NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

Volume XXX.....No. 139

New York, Saturday, May 20, 1865.

THE SITUATION.

An important point in the trial of the assassination conspirators yesterday was the complete identification of Payne as the man who made the attack on Secretary Seward, his sons and others in his house on the night of the President's murder. Three witnesses who were present on the occasion, including Major Seward, one of the assaulted persons, swore positively to Payne's identity. Other interesting evidence was taken regarding his arrest at Mrs. Surratt's house, in the disguise of a laborer, three nights after, and also in reference to the arrest of Spangler and O'Laughlin. A number of witnesses for the prosecution are yet to be examined; but an effort will be made to conclude the taking of their testimony to-day. The witnesses for the defence, of whom about twenty have been summoned up to this time, were yesterday dismissed from attendance on the court till Monday. There are expectations that the trial will be concluded next week.

The official order of Lieutenant General Grant for the grand military reviews to take place in Washington on Tuesday and Wednesday next has been issued, and is published in this morning's HERALD. The Army of the Potomac and General Sheridan's cavalry will be reviewed on Tuesday, and Sherman's troops on Wednesday.

The report of General William F. Smith and James T. Brady, Esq., of this city, commissioners appointed to investigate the civil and military administration of affairs at New Orleans was made to the President and Cabinet on Wednesday of this week, and it is understood that one of the results of their statements is the removal of General Banks from command in that city, which is said to have been ordered yesterday, and his supersedure by General Canby. General Canby is to be restricted to purely military matters, leaving civil affairs to the control of Governor Wells.

The Sixth army corps, Major General Wright, commenced its return march from Danville, Va., on last Tuesday, and is expected to reach Manchester, on James river, opposite Richmond, to-day, whence it will move on to Washington.

Jeff. Davis' whereabouts still remains a matter of mystery to the general public. Cincinnati and Nashville despatches say that instead of coming North by way of the Mississippi river he was sent via Macon, Ga., to Savannah, whence, on board a steamer, he was to be taken to Fortress Monroe and Washington. The people will no doubt soon again be informed just where Jeff. is.

One of the HERALD correspondents with General Wilson's cavalry column, writing from Macon, gives us very interesting sketches of the present condition of affairs in Georgia, civil, military, social and personal. All the people nearly, wherever the national troops are stationed, profess to be good Unionists. They admit that they have been conquered, and have no desire for a continuance of the war. So great are the security and good order instituted in all places occupied by General Wilson's forces that the citizens are loud in praise of the favorable change from rebel rule. There is a great scarcity of food throughout the State. Starvation is imminent, not only to the poor, but to many of the rich, and some bread riots have occurred. General Wilson has commenced issuing rations to the needy in various parts of the country. Several conferences regarding public matters took place at Macon, between General Wilson and Governor Brown, and the latter, as our readers have already been informed, issued his proclamation calling an extra session of the Legislature; but the General informed him that it could not meet without special permission was granted from Washington. Before the time for the members to assemble arrived orders for the Governor's arrest were received, and he was started for Washington, which place he reached yesterday. Governor Brown had previously surrendered to General Wilson, on the latter's demand, all the State troops and public property. The General has detailed officers at various points in Georgia and Florida to parole the rebels surrendered by Joe Johnston.

A fine field for Northern emigrants is presented in the plantations of the Southern States. One of our correspondents says that land in Virginia and North Carolina which before the rebellion could not have been purchased for less than one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, can now be had for two dollars and two dollars and a half per acre. The planters there take a very gloomy view of the present condition of affairs, and consider their States irretrievably ruined because the abolition of slavery has for the present depreciated the value of their lands, which, however, will no doubt be soon taken up in small parcels by colonists from the North and from Europe, and ultimately become far more valuable, under improved systems of tillage, than they have ever yet been. Already a plan, with the aid of Northern capital, is in course of preparation whereby some of the large estates of Virginia will be cut up into small tracts, with the view of their purchase and cultivation by Northern farmers of moderate means.

Governor Pierpont, of Virginia, will shortly issue his proclamation appointing an election for members of the Legislature of that State in the districts at present unrepresented.

Twenty-two rebel steamers, including the rams Nashville and Mary Ann and the blockade runner Heroine, recently captured by the national forces at and in the vicinity of Mobile, were expected to arrive from that place at New Orleans on the night of the 15th inst. Thirteen of these steamers and the rams were found up the Tombigbee river, whither the rebels had taken them on evacuating Mobile. Four other steamers were captured up that river; but it was feared that they could not be got down, as the water was falling. Mobile is being overrun by the paroled men of Dick Taylor's army.

