# THE SOUTH.

## Reports from the Special Correspondents of the Herald.

## REGISTRATION IN VIRGINIA.

## CONDITION OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

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&c. &c. &c.

### VIRGINIA.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.

**Instructions from General Schofield to the Boards of Registration.**

RICHMOND, VA., May 15, 1867.

The following list of instructions has been issued by General Schofield and approved by General Grant and Attorney General Stanbery. As will be seen, the work of registration will not commence until further instructions are delivered:—

GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 28.
HEADQUARTERS FIRST MILITARY DISTRICT,
STATE OF VIRGINIA, RICHMOND, May 15, 1867.

The following regulations are prescribed for the registration of voters as required by the act of Congress of March 23, 1867:—

1. Two or more registering officers will be appointed for each county and city, according to its size, and one for each magisterial district or ward.

2. One principal Board of Registration, and as many assistant boards as may be convenient, each to consist of three officers, will be organized in each county or city by the President of the Board, under instructions heretofore issued from these headquarters.

3. The President of the Board for the county or city will apportion the districts or wards among the principal and assistant Boards, determine the order in which the several districts or wards assigned to each Board shall be registered, the time to be allotted to each, and will instruct the Registering Officer of each district or ward to publish accordingly the notices hereinafter required, and to make the necessary preparations for the meeting of the Board in his district or ward.

4. The President of the Board will also designate the place of registration in each district or ward, which will be selected with reference to the general convenience of voters.

5. There shall be one place of registration, and only one, in each magisterial district or ward, where all the qualified voters, residents of such district or ward, shall be registered.

6. It shall be the duty of the registering officer of each district or ward to register the voters of that district or ward, keep the records, prepare the required reports to the commanding general, and to do such other ministerial duty as may be ordered by the Board or by the President thereof. But all questions of the right of persons to be registered must be decided by the full Board.

7. The Board of Registration shall, in each district or ward, in five of the most public places therein, cause written or printed notices to be posted, which notices shall designate the time and place, when and where the registration will be held, the number of days the Board will be in session for the purpose of registration, and the length of time each day, and inviting all persons qualified to vote under the provisions of the act of Congress of March 2, 1867, entitled "An act to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States," and the act supplementary thereto, passed March 23, 1867, to appear before the Board for registration.

8. These notices shall be posted at least ten days before the commencement of the registration in the district or ward in which they are posted.

9. Persons shall vote only in the district or ward where they are registered.

10. On the day and at the time named in the notices herein before mentioned, the Board of Registration for the district or ward shall meet at the place designated in such notice and, having taken the prescribed oath, enter upon their duties.

11. The room in which the registration is to be made shall be so arranged that the Board of Registration and persons admitted as challengers and witnesses shall be separated from those to be registered; no one being permitted within the enclosure, in addition to those named, except the person to be registered to be examined for registration, the persons to be registered being admitted one by one, and their entry and egress so arranged as to avoid confusion.

12. For the purpose of securing a just registration, and to prevent the registration of any person not entitled to vote under the provisions of the said act of Congress of March 2, 1867, or the act supplementary thereto, three white and three colored persons, citizens of the district, shall be selected by the Board, who shall be allowed to remain with the Board, and who shall have the privilege, and whose duty it shall be, as well as that of each member of the Board, to challenge the right of any person to be registered, who, in the opinion of the person challenging, is disqualified as a voter by reason of any of the causes set forth in said acts of Congress. Upon such challenge being made the Board shall examine the person presenting himself for registration in reference to each cause of disqualification mentioned in said act and the act supplementary thereto. Evidence shall also be heard, if offered, to substantiate the cause of challenge, or to rebut that offered in support of it.

13. In registering the voters the names of the whites and colored persons registered shall be entered in separate columns of the list kept for that purpose, which lists, after the registration shall have been completed, shall be alphabetically arranged—the names of the white and colored voters still being kept in separate columns. Three separate lists shall be kept. The first shall contain the names of all voters who shall be registered without challenge, after taking the prescribed oath set forth in the first section of the supplement to the aforesaid act. The second, those who may be registered after challenge made; and the third, those who may be rejected upon challenge.

14. Opposite the name of each person challenged, whether registered as entitled to vote or not, the cause of challenge will be clearly stated, and also the facts relating thereto as developed by the examination of the Board.

15. The Board shall sit, at the place designated in the notices hereinbefore mentioned, at least eight hours each day (or not less than three consecutive hours, Sundays excepted), as set forth in said notice, to register the names of all persons in said district who are qualified to vote under the provisions of the act and of the act supplementary thereto hereinbefore mentioned. It is expected that all persons entitled to be registered, and who are not prevented by sickness or other unavoidable cause, will present themselves for registration at this session of the Board.

16. Upon the completion of the registration the Board shall forward to the Commanding General copies of the lists required to be kept, certified in the following form:—

We do certify, on honor, that the above is a correct list of the persons (registered without challenge) who were registered as voters after challenge and examination, (or rejected upon challenge,) (as the case may be, in the —— district (or ward), county (or city) of ——, State of Virginia.

