weed and Dana, who may be supposed to know all about them. We have at no time proposed to engage in the discussion of a topic wherewith the public can have so little concern.

Mr. Dana's name was dragged into this controversy by Mr. Weed, who cited the fact that he (D.) had taken part in the Senatorial canvass of 1861 at Albany, as though he had been inspired or incited to it by Mr. Greeley. This impelled us to ask Mr. Dana whether such was the fact; and he answered, as he only *could* answer, in the negative. But he proceeded thereupon to prove himself a *very* swift witness, by publicly rejoicing that his volunteered efforts in Mr. Greeley's behalf had been defeated, so that the said G. has not enjoyed "the prestige of such an office" during the last four or five years. If the retort courteous has nettled Mr. Dana, even he will admit that he needlessly and wantonly provoked it. And we beg leave to assure him that we have supposed him to share fully our conviction that, however desirable a Senatorship may be or may seem, it would not have added to the "prestige" attending the editorship of THE TRIBUNE.

Mr. Dana's seeming acquiescence in Weed's perversion of the once noted private letter of Mr. Greeley to Gov. Seward is the less excusable because of the fact that he (D.) was the only person to whom that letter was shown before it was sent; and he unequivocally approved it and advised its transmission. But for that approval, it might have been withheld. We are quite sure it could not *then* have been understood by him as he now construes it.

JENKINS IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

If our readers do not know Seth Kinman, it is their fault and not Seth's. Seth is a bear-hunter, with an immense beard, buckskin clothes, who, at one time, killed bears for a living, and now, we believe, sells pictures of himself on Pennsylvania-ave. for the same purpose. Seth is a sharp creature, and has an eye to business. He once got an advertisement out of Mr. Lincoln by giving him a chair, and now has succeeded in getting another out of Mr. Johnson in the same way. What was said and done when Lincoln got the chair we do not know. On the present occasion, however, Seth induced our invaluable and irrepressible friend Jenkins to accompany him, and so we have the whole story in a Washington "organ." It seems that the bear-killer made his chair "up in Pennsylvania" somewhere, out of three grizzly bears. It was duly brought to Washington and consigned to one of the Capitol rooms, near the Senatorial bear-garden, and kept in seclusion, only a few being "permitted to gaze upon the wonderful work of industry and skill." Finally by the "intervention" (mark how diplomatic Jenkins becomes on this august occasion) of Mr. Whalley a time was fixed for its reception by the President. "The chair was *carefully placed* in a wagon, and accompanied by Kinman was conveyed to the White House." Kinman carried his rifle, and, we presume, sitting in his wagon with Jenkins and "the members of the press," made a conspicuous figure on Pennsylvania-ave. What the rifle was for we cannot say, but presume that our hunter is like the mispronouncing gentlemen on the Bowery stage, who kill "bars" and sing Hail Columbia, finally to die with the American flag around them while rescuing Assailed Innocence, the orchestra playing slow and patriotic music. The procession entered the White House, "only a few being admitted." "After a short delay, a messenger came running down stairs, and announced that his Excellency was ready *and* waiting. At this stage the members of the press were kindly invited to ascend." The wonder is that Jenkins waited for an invitation, but we presume there is a something about the Presidential dignity that puts our generally enterprising friend on his good behavior. He was certainly well-behaved to-day.

Now, being in the presence, we look with interest upon the greeting between His Excellency and Seth. There is something majestic about it. "Without introduction or formal ceremony, the hardy pioneer of the wild Pacific slope—the conqueror of wild beasts and wild men—grasped by the hand the honored President of an all-powerful Republic." Mark how Jenkins rises with his occasion. The reader perhaps imagines that Mr. Seward was present, and the Cabinet and representatives of the Army and Navy, with lords of the legations, and speeches in French, badly translated. No, indeed; there was no formal ceremony, but plain, friendly greeting. "How do you, Seth?" "Well, I'm obleeged to you, Andy;" we suppose, but none of this is told from Jenkins. He is cautious; he betrays no secrets; nor does he allow a rude world to see all that passed. We only know "that he grasped by the hand the President of an all-powerful Republic." Then "leaning upon his rifle"—here we see the rifle again—"and as calm as though he had been conversing with a prairie companion" (observe the easy simplicity of Jenkins), he told the story of the chair. How we should like to hear this story. Oh, cruel Jenkins, not to have given the speech in full! Still we know that he concluded by saying that, "in his opinion, the President of the United States was the *biggest* man in the world." "A opinion which is a opinion," we observe, in the commendatory words of one Captain Cuttle upon a friend of Seth's named Bunsby. After which the President "returned thanks." The President tried the chair—likewise Seth, who had "become so much at ease" that "he descanted and chatted." Impudent bear-killer we are on the point of exclaiming, "How dare you thus descant and chat to the President of an all-powerful Republic." Jenkins, however, with that amiability which distinguishes him from all other writers, hastens to say, that "this originated from no want of respect to his Excellency," we breathe freer, "but rather from a buoyancy of animal spirit and a genial good nature." You jolly dog, Seth, how we should like to be President of "an all-powerful Republic," that we might live in the sunshine of your genial good-nature, and have grizzly-bear chairs.