A difficulty has arisen between Governor Brownlow, of Tennessee, and Judge Trigg, of the United States District Court of that State, in regard to some abandoned property of rebels which Mr. Brownlow, while acting as a special agent of the Treasury Department, rented to loyal persons, on behalf of the government. Judge Trigg ordered these tenants to be dispossessed; but the military authorities, on being called upon, enforced Mr. Brownlow's contracts; and on Tuesday last, at Knoxville, the Judge, in charging the Grand Jury, directed them, in strong language, to indict Governor Brownlow.

Henry S. Foote, formerly of the United States Senate, lately of the rebel House of Representatives, has issued from Montreal, his present abiding place, an address to President Johnson, asking permission to return to this country. In this paper, which is of considerable length, Mr. Foote tells how, after requesting the privilege of retiring to California, a despatch from Secretary Stanton, which he complains was not of the Chesterfieldian style, ordered his departure from this city and the country within forty-eight hours; reviews for several years past the political careers of the President and himself and gives a sketch of his difficulties with Jeff. Davis and other leading rebels, and his subsequent troubles after he deserted them and came within the Union lines on an independent, individual mission to negotiate for peace.

The rebel General Pillow has been captured. He was taken near Selma, Ala.

There is considerable excitement among the people of Kentucky regarding the late removal of General Meredith from command in that State, and meetings are being held to denounce those who caused his displacement and to urge his restoration upon President Johnson.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The latest accounts from the Mexican side of the Rio Grande show that all is confusion along that river, owing to the presence in the vicinity of Matamoros of both republican and imperial forces. A fight for the possession of the town had taken place, but with what result has not yet been ascertained, though there have been rumors both that the republicans had captured it and that they had retreated from before it. Business, however, there, as well as at Bagdad, was at a complete standstill, and the people were fleeing across the river to Texas, carrying with them their portable property. Imperial reinforcements for Matamoros were said to be on the way from Vera Cruz; but the adherents of Maximilian were much troubled over reports that Kirby Smith, with his rebel army from Texas, was coming over to fight for Juarez.

Secretary Seward was at the State Department yesterday, and attended to some official business. The hopes for Mr. Frederick Seward's recovery are now stronger than at any previous period.

The Inman steamship Etna, Captain McGuigan, will sail to-day at twelve M. for Queenstown and Liverpool, from pier 44 North river. The steamer America, Captain Wessels, for Southampton and Bremen, will also sail at noon to-day. The mails will close at the Post Office for both vessels at half-past ten A. M.

Baron Stoeckl, the Russian Minister at Washington, has recently presented to the President a letter from Prince Gortschakoff officially expressing the sympathy of the Russian government with the American people in the affliction suffered by the assassination of President Lincoln.

A verdict for five hundred and fifty dollars damages was yesterday rendered in the Supreme Court, before Judge Welles, against G. W. Farrington, a butcher, on account of injuries done to James Carroll, a lad of nine years, by being run over by a cart which the defendant's son was recklessly driving through Fourth avenue in October last.

The Grand Jury of the Court of General Sessions having finished their labors yesterday, were discharged. Judge Russel, in thanking them for the efficient manner in which they discharged their duties, remarked that in the short space of ten days they passed upon one hundred and seventy-eight cases. Jacob Bahr, convicted of picking the pocket of Mrs. Thayer, was sent to the State Prison for two years. Robert Randall, who pleaded guilty of an attempt at larceny, was sent to the Penitentiary for one year. The case of Samuel Phillip, charged with obtaining money under false pretences, was suddenly brought to a close. After Mr. Dayton, the United States Revenue Inspector, testified that he gave Phillip authority to find out if cigar makers defraud the government, Judge Russel instructed the jury to acquit, which they did without leaving their seats. Annie Holman was tried on a charge of stealing sixty-five dollars from Catharine Corcoran. Peter Riley and Bernard Reynolds were convicted of an aggravated assault perpetrated upon John Dishley, a private in the regular army, on the night of the 7th of April, a short distance from the Grand street ferry. The soldier was stabbed in the head and stomach, but was able to march the ruffians at the point of his revolver till he met a policeman. Assistant District Attorney Bedford pressed for a conviction for an assault with intent to kill; but the jury convicted of an assault with intent to do bodily harm. They were each sent to the State Prison for three years. A large number of prisoners were arraigned, and their trials were set down for next week.

The Excise Commissioners met yesterday. Six applications for licenses were received and granted, on condition of the payment of thirty dollars by each applicant. They then adjourned till to-day.