A—— B——, President of Board.
C—— D——, Registering Officer of the county (or city).
E—— F——, Registering Officer of the district (or ward).

They shall also cause copies of the lists to be posted in three of the most public places of the district or ward.

17. Two weeks or more after the registration has been completed, and after ten days' public notice, the Board shall reconvene at the place of registration for the correction of the published lists, at which time additional evidence may be heard in reference to the cases of those rejected upon challenge at the previous registration, when those thus rejected may be registered, if the evidence warrants it.

18. The name of any one registered after or without challenge may be stricken from the roll, if a cause of disqualification is then established.

19. The names of such persons may be registered as establish by satisfactory proof the fact of their inability by reason of sickness or other unavoidable cause to attend the registration previously made.

20. The names of all persons in the three separate corrected lists shall, at the second session of the Board, be entered separately and alphabetically in a book prepared for the purpose, in which the names of the white and colored voters shall be kept separate, for convenience of reference at the ensuing election, and a copy of the list of such register, certified as required by paragraph 16, shall then be forwarded to the commanding general.

21. Boards of registration shall have power to summon witnesses and compel their attendance in any case of contested registration, and the power to suppress disorder and preserve the peace at and in the vicinity of the place of registration. For these purposes they may call upon the local civil authorities or the nearest commander of troops for such aid as may be necessary, or they may at their discretion summon a special police force for the purpose.

22. Any person who shall knowingly and wilfully violate any of the provisions of these regulations, or who shall, by violence or intimidation, prevent, or endeavor to prevent, the registration of any voter, shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of a military commission.

RULES FOR MAKING OUT ACCOUNTS.

23. All authorized accounts incurred under or by virtue of the act of Congress of March 23, 1867, shall be forwarded to Major T. H. Stanton, Paymaster First Military district, Richmond, Va.

24. Vouchers to accounts for reimbursement for expenses incurred must be supported by the properly receipted original bills of expenditure, made out in duplicate as sub-vouchers. When it is impossible to obtain receipts to sub-vouchers the claimant, if an officer, must certify, if a civilian, must make affidavit before a civil magistrate or notary public, where practicable, that the amounts claimed for reimbursement were actually and necessarily expended by him in the public service, and that it was impossible to obtain sub-vouchers therefor.

25. The certificates to vouchers for expenditures incurred by a Board of Registration must be signed by the President of the Board.

26. Each voucher must be complete in itself, and be accompanied by all orders and explanations necessary to make its fully understood; and all orders, sub-vouchers or explanations must be made in duplicate and filed with the vouchers.

27. Vouchers for expenditures must state the date and place, the items and amount, to whom, for what purpose, and the number and names of the persons for whom the expenditure was made. Vouchers for services rendered must also specify the commencement and end of the period for which the expense was incurred, and must state whether both days are inclusive.

28. Vouchers must in all cases be accompanied by the receipt of the party to whom payment is made. No account will be paid by the disbursing officer unless correctly made out and the receipts properly signed.

29. The expenses which may properly be incurred by the Boards of Registration are as follows:—

1. For the preparations necessary for carrying out the instructions of paragraph 11.
2. Purchase of necessary stationery for boards.
3. Printing the posters required by paragraph 7; printing the authorized lists of registered voters as required by paragraph 16, and other printing previously authorized by the commanding General.
4. For postage.

30. No other expenditures than those above mentioned shall be incurred without the previous sanction of the General commanding.

31. Registering officers appointed from civil life for counties or cities will be paid at the rate of $125 per month; those for magisterial districts or wards of cities at the rate of $5 per diem for the time they are actually employed.

32. All registering officers will be allowed ten cents mileage from their places of residence to their stations, and returning from their stations to their places of residence. After joining their respective stations registering officers will be allowed, by way of reimbursement, the actual, necessary and reasonable expenses of their transportation while travelling on public duty connected with their office within their respective counties or districts.

BOOKS AND BLANKS.

33. Blank vouchers will be furnished registering officers upon their requisition, from the office of the paymaster of this military district.

34. Blank oaths for voters and the blank books referred to in paragraph 20 will be furnished from this office on the requisition of registering officers.

35. The registration will not be commenced until further instructions are issued from these headquarters.

By command of Brigadier and Brevet Major General J. M. SCHOFIELD, U. S. A.

S. F. CHALFIN, Assistant Adjutant General.

### WEST VIRGINIA.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.

**The Registration of Voters—Alleged Partisanship on the Part of the Officers—Conservatives Stricken from the List—An ex-Union Soldier is Not Permitted to Register Because He is a Conservative—German Colony, &c.**

WHEELING, W. VA., May 14, 1867.

Registration in West Virginia is attracting the attention of people in both sections of the partitioned Commonwealth. The alleged partisanship exhibited by the officers of registration, under the control of Governor Boreman, is producing the bitterest possible feeling throughout the State of West Virginia.