Altogether it was a jolly time. There was "uproarious laughter," and the President "heartily enjoyed" himself with Seth. Jenkins is true to Seth, but also pays his duty to the President. "No one seemed to enjoy the delight and fun more than the President, whose care-worn face was lighted up with benignant smiles, and whose stern nature seemed to have relaxed and grown cheerful." After this the crowd "of their own accord" withdrew, and the President was left alone. Happy country to have a President whose "stern nature" occasionally gives way to "benignant smiles." We cannot resist the general good humor. Long live our worthy President, say we, to sit in his grizzly chair. Long live the grizzly bears "in the wild Pacific slope," and long live the enterprising Seth to make an honest penny by killing them. And, best of all, long live our own good friend Jenkins, and may he have a permanent engagement on the Washington papers.

LAWLEY'S LETTER-WRITING.

A Mr. Lawler or Lawley, who during the Rebellion was the Richmond correspondent of *The* (London) *Times*, has lately written a letter to that journal—not dated, but from somewhere in England—with the purpose of refuting the recent admissions of the present America correspondent of *The Times* as to Southern cruelties to our prisoners. Having stated the authorship of the letter, we have stated all that is necessary to confute it in the opinion of those who remember the character of the letters which Mr. Lawley used to write from Richmond. This last epistle is printed, as the others were, for the English public, and we should be doing injustice even to Mr. Lawley's idea of the value of facts if we should represent him as expecting this performance to influence the judgment of those who are in any degree familiar with the history of the matter he discusses. His assertions, moreover, do not touch the main part of the charges. It is only as to the Libby Prison he professes to speak of what he saw; what he says of Andersonville is confessedly hearsay testimony, and of no possible weight against the evidence of those who have sworn to what they saw and felt in that dreadful prison.

Mr. Lawley says he was in Richmond from October 1862 till April 1865, and during that period repeatedly visited Libby Prison. He declares that up to the end of 1863 no prisoners of war were ever better treated. To get at Mr. Lawley's notions of how prisoners of war should be treated, let us turn to a description of Libby Prison:

"It is a row of brick buildings, three stories high, situated on the canal, and overlooking the James River, and was formerly a tobacco warehouse. The partitions between the buildings have been pierced with doorways on each story.

"The rooms are 100 feet long by 40 feet broad. In six of these rooms, 1,000 United States officers, of all grades, from the Brigadier-General to the Second-Lieutenant, were confined for many months; and this was all the space that was allowed them in which to cook, eat, wash, sleep, and take exercise! It seems incredible. Ten feet by two were all that could be claimed by each man—hardly enough to measure his length upon; and even this was further abridged by the room necessarily taken for cooking, washing, and clothes drying."

It has never been denied that this description, copied from the report of the Sanitary Commission, is correct, but Mr. Lawley does not pretend to suggest any excuse for the crowding. He contents himself with generalities, and is much too shrewd to venture on particular facts. There are but three points which he makes in all. We are content to try by the evidence his assertions in respect to food, and will take the year 1863, when Mr. Lawley alleges the prisoners "had the very best that could be procured, seasoned with kindness."

Says the Sanitary Report:

"The daily ration in the officers quarter of Libby Prison, was a small loaf of bread about the size of a man's fist, made of Indian meal. Sometimes it was made from wheat flour, but of variable quality. It weighed a little over half a pound. With it was given a piece of beef weighing two ounces.

"But it is not easy to describe this ration, it was so irregular in kind, quality, and amount. Its general character is vividly indicated by a remark made in conversation, by one of the officers: 'I would gladly,' said he, with emphatic sincerity, '*gladly* have preferred the horse-feed in my father's stable.'"