Frederick Schroeder, keeper of a grocery at the corner of Second avenue and Eighty-fifth street; his wife, and his clerk, named Louis Stock, were yesterday arrested by the police on charge of being extensively engaged in passing counterfeit fractional currency. On Schroeder's premises and person were discovered bogus twenty-five and fifty cent notes representing about one hundred dollars. The accused will to-day be taken before United States Marshal Murray for examination.

Charles Williams, alias Wesley Allen, was yesterday committed to the Tombs for examination, charged with picking a gold watch from the pocket of George A. Sweet, while the two were riding down town together on Thursday afternoon in a Broadway stage. Williams, on being arrested, stoutly protested his innocence of the charge, but, it is said, informed Mr. Sweet that he knew who had stolen his watch, and could recover it if he were allowed his liberty. He was therefore, in company with Mr. Sweet and an officer, allowed to proceed to different places in the city in search of the missing property; but he failed to discover it, and was locked up.

Jacob Levy, a German, was yesterday committed for examination on a complaint of Caroline Kane, of Mercer street, who alleges that he stole from her over a thousand dollars and a gold watch. Levy says the money was deposited in bank in his name, and Caroline says she entrusted it to him to deposit, with the understanding that he was to marry her.

Twenty female street walkers, arrested on Thursday night by the Fifteenth precinct police, were yesterday committed for examination.

Immense damage has been caused by the rise in the Mississippi river above New Orleans. The levees from the mouth of the Red river to Donaldsonville have been forced, and a tract of country over one hundred and fifty miles in length and from thirty to fifty miles in width has been inundated.

The tugboat Success, plying between Chicago and Bridgeport, exploded her boiler on the afternoon of the 16th, killing one person and severely scalding eight others.

A fire, the origin of which is unknown, broke out in the store No. 81 Nassau street, near Fulton, between seven and eight o'clock last evening, and extended to a five story rear building, used principally for manufacturing purposes, the upper three floors of which, with their contents, were entirely destroyed. Some damage was also done to the adjoining buildings, Nos. 138, 140 and 142 Fulton street and No. 79 Nassau street. The entire loss is estimated at fifty thousand dollars.

The stock market was extremely dull yesterday, and a fraction lower. Governments were heavy. Gold was firm, and closed at 131¼ a 131⅜ at five P. M. At night the closing price was 130¾.

There was a fair business done in most articles of domestic produce yesterday, but imported merchandise was generally quiet. The export movement in breadstuffs noted day before yesterday continued and further engagements were effected by the steamers—mainly for next week, at 5d. a 7d.; a week ago it would have been taken at 1d. Cotton was firmer. Petroleum was heavy and lower. Groceries were steady. On 'Change flour and grain were more steady. Provisions were firmer. Whiskey was nominal.

GENERAL MAGRUDER AND THE TEXAS REBELS—THEY HAVE A NEIGHBOR.—That famous rebel Bombastes Furioso, General Magruder, recently made a speech to his soldiers at Houston, Texas, on the subject of General Lee's surrender. He thought it was a pretty heavy shower, but it was not the deluge. Texas would fight it out. He would never submit to the Yankees. In winding up he said:—"I will only add that we have a neighbor near at hand. I do not feel at liberty to say anything further concerning the matter at present; but it may be that we may have aid from a source unexpected, and at a time when we least dream of it." From these hints it would appear that the rebel leaders in Texas have been hobnobbing with Maximilian; but we guess that, so far from expecting him to come over to Texas, Magruder, Kirby Smith and Company are really preparing to go over into Mexico. They will remain in Texas till all their cotton is sold and transported, and then they will be very apt to clear out; but whether to support or supersede Maximilian remains to be seen. As his friends or enemies they will be dangerous customers.

What Shall be Done with the Negroes?—The Great Social Problem of the Day.

At the commencement of the war there were in the Southern States, in round numbers, four millions of slaves. Various estimates have been made of the number destroyed by the war. It is quite safe to put the reduction by death at half a million. Perhaps the natural increase will balance the number that has made its way out of the country; and we thus have left in the Southern States three and a half millions of persons born and brought up in slavery that have suddenly become free. Unquestionably it is true of the mass of these that they have no appreciation of the finer ideas of freedom that would render the state of slavery intolerable to men of more intellect. Slavery is to them only compulsory labor; freedom is rest from that labor, and the right to "do as you like"—that is, to labor or not. That is their simple, single, obvious idea.