The Boards of Registration have become nothing more than mere instruments for the purpose of securing partisan and radical domination throughout the State. Men even suspected of holding conservative views have had their names summarily stricken from the roll of voters because their sentiments were adverse to the party in power. These boards receive their instructions from Governor Boreman, and are, in almost every instance, it is stated, the pliant tools of this radical functionary. Three gentlemen in Barbour county resigned their offices as members of a board of registration because of being required to do such work as even radicals themselves felt repugnant to execute. Men of standing and respectability in the county have been stricken off the voters' list, and where sixteen hundred legal voters are enrolled a little over four hundred will remain after the Board of Registration gets through with its programme of disfranchisement.

It is not because these men have been rebels that they have thus been deprived of the most sacred privilege of American citizenship, but simply that they feel unwilling to vote the radical ticket. It is believed that if many more are stricken off there will hardly be a sufficient number left to fill the county offices. In Randolph county it is reported every conservative name has been erased, and the radicals, having no company left, moved away to Upshur county, West Virginia.

In Jefferson county a similar one-sided registration prevails, a common practice being to serve notices on men of conservative sentiments to appear within a limited time and give satisfactory proof of being duly qualified, or else be wiped off the registry of voters. Such notices are generally served on men who live in remote sections of the county, at such distances from the centre of registration as precludes their making an appearance before the specified time expires; men too, who have voted at three and four previous elections. In Parkersburg Mr. James Woffindin, a compositor on a paper, who had been honorably discharged from the United States service after a term of three years, and, though offering to take any oath required, was refused registration simply because of his aversion to holding the extreme views of the ruling party.

Turning from politics to colonization, it is gratifying to learn that Colonel Burton Despard and other gentlemen have disposed of ten thousand acres to a colony of German emigrants, who are expected to arrive during the present month. The lands were sold at a very moderate valuation, and the hardy and industrious Teutons were thus induced to come. If other landholders followed this example the most satisfactory results might be expected to follow, and the wild lands of West Virginia might be made to blossom like the rose.

### SOUTH CAROLINA.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.

**From Columbia to Charleston—Condition and Aspect of the Country—Uncultivated Land—Confiscation in Another Form—Rumors Relative to Employers and Employed, &c.**

CHARLESTON, S. C., May 14, 1867.

Once more rolling on the rail, and this time between Columbia and Charleston. It is a bright and smiling Sunday morning when we start. The weather grows sultry as we get on in our course and the sun in his, and by the time we reach Charleston it is boiling hot, or, not to be extravagant in the use of expressions, it is excessively warm, and white pantaloons are flourishing (they have a weakness for white pantaloons in Charleston), and green peas, blackberries, new potatoes and flies. But I have not quite done with my journey yet. It lies through a country about which I have a few words to say. As might be anticipated from the observations made in the neighborhood of Columbia, the figure of the land is flat almost the whole way. There is no departure from his form whatever, except an occasional shallow dip to the bed of a stream, or a rise now and again that can hardly be called a hill. The only elevation that I can remember at all deserving the name forms the south bank of the Congaree river, where the road crosses.

The most general observation one is forced to make in regard to the appearance of the region traversed is, that so much land lies unreclaimed, in the condition in which nature has left it. The forests are never far in the background, and from a point about sixty miles from Columbia they skirt the road all the way, there being only one occasional clearing, or half-clearing, full of stumps, to dispute the perfect accuracy of the statement. And these forests are, to a great extent, pine forests. How well they called to mind the school geography class, and seemed to ask the question over again, "What are the chief products of South Carolina?" and I mentally answered "Tar, pitch and turpentine," as somehow fearing a cuff on the head if I didn't, and fancying that in the course of transmigration those forms might have become the habitations of many a tall, gaunt, knotty schoolmaster I had known of yore.

The finest plantations, though by no means the richest land, lie within the space of eight miles between Orangeburg and Rowe's Pump, the latter station being fifty-nine miles from Columbia. They look remarkably well and are almost wholly planted with cotton, but the soil is all more or less sandy. As they say in some parts of the country, it is not a fat soil, and lacks the concomitants necessary to constitute it a first rate cotton producing soil. But cotton is so sensitive a plant, requiring just so much and just so little heat, no sooner and no later, just so much moisture and no more, that it happens, where some one or two of these exacting conditions are found to exist opportunely on the sandy plantations, as for example, dryness, when the others are too wet, the plant chooses to do better than on a more bountiful soil. This is one of the accidents of nature for which the planter may be thankful, but on which he can make no calculation.