This ration was in the Summer and early Fall of 1863, but even this was reduced and deteriorated, and long before the Winter the system of starvation had been adopted.

"It was about the middle of last Autumn that this process of slow starvation became intolerable, injurious, and cruel to the extent referred to. The corn bread began to be of the roughest and coarsest description. Portions of the cob and husk were often found ground in with the meal. The crust was so thick and hard that the prisoners called it iron-clad. To render the bread eatable, they grated it, and made mush of it, but the crust they could not grate.

"Now and then, after long intervals, often of many weeks, a little meat was given them, perhaps two or three mouthfuls. At a later period, they received a pint of black peas, with some vinegar, every week. The peas were often full of worms, or maggots in a chrysalis state, which, when they made soup, floated on the surface."

This is the substance of the sworn testimony of Union officers, precise, explicit, and particular. Does the vague denial of the Anglo-Rebel scribbler for *The Times* even *tend* to disprove it? In the year following, however, Mr. Lawley admits that the rations of the Union prisoners were reduced—and for these reasons, that the war had grown savage and food had become scarce. Was the war then a humane one and food plentiful when prisoners were fed on corn-cobs? Mr. Lawley says: "I speak advisedly when I say that through 1864 not a prisoner in the Libby fared habitually harder than Gen. Lee." Does anybody believe that? The bill of fare at the Spottswood House included roast turkey. Mr. Gilmore, who was there, told us. Mr. Seddon, the Secretary of War, ordered chickens, says Mr. Lawley, for the Union prisoners. We invite the production of credible witnesses who shall testify they ever saw either Gen. Lee dining on corn-cobs, or Union prisoners feeding on chickens.

Two circumstances will suffice to show the straits in which Mr. Lawley finds himself for facts. In order to prove that there were no vermin in Libby prison, he cites a letter from the keeper of it, Thomas P. Turner—a man whose name is not less infamous than that of Wirz or Winder. In order to reanimate a little of the English belief in cruelties on the side of the North, he reiterates the exploded calumny that Col. Ulric Dahlgren designed to murder the whole Confederate Cabinet in cold blood. Mr. Lawley undoubtedly knows that the instructions to that effect which were said to have been found on Col. Dahlgren's body, have been proved to be a forgery. That he should bring forward a lie so dead and so long buried as that, is enough to discredit his whole letter.

When he comes to write about Andersonville, Mr. Lawley confines himself to the food question. He passes without notice the confinement of thirty-five thousand prisoners in an open stockade of seventeen acres, which they so crowded "that it was difficult to move in any direction without jostling and being jostled." He fails to apologize for the swamp which filled that prison with malaria. He omits to remark on the refusal of the prison commanders to allow the prisoners to build themselves shelter from the abundant woods near by. He finds no opportunity for comment on the cruelties that Wirz and Winder practiced on sick and well alike, on the murders by the bullets of the guards, and the murders by starvation and other tortures worse than any bullets. All that Mr. Lawley has to offer for Andersonville is the lame pretense that Union raids had made it difficult to get food. We commend to him the testimony of D. T. Chandler in the Wirz trial, a Rebel Inspector General, that a large part of the prison was a marsh totally unfit for occupation, and in a condition so horrible that it could not fail to breed pestilence; that there was no medical attendance within the stockade; that many dead were carted out daily whom the medical officers had never seen; that *raw* rations were issued without any possible means of cooking them; that although scurvy and many kindred diseases were prevalent, green corn and other anti-scorbutics which could have been readily obtained were withheld; that Chandler himself recommended the removal of Winder and the substitution of some one who had *some* feelings of humanity, and who at least should not "advocate deliberately and in cold blood the propriety of leaving the prisoners in their present condition until their number has been sufficiently reduced by death to make the present arrangements suffice for their accommodation"—those "present arrangements" being such as to compel Rebel Inspector-General Chandler to denounce the prison as "a place the horrors of which it is difficult to describe, and which is a disgrace to civilization." Will Mr. Lawley's "Union raid" which made food scarce, account for all this? Will he account for the fact that these horrors were officially reported at Richmond—to Davis, to Lee, to the Rebel Congress—yet never noticed nor in the least modified or ameliorated? If he will attempt that task in some future letter, we may think it worth while to give some account of his success.

THE INDIAN QUESTION.