Labor is at the same time the prime necessity of the country that these men are in. It is an immense domain, that under a proper system will produce richer crops than the world ever saw produced from any given country. It is abundantly able to support all the labor necessary for its development, and to give in addition a crop that will belittle the riches of Oriental story. Under the worst system of labor ever known the same country supported a population of twelve millions, and had an accumulated wealth that enabled it to carry on for four years one of the most gigantic wars in history. There is no country in Europe so rich. Germany, Italy, France, Great Britain are poor to it in natural possibility. What, then, may not be the result of the development of this district under a proper system of labor? But can that system be so arranged as to solve the difficult question: what is to become of the negro? Certainly it ought to be.

There is the land in need of labor, and the owners of it propose even to import labor, considering that otherwise they lose the land; but there on the spot is the labor, and it is a great problem what we shall do with it. How can we arrange it that these two shall be complementary to each other? It seems easy enough to answer that the land must support the labor, and that the negro must earn his own bread. It is true, too, and is the obvious view taken by all. Henry Highland Garnett, who wrote us a letter on the subject the other day, said that the negro appreciated this. President Johnson tried to impress his colored visitors, some days ago, with the fact that work was the real solution of the negro question. And Gen. Howard, as this letter shows, takes the same view:—

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 16, 1865.

In accordance with General Orders of the War Department, No. 91, I enter immediately upon the duties of Commissioner of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. The bureau contemplated in the order will be located at the corner of I and Nineteenth streets. All commissioners, however appointed, who have charge of freedmen, are requested to make a report as soon as possible of the character and extent of their work. The commissioners or superintendents in Virginia, South Carolina and Louisiana are requested to report direct to me the amount of land they may have under supervision for their use. The department commanders in the insurrectionary States will do me the favor of transmitting a copy of the different orders issued by themselves or by their district commanders relating to the government and employment of freedmen. While it shall be my object to secure as much uniformity as possible in the matter of employment and instruction of freedmen, I earnestly solicit co-operation from all officers and agents whose position or duty renders it possible for them to aid me. The negro should understand that he is really free, but on no account, if able to work, should he harbor the thought that the government will support him in idleness. O. O. HOWARD, Major General,
Commissioner of Freedmen's Bureau.

General Howard, as chief of this important bureau, is the head of three and a half millions of men. He holds a most important position, and we believe that it was a very wise selection that put him there. He is a man of ability, eminently practical and thoroughly conscientious. He stands in the position to influence an immense amount of human happiness or misery.

It is wise to impress upon the negro very distinctly that he cannot live in idleness, and it is good for all to agree that he must depend upon his labor. But it is not enough to do this. We do not believe that the negro appreciates the necessity that he should labor, or that he can be induced very easily to go on with the same life that he has hitherto led, seeing practically but little difference between the slavery he hated and the liberty he longed for. It will not do to tell him that he must. It will need the calmest judgment and the nicest discretion to devise a system of labor or apprenticeship that shall encourage the negro to labor and the white man to employ him. Upon the wisdom with which such a system is adapted to the wants of the case it will entirely depend whether or no the South shall become a desolate wilderness and the negro race a great national difficulty. The absolute natural extermination of the race, too, depends upon this; and this, therefore, is the real field of labor for all those philanthropists who have cried out for justice to the negro.

THE GRAND REVIEW AT WASHINGTON.—In the early part of next week there will be a grand military spectacle in the vicinity of the national capital, such as has never been witnessed in modern times under similar circumstances. Two hundred thousand veteran troops, trained in a hundred battle fields, and commanded by all the leading generals of the service, who shared with them the dangers and have won with them the honors of victory, will be reviewed by the Lieutenant General, the President and Cabinet. This mass of men will cover a vast area of ground, and we can well imagine how sublime a scene it will be, excelling anything that has been witnessed at the conclusion of any great war. The Army of the Potomac will be there, and the Army of the James, and the Army of Georgia, the Army of the Tennessee and the cavalry of bold Phil. Sheridan—all historic names, which will live as long and be cherished with as proud memories as the *grand armée* of Napoleon. Practical reviews there have been of all these gallant troops on many bloody battle fields, but never before a pageant such as this, where the laurels of all the armies of the Union will be interwoven into one evergreen wreath—a fitting decoration for the commanding general who planned their campaigns and calmly watched the triumphs of his splendid designs.