Besides the above mentioned plantations they lie scattering from Columbia to Orangeburg, more between Columbia and Kingsville, fewer between the latter point and Lewisville, and few and far apart from Lewisville to Orangeburg. In this section the cultivated land is so where more than a third of the whole area, and from the Congaree river to within three or four miles of Lewisville a spot of cultivated ground would be a marvel, if I except a strip along the bank of the river. Here the shore rises and there is something of a hill, and for a short space cultivated land; but from the base of this mere swell in the figure of the country there stretches away an almost treeless plain for miles. On it, scattered here and there, are low pines and a short sparse herbage that seems from its meagre and pale looks to get but a spare living.

The richest lands in all this country are wholly unreclaimed. They lie along the north bank of the Congaree river chiefly, but are to be seen at long intervals between Charleston and Branchville, sixty-eight miles from the city. These lands are covered by a dense growth of timber and tangled vines through which a wildcat could hardly pass, and are overflowed by the backwater of some neighboring stream. Agriculture, as it has been practised in the country, cannot meet the grave necessities of this case; and so all the rich bottoms are left to breed frogs, ague and mosquitoes instead of producing bread, the staff of human life. While people are regretting a possible confiscation, which is to take from them something which may be of only nominal value, would it not be well to bestow a thought upon an an actual squandering of resources, in comparison with which all the rest sink into insignificance? Why this anxious care on the one hand—why this wanton neglect on the other? Is there in South Carolina a pious necessity which requires the sacrifice of her greatest wealth without a murmur? It would seem that there is or has been. One of the oldest of States, she is in as primitive a condition as regards the arts necessary to the development of her agricultural resources, to mention no others, as Nebraska or Colorado. Indeed, there is very little association of industry with art. What nature might be compelled to give of her store, her richest gifts still remain unbestowed, to bless, perhaps, at some future day, a more efficient system of labor. There are many fertile spots along the sea coast, in the deltas of the rivers, that might be made to produce abundantly. To instance only one example—it is said by those who are judges that, by employing a little of the engineer's art in cutting a canal across what is known as Hell Hole Swamp, at the mouth of the Santee river, from twenty-five to fifty thousand acres of the finest cotton growing land can be reclaimed. This land can be bought for ten cents an acre to-day, and would, on the completion of the canal, be worth fifty dollars. This is but one instance of an improvement that might be made in like manner along the coast.

Among the questions that agitate the public mind in regard to the surest method of bringing about a solution of certain perplexities, it is asked whether the negroes held to slave labor after the emancipation proclamation, January 1, 1863, are not entitled to indemnification from their masters. In case they are it is asserted that it will result in a handsome distribution of land to negroes so held, as there is no other feasible way of repaying them. I mention it as among the curious questions that will come up from time to time. I make no comment. It is a favorite idea of a person in high position.

It is rumored that the employers in and about this city have it in contemplation to distress the laborers who belong to the Union Leagues by refusing to give them work. The rumor is without confirmation, so far as I can learn.

### TENNESSEE.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.

**Prosperity and Politics in Tennessee—Bidding for the Negro Vote—The Colored Men in the Arena—Vicissitudes of Railroad Travel—Proposed Division and Sale of Plantations.**

MEMPHIS, TENN., May 8, 1867.

This city is rapidly recovering herself after the sudden check which her prosperity met with from the unfortunate riots of last May. There has been a decided improvement in commercial affairs for the past six weeks. At that time the people were a little despondent, owing to the lateness of the spring, the fear of short crops and the unsettled condition of the South. Things look brighter now, and business men speak hopefully of the future. Tennessee is the only reconstructed Southern State, and her people have no cause to regret the step which brought her into the Union. The progress of this city alone is evidence of this. During the last year three thousand new buildings have been put up in Memphis. I doubt if so many were erected in New York, and certainly there were not in Brooklyn.

The republican party claim most of the credit of this. Since they obtained control of the leading offices, such as the judges of nearly all the courts, the police and so forth, they have been able to restrain to a great extent the hostile sentiments of the secession conservatives, or at least to restore a feeling of confidence and quiet conducive to progress. The streets, for instance, have never been paved. They are in fact mere mud roads, even in the best parts of the city. Now contracts have been made to lay down six miles of Nicholson pavement. A year ago there was not one public school in the whole city; now there are several, while it is fairly dotted over with colored schools, which are all full. This is the especial boast of the radical politician. The financial affairs of the State, too, are looking up. When the legislature met in April, 1865, there was nothing in the treasury, and State bonds were not worth quite thirty cents. Since then they have funded five millions due to the railroads, and appropriated ten millions to resuscitate them. They relieved the people from taxation for the years 1862, 1863 and 1864. The State bonds are at the present time worth sixty-four cents, while those of Virginia are at thirty-seven cents, and North Carolina at forty-three. The interest due to Jan., 1866, was funded, and the payment of interest resumed in July of the same year. In this promising condition of affairs the people look forward to large investments of Northern and Western capital in their now flourishing city.