Now that we have ended the war and done partial justice to the negro, we have upon our hands a problem equally delicate and difficult, and we trust to be settled without appealing to the sword. The Indian race of North America has about it much that is romantic and painful, and we should at once address ourselves to its amelioration. The Indian has a charm about him very much like that surrounding the Highlanders of Scotland. The Highlander of poetry and tradition was a noble, chivalrous, high-bred animal, fond of his ancestors, his name, his claymore and his native heath. He was the victim of Sassenach tyranny, and nothing remained after the triumph of William but to sing doleful songs and beg for salt and oatmeal in the streets of Glasgow. The Indian of North America is on the verge of a fate more distressing. We speak of the time of Anne as very recent. Some of our great-grandfathers may have sipped their toddy in Willis's Coffee House and heard Dryden inveigh against the wickedness of the new days, and the sad fate that threatened the milk-white hind. Yet in the time of Anne the power of the Indian race was almost supreme over a greater part of this continent. The day of that supremacy is past. The Indian who bartered and sold his hunting-grounds for gaudy beads and dreadful rum, as well as the Indian who came from the race of Tecumseh and Logan, are passing away. Nothing is left to him but death and poverty. Our civilization is death. We give him farms and plows and homes, and bid him dig and plant and live. It is a weary artificial life, such as it is; the life of canary birds in chamber windows, or of pet bears, who growl and bite for the amusement of boys and nursery maids.

We have mastered the Indian question thus far by taking the freebooter's doctrine that might makes right. Instead of dealing justly with this wild man, we have drawn the sword and declared an irrepressible conflict. His ways are not as our ways, and, therefore, he must die. Our missionaries have been sutlers and dragoons; our Bibles rum and small-pox. By these agencies we have succeeded in driving him beyond the Mississippi to the vast plains of the West. As if the work of destruction did not progress rapidly enough, we have, as it were, sent a flanking column to the Pacific, and surrounded him. The intermediate territory becomes familiar ground. Its acres are burdened with gold, and we look upon them with lustful eyes and upon the Indian with envy for daring to hunt where the white man would dig. Every year or so we get up a war, and send some Col. Chivington to murder a tribe or two, and so the work of destruction progresses ruthlessly, until we shall have it ended in some massacre of Glencoe. There are white men who worship God, and have wives and children, who insist that this course is right, and that we can never settle the Indian question until we have slain the Indians. This is sad, but not surprising, for there are white men now who thought a year ago that we could never improve the African race unless we degraded it. We have recovered from one error, and we trust we shall recover from the other.

A delegation of Federal Commissioners are now in the Indian country to confer with the chiefs of the tribes and endeavor to form a basis of peace. We have no doubt that it is possible to make the Indians peaceable and law-abiding and live in their own homes. This Commission will endeavor to extend that experiment. It seems to have been selected with care. Judge Cooley, Col. Parker of the Six Nations and on Grant's staff, Mr. Mix of the Indian Bureau, and Mr. Wistar of the Philadelphia Wistars, are among the members of this Commission. They have certainly a noble mission. It remains with them to say whether or not we shall have an Indian war. Apart from the inhumanity of such a contest, the expense is worth considering, when we remember that we have over $3,000,000,000 to pay as the price of the last. No war is more expensive than a war with Indians. We are now maintaining a large establishment across the Missouri River to repress Indian hostilities. There are twelve thousand cavalry near Fort Ranah, and in all thirty thousand men. Too many to feed and clothe without good reason, and there is no good reason why we should fight three hundred thousand Indians rather than restrain our own selfish propensities and do them justice. What will be done at the head waters of the Arkansas we do not know. We have confidence in the Commission, however, and shall await with interest the result of the interview with the Indians.

TIME'S CHANGES.

"The Sea Islands" of South Carolina and Georgia were deserted by their White owners—Rebels to a man—at an early stage of the war, when occupied by the Federal forces. Being confiscated or sold for Federal taxes, their soil became Union property, and some of it was bought by negroes. A letter from Beaufort says:

"Dr. Sams, who owned 'Oaklands' (our former residence on St. Helena), has come back, and lives in one of the deserted negro cabins. One of his former slaves lives in the mansion-house, which he bought of the United States Tax Commissioner; the Doctor tried to get a room in the house, but Harry would not suffer him to occupy any part of it. The building is a poor one, but the cabin where Sams now lives is not as habitable as many Northern pig-pens. Can retribution go further than this? The former owner of a hundred slaves now lives in an abandoned hovel on the plantation which he owned. That plantation has been divided into small tracts, sold, and occupied by his former chattels. Dr. Clarence Trippe asks the patronage of the people of St. Helena; his card (written by himself) says: 'He will be found from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. at the house of John Major, esq.' That John Major, esq. was formerly his slave."