GENERAL FOOTE, OF THE REBEL CONGRESS—A PROPOSITION.—That most unfortunate rebel, in his search for "some sequestered spot," General H. S. Foote, late of the rebel Congress, is not satisfied with his sequestered situation in Canada, and wants to come back under "the old flag." But the difficulty, we presume, in his case, is that he was a member of the rebel Congress, and that his absolution on taking the oath of allegiance would be a precedent probably requiring a similar pardon to all his Congressional confederates. But why not make Foote a special case of State's evidence. If he preferred to take the oath in good faith, he must be prepared to tell all that he knows of those dark proceedings in secret session of the rebel Confederate Senate, of which he was a very active member. It has been hinted that, if he will, he can tell a startling story, and perhaps he might be able to throw a flood of light on the affiliations between the rebel government and its agents "on detached service," as highway robbers, spies, pirates, incendiaries and assassins. Would it not be worth while to invite him to Washington in this view, under a pardon, as a witness in the trial of the batch of assassins now going on, or as a witness against Jeff. Davis? We throw out this suggestion for the serious consideration of the government.

Progress of the Trial of the Assassination Conspirators.

In the mass of testimony against the conspirators presented to the Washington court our readers may have noticed a great deal which is technically illegal—that is to say, which would not be regarded as admissible under the rules of practice in our civil courts. For instance, what John Surratt said is not legal evidence, since Surratt is neither on trial nor in custody. What one prisoner said about another is not legal evidence, unless the other prisoner were present at the time, or unless the statement referred to the general scope and object of a previously proven conspiracy. But the military court at Washington is not limited by the rules of evidence insisted upon by lawyers. That court is engaged in the double task of trying assassins and investigating a conspiracy. It combines the duties of an examination as to suspected persons and of a trial of the persons under arrest. Great latitude is, therefore, given to the witnesses so that the whole matter, unrestricted by the limitations of civil courts, may be clearly placed before the public. In this view the admission of valuable, though technically illegal, testimony is not indefensible.

But if we adhere to the strictest rules of evidence and cast every doubtful word aside, sufficient legal testimony has already been elicited to prove the organization of a conspiracy to capture or kill President Lincoln, and to show the guilt of all the prisoners at the bar. It seems that some kind of an attempt was made to carry out the conspiracy a few days after the 4th of March. Booth said in New York that he could easily have killed the President on inauguration day, as he stood very near him; but for some reason or other, probably because no means of escape were yet provided, he did not want to do the bloody deed at that time. Of the subsequent attempt we have but few particulars; but we know that Booth, Surratt and Atzerott were engaged in it; that Mrs. Surratt knew of it, since she cried while her son was away; that Arnold was privy to it by his own confession; that the scheme, whatever it was, dismally failed, and that the three assassins came back to Mrs. Surratt's in a great rage, disappointed, vexed and disheartened. After that Mrs. Surratt appears to have lent them her brains, for they sadly lacked brains before. Then the scheme which proved partly successful was arranged. Booth was assigned to kill the President; Atzerott to kill the Vice President; Payne to kill Secretary Seward; O'Laughlin to kill Grant; another man, probably Surratt, to kill Secretary Stanton; Spangler to look after the private box in the theatre; Mrs. Surratt to see that the carbines were ready at Lloyd's; Dr. Mudd to point out the road and furnish refreshments, and Harold to assist Booth and make himself generally useful. Had not Booth been tripped by the American flag and broken his leg his escape would have been pretty certain; but this, like all the rest of the conspiracy, except the President's murder, fell through completely.

The evidence connecting Jeff. Davis and the Canada rebels with the conspiracy is morally very strong. We can judge from the endorsement which Davis gave to plots to burn our cities and throw trains off the track whether his soul would have revolted from the crime of assassination. We can understand from the evidence before us why Surratt went to Richmond and Booth to Canada. It was to obtain advice and directions in regard to the conspiracy. We think that, when the time of the first attempt is more definitely settled by witnesses, it will be made apparent that suggestions from Jeff. Davis revived the drooping spirits of Surratt, Booth and Atzerott, and transformed them from kidnappers to murderers. Surratt declared after his first failure that his prospects were ruined. Booth was terribly agitated. Atzerott was also excited. Arnold, according to his own story, withdrew from the plot. What was it that gave these men new courage? It was Jeff. Davis' advice and Jeff. Davis' gold. They would never have repeated their attempt had they not been urged on by those at Richmond. Booth himself declared to Chester, the actor, that he had abandoned the idea of capturing the President. Surratt, who was foremost in the first attempt, got out of the way when the second attempt was made, or if he was at the theatre, as one witness swears, he took a very subordinate part in the assassination drama, leaving the principal work to his associates. We hold that if it had not been for the incentives from Richmond the conspiracy would have broken down of itself, and the principal actors of it would have retired in disgust. But it is evident that Jeff. Davis had determined that President Lincoln should be put out of the way, and he clung to his purpose tenaciously. As in the case of McCullogh's scheme to burn our cities, so in the case of the assassination he had discovered a "plan for overcoming the difficulty heretofore experienced." With this plan, and with the strong-minded Mrs. Surratt to arrange its details, the death of President Lincoln was accomplished.