The political elements are a good deal mixed, but there can be no doubt that the uneasy spirit which heretofore prevailed amongst the disloyal portion of the people is greatly subdued. Many who were known to be very hostile to the government now profess sympathy with the radicals, and some who from old affiliations still adhere to their party are disposed to make the best of the inevitable future, and secretly assist the movements of the republican leaders. This is true to a great extent in all the Southern cities. The election of next August is an all absorbing topic. The radicals speak confidently of carrying the State, but I could detect a little nervousness and anxiety in many of them lest the negroes on the plantations should be diverted from them. The colored vote in the cities they can control without peradventure. The radical committee here is working hard, and I must say that a more earnest and untiring body of men I never saw; but then, as they say, it is life or death with them. The intelligent negroes are working with them with great zeal, and these comprise men of wealth and respectability—principally clergymen, teachers and merchants. They are intensely hostile to Etheridge, the conservative candidate for Governor, and they swear by Parson Brownlow to a man. Agents selected from this class are being sent out on the plantations to influence the negro farm hands in favor of the radical ticket, while at the same time the conservatives are using every exertion, by promises of work and good wages, to induce the colored people to vote against "the Yankees" and the tax on raw cotton. It will probably be a tight race between them. The radicals are at a disadvantage in one respect. They have only one organ, while there are three better speaking sheets at the command of their enemies. The registration of voters commences to-day, and the dusky agents of the republican committee are as busy as bees urging their enfranchised people to come up and qualify themselves to cast their first vote. Notwithstanding the backwardness of the season, hopes are freely expressed that the cotton crop in West Tennessee will exceed that of last year. From the Eastern side of the State the reports are not so encouraging.

When one undertakes to travel in the South these days he must not expect to find the same comfort and regularity that might be had in the times *ante bellum*. Therefore, when I crossed Mason and Dixon's line on the plank from the levee at Cairo to the steamer Cumberland, which was to take me down the Mississippi to Columbus, Ky., to catch the train for Memphis, I was prepared for a change. I was not at all surprised to find seedy conductors, dingy cars and ragged boys at the brakes; nor was I astonished to be dumped out on the roadside at midnight at a place called Humboldt, or as it is waggishly designated here, "Confederate Cross-roads," with the comforting assurance that if I was in luck there might be a train along from Louisville at three o'clock in the morning, but that the train due the night previous did not arrive until twelve o'clock that day. Entering the "hotel," the only building visible, I found myself in a large, barn-like room, dimly lighted by a smoky lamp. The plastering had fallen from the walls in several patches, admitting through the laths glimmers of light from the adjoining room, and, what sounded pleasant in that dismal place, the voices of women. Crouching round the stove, and occupying all the chairs, was a group of men, who sat silently and almost motionless. They wore slouched hats of various colors, white, gray and rusty black. There could be no hesitation in surmising to what clan they belonged. One of them, a gigantic fellow of about six feet four, was dressed in a suit of faded gray, wore a huge sombrero of the same color, and had a long brass cavalry spur on one heel. They were an unprepossessing crowd, who evidently had no particular love for the Yankees, and I did not care how soon the train arrived. However, as there was no sound of a whistle in the distance, I seated myself upon a barrel, buttoned up my coat, pulled the rim of my slouched hat over my eyes, and tried to look as like a guerilla out of place as possible. In strange contrast to this group was a tall, slight man, who sat at the distant end of the room reading a paper. He was evidently from the Atlantic shore, for he wore the orthodox travelling duster and a stove pipe hat. I was glad that I did not wear that kind of headpiece, for I recollected that three or four days before a gentleman was attacked at Grand Junction as a "Yankee abolitionist," and a pistol ball sent through his hat, clipping off a lock of his hair, and all because of the stove pipe. At the same time and place another gentleman, who happened to be a Virginian, was throttled and roughly handled, being suspected for a Yankee, because he wore a decent coat. The gentleman at Humboldt proved to be Hon. Wm. Kelley, member of Congress from Pennsylvania, who was on his way south for the purpose of assuring just this class of men, and as many others as would listen to him that the result of the war was just the thing for the benefit of the Southern people, and that if they would only be content to be re-constructed in Congressional fashion, their untilled acres would be made to blossom like a garden. And this he did tell them the next night at Memphis in a bold, calm, fearless manner which, whether palatable to all his audience or not, provoked no offence. Wishing to see what manner of men our companions might be, I took a look at the book on the counter and found that with one exception the guests of this dismal barn were all registered from Arkansas and Mississippi; I mention this incident to show what kind of companions and what manner of accommodation one is liable to meet with in journeying through the South. As a general thing, however, railroad travel is not open to many complaints, considering the circumstances of the past few years. Trains run pretty well on time, and connections are not often missed.