THE SOUTHERN BLACKS.

The Charleston News of the 4th inst. has a long and carefully considered leader, urging a prompt and thorough acquiescense by the newly chosen South Carolina Convention in the pact of Emancipation. It closes thus:

"Under the circumstances, therefore, we think there can be no ground to question the propriety of immediate emancipation by the convention. We end the controversy—terminate suspense—enter at once upon the measures necessary to our further action—avoid the peril of intervention by the Government, or the still greater peril of domestic insurrection; inspire the confidence that will trust to us the further fortunes of the race among us; and, possessed of this subject, there is much ground for the assurance that we can act upon it. Our people are well inclined to the negro. They realize his condition better than he does—know that much he does offensive is the result of facts he could not, if he would, control. The negroes are themselves most estimable. They present a record which, for service and order, is without a parallel; and now, turned headlong into freedom, without preparation, without premonition—by men at war with their masters—and told that they have been wronged and have a heritage of vengeance, *they exhibit in their industry, order, patience and propriety an example which is not within the experience or conceptions, even, of man. No people have ever been so tried, none have so stood trial;* the like causes would incite to outrage the laboring population of any State in Europe; and if there have been disorders, misconceptions, wrongs, the wonder is, not that they should have occurred, but that there should have been the limit to their occurrence. With such a people, if not maddened by injudicious treatment, there is yet a future for us; and it is now for us, in manhood and perfect faith, to enter on it."

—Compare this with the constant efforts of the Copperhead journals to malign and stigmatize the Freedmen as incorrigibly lazy, vicious, debased, perverse and stupid! Can you believe that a people who evince the qualities attested by this South Carolina organ can be kept under foot forever?

AN INSTRUCTIVE RECORD.

The Cincinnati Gazette has a Mississippi letter, from which we take great pleasure—as a Whig of the olden time—in extracting as follows:

"I have before me a tabular view, showing the politics (in 1860), religion, age, profession, &c., of the members of this [reconstruction] Convention. From it I learn that in 1860 (the same is true to-day) 70 were Whigs, 18 Democrats, and 10 scattering. The Secession Convention [which plunged the State into rebellion] consisted of 81 Democrats and 25 Whigs. These figures show conclusively what party had ascendency in the work of destruction, and what one is to guide the progress of reconstruction. Let no one say that this work has been inaugurated by a handful of men, and as in a corner. Despite the difficulty in circulating amnesty blanks and the shortness of the time allowed, returns in the office of the Secretary of State show that over 35,000 votes were polled in the late election, and returns of oaths taken out since the election, and yet to come in, it is believed, will increase the poll in October to 50,000. The Secretary of State informs me that in times of the greatest excitement the vote of the State has not exceeded 70,000. The State was entitled to 99 delegates, of whom 97 appeared and qualified, representing 59 out of 60 counties. Copiah County gave 646 votes; Itawamba, 1,280; Marshall, 1,243; Tishomingo, 1,478; Pontotoc, 1,822; Hinds, 1,057. So nearly unbroken was the popular vote for this Convention, that it is confidently expected that three-fourths of them will be returned to the Legislature. There were only about twelve counties in which the delegate or delegates did not receive the entire vote cast. It is unsafe, then, to assert that this Convention did not represent the State."

RIGHT!

The Alexandria (Virginia) *Journal* says:

"In the County Court of this County recently, it was decided, in accordance with the eighth section of the Bill of Rights, that colored men are entitled, in all capital or criminal prosecutions, to a trial by jury.

"The sixth section of this Bill of Rights gives to colored men the right to vote. It reads as follows: 'That all elections ought to be free; and that all men, having sufficient evidence of common interest with and attachment to the community, have the right of suffrage; and can not be taxed or deprived of their property for public uses without their own consent or that of their representatives so elected, nor bound by any law to which they have not in like manner assented for the public good.'"

Russia is once more visited by a number of highly destructive fires. During the few past weeks no less than thirty places have become a prey to the flames. The population are almost always warned before hand that on a certain