CONVOCATION OF SOUTHERN CELEBRITIES IN WASHINGTON.—Quite a large number of Southerners—late rebels—are gathering together in Washington for various purposes. There is Governor Aiken, of South Carolina; Governor Brown, of Georgia; Mr. Holden, candidate for Governor of North Carolina; ex-Governor Swain, of that State, and a host of other prominent men, officials and non-officials. Some of these are there for the purpose of being tried for high treason; some to be used as witnesses against their late chief, Jeff. Davis, and many, no doubt, who are weary of the hostile attitude they had assumed against the legitimate government, and have come to assist, by their advice and influence, in the reconstruction of the country and government they had attempted to destroy. There are many questions to be settled before we can return to the original *status ante bellum*, in which the counsel of these prominent Southern men may be useful—questions relative to labor, the reopening of trade, and other essential points, presenting at the present moment some difficulties. Before Congress reassembles we may see a very large convocation of this class of men in Washington, anxious to lend their aid to the restoration of the prosperous condition from which the rebellion had dethroned the whole Southern States.

It is remarkable, however, that, notwithstanding so many of the leading men of the South, from Jeff. Davis down, have been accounted for, there is not a word of information concerning Alexander H. Stephens. Since the failure of his peace pilgrimage to Hampton Roads he appears to have taken no part in public affairs in the South; and, since the collapse, even his whereabouts is unknown. An unwilling rebel in the beginning, he seems to have reached the vanishing point in the end.

OPENING OF THE FESTIVE AND FASHIONABLE SUMMER SEASON.—The coming fashionable season at the various charming watering places in our country will be at least two weeks in advance of almost any previous season. Here we are only in the middle of May, and, cold as it was yesterday, we find the buds and blossoms, the beautiful flowers, the green slopes and meadows and fields, the emerald plumage of our matchless American forest trees, the transcendent floral charms of our magnificent Park, already approaching the height of their natural splendors. It is not usual, even by the first of June, to find the country so far advanced as it is at present. Corresponding with this precocity of the vernal season, we find our fashionables already preparing for a grand hegira from the great cities to the groves, and shady nooks and sylvan grots of our rural districts, the seaside and the colder mountain regions being, of course, a little behind the interior fashionable season. Thus we hear an æriel voice from Saratoga descanting upon the ripening and expanding beauties of that famed resort of fashion. We notice that besides the usual attractions of the place, and the medicinal advantages of its marvellous waters, that a celebrated hotel firm—the Messrs. Leland—have vastly enlarged and improved their hotel, the Union, and added to the general attractiveness of Saratoga by constructing an elegant Opera House, which, for beauty and chasteness of design and finish, will vie with similar establishments in any part of Europe. The Opera House has been leased to Mr. Leonard Grover—a gentleman well known throughout the country as an operatic director. All the other hotels in Saratoga have been undergoing improvements, and in a few weeks the whole place will be alive with fashion, grace, fun, folly and frivolity. It is reported that the little French Prince Imperial will visit Saratoga this season provided recent great events do not change the programme of travel previously arranged for the young Napoleonic scion by his imperial father. With the dawn of peace the American people require all the repose they can obtain, and most surely should they have opportunities to enjoy it. They have had excitement enough the past four years to last an ordinary people half a century. Now let them take a few months relaxation, and during the coming summer prepare themselves for the great deeds that may be required of them ere another year rolls around.

SECRETARY STANTON'S ENDORSERS.—General Grant and General Meade, before the Committee of Congress on the Conduct of the War, have testified to the "great ability" with which Secretary Stanton has conducted the business of the War Department. Montgomery Blair and Alphabet Barlow must now produce their witnesses on the other side, or their case may go by default.

INFORMATION WANTED—By the editor of the Richmond *Times*, a deluded Virginia politician of the antediluvian epoch, who seems to think that with the restoration of the State under "the old flag" she is again as she was before the flood, State sovereignty, Extra Billy Smith, niggers and all.

JEFF. DAVIS.

His Arrival at Macon, Ga.—He is to be Sent to Fortress Monroe, via Savannah.

CINCINNATI, May 19, 1865.

A despatch from Resacca, Georgia, says that Jeff. Davis arrived at Macon on Monday, and was sent to Augusta, with a strong guard. Thence he will be taken to Fortress Monroe, via Savannah.