The Southern people have awakened to the necessity of dividing up the large plantations, and offering them for sale in small farms, in order that they may be brought under immediate productive cultivation by the capital and industry of the North and West. Disagreeable as it may be to see their hereditary plantations parcelled out to strangers they yield to the exigencies of the times, and are compelled to choose between this measure and absolute destitution. They argue that the South has now no property but the land, and the means of subsistence must be derived from its sale. To carry this into effect various schemes are afloat even down to that of lotteries and gift enterprises, by which capital in the North and in Europe may be induced to come here and cultivate the millions of acres which are lying waste because their owners are destitute of means. The war is over and the Union is beaten, they say, and that is the end of it. There will be no more wars in this country, they argue, and hence European immigrants can find a safe investment for their money and labor, in raising cotton and sugar on farms of a few hundred acres along the river routes and railroads in Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. These lands are being offered at prices varying from $3 to $20 an acre, and it would be the salvation of the South if a number of small farmers would settle in these States, and by raising a diversity of crops in moderate sized farms put these whole vast unused tracts into cultivation. This is the kind of reconstruction which is most wanted, reconstruction of the wasteful plantation system by which a few hundred acres were cultivated to every ten thousand that are lying fallow. No one who has travelled through the South, from Illinois to the Gulf, can fail to see the wisdom of industrial reconstruction, larger population and the application of capital in that section of the country.

### LOUISIANA.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.

**Dismissing a Clerk of the Fifth District Court—Circular—Registration in the Country Parishes—The Whites Generally Refusing to Register—Political Intelligence—Work of the Reconstruction Clubs—Split in the Republican Ranks—Personal, &c.**

NEW ORLEANS, LA., May 11, 1867.

It having come to the knowledge of General Sheridan that certificates of citizenship have been recently issued on the oath of one man, that the party applying has received his naturalization papers in another State, and the reading of the original certificate of citizenship obliterated and other words added thereto, the matter was investigated, and resulted in the issue of the following order and circular:—

SPECIAL ORDERS, NO. 41.
HEADQUARTERS FIFTH MILITARY DISTRICT,
NEW ORLEANS, LA., May 11, 1867.

For issuing, under the official seal of the court, certificates of citizenship which are unauthorized by law and false, whereby illegal registration might be accomplished, Lewis Bower, Clerk of the Fifth District Court of the city of New Orleans, is hereby dismissed from his office as Clerk of said Court.

By command of Major General P. H. SHERIDAN.
GEO. L. HARTSUFF, Assistant Adjutant General.

The following circular has also been issued:—

CIRCULAR NO. 3.
HEADQUARTERS FIFTH MILITARY DISTRICT,
NEW ORLEANS, LA., May 11, 1867.

The attention of the Boards of Registers throughout the State of Louisiana is called to the fact that in some of the District Courts of the city of New Orleans false certificates of citizenship have been issued for the purpose of procuring fraudulent registration.

All cases of such illegal certificates will be promptly reported to these headquarters by the Board to which they may be presented. By command of

Major General P. H. SHERIDAN.
GEORGE L. HARTSUFF, Assistant Adjutant General.

Registration has been commenced in nearly all of the country parishes of this State. Up to this date no trouble whatever has been reported at headquarters. In Baton Rouge 570 blacks and 30 whites have registered. In Houma, Terrebonne parish, 335 have registered. Of these, 42 are white and 293 colored. The Ouachita *Telegraph* of the 24 inst. says:—"The Registrars opened shop yesterday morning, and by dinner ground out about fifteen voters, mostly colored. One of the 'persuasion,' for following his master during the war, was refused registry—so we hear." In Assumption, on the 8th inst., the books showed 350 blacks against 45 whites. In Ascension, up to the 7th, 796 blacks against 51 whites. In Concordia parish, up to May 3, twenty-one persons had registered, 15 blacks and 6 whites.

Last evening a mass meeting of the citizens of the Second Ward National Reconstruction Club was held at the warehouse of the Jackson depot. The attendance was large. Several speeches were made.

The Sixth Ward Reconstruction Association held its regular weekly meeting at the Louisiana Academy. Speeches were made. The semi-weekly meeting of the Eleventh Ward Club was held last evening, corner of Camp and Washington streets. Mr. John H. Kenner addressed the meeting, urging registration and voting as the only means of defeating the radicals.

The National Reconstruction Club of the Third ward (the largest in the city) assembled last evening at No. 218 Gravier street. Speeches were made, and the following report made by the committee on resolutions and addresses:—

TO THE THIRD WARD CLUB OF THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION PARTY:—

Your committee beg leave to report the following resolutions:—

1. Be it Resolved, That it is our object and desire to establish and promote concert of action between the two races that are now on an equality in their political relations.

2. That we will vote for such men only for the Convention whom we believe the most capable, most interested, and identified with the welfare of our State.

3. That it is a solemn duty (the neglect of which no question of prejudice or personal inconvenience will excuse or justify) of the voters to register as speedily as possible, and the responsibility of the failure to elect proper men in this most momentous crisis, will fall on those who, in this hour and in this matter, fail to do their duty.