NASHVILLE, May 18, 1865.

It was given out at headquarters that Jeff. Davis would pass through Nashville on his way to Washington, and a steamer, with a portion of the Thirteenth regulars, was in readiness to receive him, and is still at the levee with steam up; but it was deemed injudicious to send him through this way, although the route is shortest, and accordingly he moved East. A despatch from Resacca, Ga., says that Jeff. arrived at Macon on Monday, and with a strong guard was sent to Augusta. From that point he will be sent to Savannah, where he will take vessel for Fortress Monroe. An officer of Johnston's army, who has arrived here, says that Jeff. gave up nearly all his specie as payment for services of officers and men of his own escort.

NEWS FROM KENTUCKY.

The Removal of General Meredith Denounced.

PADUCAH, Ky., May 17, 1865.

An immense mass meeting of Union men in this city have unanimously passed resolutions denouncing the men whose representations caused the removal of General Meredith from command in this district as unworthy of belief, as the very worst enemies of the Union cause, and as opposed to the restoration of peace.

The resolutions then go on to thank General Meredith for his patriotic policy, and urging President Johnson to reinstate him in command.

The resolutions also pledge the most earnest support to the present administration.

Similar meetings of loyal men are being held throughout the district, at which the men who caused General Meredith's removal are bitterly denounced.

Fatal Altercation at Shelbyville.

LOUISVILLE, May 19, 1865.

Mr. McGrath was shot and killed in Shelbyville this morning by a negro soldier, of Captain Kirt's company. McGrath and two or three others violently objected to the occupancy by the negro troops of the United States of the rendezvous, and in this altercation the shooting took place.

THEODORE THOMAS' CONCERT.—There has been rarely, if ever, given in this city so complete and enjoyable a concert as the testimonial to Theodore Thomas at Irving Hall on Thursday evening. The interpretation of the German composers by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Thomas, was perfect, and received a tribute of approbation unmistakable. Mrs. Van Zandt never sang better, nor exhibited more command of her voice. The applause, which was not sparingly given to both of her songs, was, we must say, well merited. Formes' rendition of Schubert's difficult ballad, "The Wanderer," was admirable, and was greatly assisted by Carl Anshutz's skillful accompaniment. Mr. Mills played the Rakoczy March, by Liszt, with splendid execution. Irving Hall was, perhaps, never more crowded than on this occasion, and by a critical, refined and highly pleased audience.

NORTH CAROLINA.

FREE LABOR IN REBELDOM.

An Opportunity to the Industrious of All Nations.

A New Country Already Improved and Stocked to be Repopulated.

The Depreciated Value of Southern Farms.

Plantations Formerly Held at One Hundred and Fifty Dollars Per Acre Now Held at From Two and a Half to Five Dollars Per Acre

A GREAT FIELD FOR EMIGRANTS

&c., &c., &c.

Our Wilmington Correspondence.

WILMINGTON, N. C., May 15, 1865.

Persons here seem to take a gloomy view of the future. They regard the losses entailed by this war as too great to admit of the possibility of revival from the internal resources of the South within the next thirty years. They argue in this way:—The aggregate value of the whole property of the South before the war was about six billions. Of this the negroes of the South represented one-fourth intrinsically. The destruction of that amount of labor, depreciates, it is estimated, the value of Southern property to a still greater extent, both combined producing a depreciation in its aggregate value of about four-fifths. It is stated, moreover, that the efficiency of white labor in the South has been materially impaired by the war, thus diminishing still further the actual resources of the South, and its availability as a producing region.

I have heard instances cited by way of argument to sustain these views. Lands have been mentioned to me which before the war would have brought one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, that now would not bring two dollars and fifty cents. I am informed that a magnificent farm, owned by James C. Bruce, of Halifax county, Virginia, brother-in-law of James A. Seddon, late Secretary of War in the rebel government, estimated to be worth from one hundred and fifty dollars to two hundred dollars an acre five years ago, is now held to be worth not more than five dollars per acre. The celebrated Elk Island farm, on the James river, valued before the war at two hundred and sixty thousand dollars, is now estimated to be worth not much over ten thousand. The depreciation, it will be remembered, is attributed to the destruction of slave labor, which, in the estimation of Southern planters, imparted its chief value to Southern land. In the Southern States, especially in the cotton growing States, nine-tenths of the labor was performed by slaves; and, measuring even approximately, the depreciation of Southern property by the destruction of this large amount of productive labor, the standard of depreciation reached, according to this Southern view, is not unreasonable. In short, the estimate would seem to be based upon the idea that there can be no substitute found for slave labor, and that white or free labor cannot be made available, which is perfectly fallacious. The Southern planters—those especially in the cotton States—believe slave labor to be the only system of labor applicable to Southern lands, inasmuch as Southern products require an unremitting care and attention in their culture that is not consistent with free labor. They calculate upon the contingencies of laborers leaving at the most important crisis in the sowing of their crops, sickness from climatic influences, and many other causes not incident to the peculiar class of labor to which they have been heretofore accustomed. All these objections, however, will be found erroneous. They proceed more from a prejudice to white labor than any real disadvantage likely to be found in the system itself. Northern capitalists would find it to their interest to avail themselves of these ideas, and to invest largely in rich Southern plantations, from which they will be certain to derive valuable returns.

Death of a Wealthy Loyal Citizen—His Rebel Relatives Disinherited—What the Paroled Rebel Soldiers are Doing, &c., &c.

RALEIGH, N. C. May 15, 1865.

James C. Johnson, one of the wealthiest men in the South, died on the 12th instant, at his home, near Edenton, in this State. He disinherited all his relatives because they left him and identified themselves with the rebel cause. His property amounting to many millions of dollars, he left to a few personal friends. His immense possessions on the Roanoke river comprise the richest lands in the country. At the outbreak of the rebellion he told his slaves, numbering nearly a thousand, that the war would make them free, and that they could remain with him or go where they pleased. He was a personal friend of Henry Clay, whose indebtedness, which amounted to over thirty thousand dollars, Mr. Johnson is said to have cancelled, without Mr. Clay's knowledge, who was never able to ascertain who his benefactor was. He was about eighty years of age when he died, and was a devoted Union man up to the hour of his death.

In the absence of mail facilities and all intelligence from the principle centres the people in the interior of this State are afflicted with rumors and reports both alarming and ridiculous, which can better be imagined than described.

The report that Jeff. Davis and his generals are organizing a large army on the other side of the Mississippi and that France has recognized the confederacy leads Johnston's and Lee's paroled men to suppose that they will be called into the field again. Many of these paroled men are preventing the people from holding Union meetings, on the ground that they are liable to be called into the field again, and that it is their duty to suppress any attempt to return the State to the Union while they remain soldiers. It would not be safe for a Northern Union man to remain in any place in the South after the withdrawal of our troops unless the negroes are used for garrison duty.

Fire in Nassau Street—Loss About Fifty Thousand Dollars.

Between seven and eight o'clock last night a fire broke out in the boot and shoe store of Eugene Ferris, No. 81 Nassau street. The flames extended to the upper rooms on the rear part of the building, and also communicated to a five story brick building in the centre of the block, entrance Nos. 15 and 17 John street; and before the fire was extinguished the three upper floors were destroyed, together with their contents. The entire loss will probably not be much short of $50,000. Owing to the absence of the various owners particulars as to insurance or losses could not be accurately ascertained.

Mr. Ferris' loss on stock will be about $8,000, and on the building about $3,000. His property is insured for $15,000 in the Adriatic, Croton, North American, New World and Park insurance companies. The offices in the upper floors were occupied by Gousset & Co. and others. The basement is occupied by Henry Mouquin, importer of wines, and as a restaurant. Loss about $1,000; fully insured in the Gebhardt, Commonwealth and Germania insurance companies.

Some damage by water was done to the stock of furniture in the auction store of Mr. Dougherty, 79 Nassau street. The stock of clothing of R. S. Smith & Co., 138 and 140 Fulton street, was slightly damaged.

James Scott, clothier, 142 Fulton street, has sustained damage by water to the extent of about $1,000; fully insured. The buildings are damaged about $500.

The five story building in the rear of 15 and 17 John street was occupied for manufacturing purposes by Richard Oliver, jeweller; John P. Waters, assayer; Wm. Brand, enameller, and others. The three upper floors were destroyed; loss probably about $30,000; on stock and building. Owing to the difficulty of reaching the fire the flames were not extinguished until after midnight. The origin of the fire is at present unknown. Mr. Ferris says there was no fire used at the rear part of his store, where the fire is supposed to have commenced.

The services of the insurance patrol, under Captain Cornwell, were fully brought into play, owing to the great number of places to be protected, and the police, under Captain De Camp and his sergeants, were very efficient.

OLYMPIC THEATRE—MATINEE.—The splendid fairy piece, "The Sleeping Beauty," which has been presented nightly for some time past at the Olympic with such immense and well merited success, will be given to-day at a *matinée*. This is without doubt one of the grandest efforts of scenic art ever produced on the stage of New York.