4. We proclaim ourselves the true friends of the colored citizen. That all such, who have respected themselves in the past and have done their duty to others around them, have ever had the respect of their fellow citizens and the protection of the laws of Louisiana, and we warn them against the schemes of adventurers and designing men, who have no interest here save to make money and to achieve position, at a time of great disorganization of the affairs of the State and the country, and to use, in the furtherance of their selfish objects the now obsolete idea of master and slave, and wickedly to place the two classes in the South the one against the other, that they may thrive upon the fraud.

5. We call upon all our Northern fellow citizens who have settled among us with the intention of remaining and abiding with us, to join in this, to them, as to every citizen, and a speedy assumption of our position, as it ought now to be, as one of the free and sovereign United States of America.

Respectfully submitted,

S. R. WALKER, HUGH McCLOSKEY,
M. S. BRADY, WALTER H. ROGERS,
DAVID McCUARD,

In presenting this report of the committee Mr. Rogers took occasion to urge upon the citizens of the ward present the necessity of immediate action on the registration question, so that all who could acquire the right of ballot might cast their votes for such men as could reach the standard of intelligence and probity, so necessary in the present state of affairs.

Within the last few days republican clubs have been organized at Opelousas, Bayou Goula, Natchitoches, Terrebonne, Camp Parapet, Shreveport, Columbus, Baton Rouge, and in the parishes of St. James, Rapides, Tensas, Tahmbany and Mateuroche.

A division has taken place in the republican party here. One faction is headed by Judge Wardsouth, and the other by a colored man named Crane.

General Merron, the newly appointed United States Marshal, opened his office yesterday at the Custom House.

Thomas W. Conway, Grand Deputy of the National Council at Washington, yesterday took the preliminary steps toward the establishment of the organization of the Union League at the Mayor's office in the City Hall. The establishment of a State council will be effected early next week. Thirty of the leading men of the republican party were yesterday initiated, among them Mayor Heath and a distinguished Catholic priest of this city.

Mr. Kittridge, the Treasurer of the Academy of Music, will have a complimentary benefit in a few days. A fountain of iced claret wine will jet from the centre of the parquet during the performance, to be served out from time to time to the audience in silver goblets.

Brevet Brigadier Generals Horace Porter and Orville Babcock, aids to General Grant, are in this city on an inspecting tour.

Manager Floyd, of the Varieties theatre, goes North to-day on the George Cromwell.

**The State of Parties in Louisiana—Threatened Defection in the Republican Ranks on the Rights of the Negro—Smothered Disloyalty of the ex-Rebels—Registration of Voters—The Blacks Ahead—The Broken Levees of the Mississippi—Fearful Disasters Continuing—The Remedy Proposed—Agricultural Prospects in Mississippi—No White Labor—Judge Kelley in New Orleans, &c.**

NEW ORLEANS, May 12, 1867.

It is beyond contradiction that there are at the present time two republican parties in Louisiana, no matter what claims to unity the branch composed mostly of white citizens may set forth. It is true that as yet there is no open rupture, but there is, apparently, a discordance which cannot be healed except by great concessions on the part of the white republicans. The factions are already known as and have accepted the titles of the "radical republican party," which is the one that demands not only the acknowledged rights of citizenship for the black man, but the fullest privileges of the citizen—the right to hold office and sit on juries. Nothing less than this will be regarded as the fruition of the Suffrage bill by the negro race and those who thoroughly sympathize with them. On the other hand, those who call themselves the "Union republican party," while willing to concede suffrage to the colored race, it is said, evince no disposition to extend the right to hold office. Neither to the board of registrars nor to the police, which is now being remodelled by General Sheridan's order, nor to any other office has a colored man been appointed in this city, although the republicans are in the ascendant. Mayor Heath appoints a number of policemen every day in conformity with Sheridan's orders, yet not one of the negro race has been put on the force. This is resented by the negroes, and they threaten to split off from the party which they assert shows a disposition to elevate a few individuals by the colored man's vote and leave to him only the barren right of citizenship without its advantages. That you may better understand the sentiment upon this question I will make an extract from the organ of the radical republicans, the *Tribune* of to-day, which says:—

Look at the appointments made under the inspiration of the leaders of that party. Colored men have an acknowledged right to be appointed registrars, but class registrars were appointed—all white. Colored men have an acknowledged right to be appointed on the police, but class policemen were appointed—all white. Colored men have an acknowledged right to sit in the jury box, but we do not see that the "Union republican party" want more than the acknowledgment of the abstract right for the man of colored descent to sit on juries. That party seem to believe that the acknowledgment of any abstract right is all that is required to-day. One or two "negroes" will be appointed to some menial office, or run in some subordinate capacity on the "Union republican" ticket, and the white man's government will be perpetuated almost pure from adulteration. But one-half and even more of the voting population of the State, having among them a sufficient number of men of wealth, influence and education, will not allow themselves to be cheated of their legitimate due—that is to say, of their legitimate share of influence and power in the local government. It is said that the soldiers who fought for the Union must rule. But have these Union men forgotten that Louisiana was represented in the Union armies by twenty-one thousand colored soldiers and four thousand white men only? Do these Union men assert that federal soldiers gathered in the State from all parts of the republic must wrest the power out of the hands of their comrades, natives of this very State? We claim for the black and colored soldiers who served their country the right to preferment and nomination, and we claim for Louisianians a share, a fair share, in the government of their cities and State. The difference between Union republicans and radical republicans can be set forth in a few words. The radicals want to found a true and practical equality; they have no objection, as they have shown, to sit in committee and in convention with men of the African race; they have no objection to put them on their ticket with a fair share of representation; they stand ready to appoint them to office; publicly claim for them the right to sit in the jury box, and to send their children to the public schools, while the Ben Butler clubs and the Union party, who is their offspring, acknowledge that the colored men have rights, but at the same time prevent them from practically enjoying these rights."

This paper is owned and edited by black men, Dr. Roudinez and his brother, the latter of whom is the editor. They are both gentlemen of high culture and great wealth. The doctor was educated in Paris, is possessed of great accomplishments as well as a high reputation in the medical profession. The paper is brought out exclusively by colored people; no white labor being employed in any department. It has great influence with its party, white and black, and this tone of language indicates a serious defection which may prove ruinous to the Union branch, as the colored people have already registered more than two-thirds of all the votes in the city, namely, eight thousand to a little over two thousand white votes.

It is conceded that the great majority of the negroes will vote the republican ticket at the election, for a constitutional convention next fall in all the cities, and this I find to be the prevailing opinion everywhere of thoughtful men in both conservative and republican parties. The principal anxiety is felt about the negroes on the plantations. There are, it is true, many conservatives who boast that Sambo, enfranchised as he is, will be a pliant tool in the hands of his old master, and they laugh at the efforts of the radicals to cajole him. They use of course the arguments that the tax of two a half per cent on raw cotton, which absorbs, as they urge, all the earnings of the darky, is the work of the republican Congress, and they plead the exclusion of the negroes from office and the jury box to prove that the party who, having the power to grant these privileges, withhold them, cannot be the friends of the black man.

Such is the general political complexion throughout the South, and the picture, I opine, differs little in any of the States from that of Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee, where I had opportunities of observation. White disloyalty is not rampant here—for Phil Sheridan is a terror to secessionists—yet it is bitter and enduring, showing itself upon various occasions in little incidents and expressions, such, for example, as a conversation I heard between two gentlemen on Canal street yesterday, in reference to some Indian squaws who were vending their bead ornaments on the sidewalk. One of the men spoke of the Indians as negroes, when the reply was in the bitterest tone, "they are not niggers; the millennium is come; there are no niggers in this country now except the white people!" In every quarter where they are not restrained by fear you hear the most violent denunciations and imprecations upon the government from the ex-rebels, and they are to be found everywhere. The strict enforcement of military law alone prevents collision between this class and the negroes. Indeed, such a thing would have occurred last Sunday about the street car contest only for the coolness of Mayor Heath, who addressed a mass of infuriated negroes, and calmed their passions, and the promptitude of Mr. Adams, chief of police, which body, I may add, is rapidly gaining efficiency and getting on smoothly, although it is only undergoing a state of change. The car question is definitely settled by a concession to the negroes, who now ride without interruption, but I will not venture to say without much discontent on the part of many people.

General Sheridan, whom I saw yesterday, seems perfectly satisfied with the way things are going on, and well he may, for he has a method of his own of making things go right. The Freedmen's Bureau, which is under the charge of General Mower, commander of the district of Louisiana, under Sheridan, is working satisfactorily. In a few instances the agents appointed to country districts have availed themselves of their position to preach politics to the freedmen; but as soon as the fact was discovered General Mower removed them.

I may have dwelt too much upon the political situation in view of the appalling calamity which has befallen so many thousand people on the plantations, from the breaking of the levées and overflow of the lands. Over six hundred miles of the finest sugar and cotton lands in seven States bordering on the Mississippi are under water to the depth, in some places, of twelve feet, the flood rising to the eaves of the houses and driving the unfortunate inhabitants before it to seek shelter whither they can Mules, hogs, crops—all have been swept away, and this vast tract of fertile soil will be utterly worthless for this season. For the last two years these floods have visited the low lands, while, even as though it were a predestined doom, droughts have prevailed on the high grounds during the same period, destroying or diminishing the grain crops which might have fed the people. An eminent physician, a native of New Orleans, informed me that before these disasters can be repaired not less than two hundred thousand souls in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas will have perished by starvation alone. Is not this a matter of greater importance than the success of parties or the advancement of politicians? Efforts are being made here and elsewhere to raise funds for the sufferers by contributions, concerts, fairs and so forth; but while money is pouring in liberally the unsparing waters are unhappily pouring in also to make fresh victims. We hear every day of levees, old and new, giving way down the river, as far as fifty miles, and the waters overflowing the plantations, to the destruction of young rice fields and orange trees.

Public opinion is united upon one point, and that is that