LINES OF NEW DEPARTURE.

The Unalterable Attachment of President Hayes.

HE WILL NEVER ABANDON THE PARTY.

The Harmonizing of the South a Duty to the Country.

STEPHENS ON THE LIVING ISSUES.

Powers of the General Government and Reserved Rights of States.

VIEWS OF SENATOR JONES, OF FLORIDA

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1877.

Though the President has no time to read the leading newspapers he is fully informed upon every matter relating to the prosperity of the country, and is constantly advised of every new development. In this way he has learned of the HERALD's new work for harmonizing the best elements in existing parties, and is truly grateful for its zeal, as he is to all who are laboring to perfect the pacification of the South on the principles of true humanity. Amid the cares of public life he has found time, however, to give to everybody a respectful hearing, save those whose object it was to interview him. President Hayes has formed an unalterable rule not to encourage interviewers. Not that he intends to keep from the public any point of information regarding our national affairs, but he is opposed to the custom of giving personal interviews, at least while he remains in the White House; and what he does as President will be made known to everybody. Yet he has opinions which he cannot suppress. In conversation with those who call to see him on public business he frequently gives utterance to his views, which are speedily made known and published. In this way it was not difficult to learn that the President recognizes the great power of the HERALD to aid him in ameliorating the condition of all classes in the South and his sentiments of regard for a journal that has already done so much in that direction.

HAYES AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

But there was one thing, though, that he could not approve and that was the idea that he should ever abandon the republican party or seek new alliance under any other name than that. It is one of the last thoughts that could occur to him to abandon the name or the principles of the republican party; and through the threatening storm which prominent men in and out of Congress could raise about his course he would never swerve from the conviction that his intention and aim is the perpetuity of that party on the old line on which so much good has already been done. Nothing could be further from his thoughts than the surrender of the name. As well might his opponents accuse him of wishing to surrender its principles.

THE SOUTHERN QUESTION.

Talking on that subject the President holds it very dear to his heart that the differences and complications in the South shall be perfectly harmonized, and that this is a duty which he owes to the country at large as well as to the Southern States. The charge that he would forget the interests of the emancipated race, or that he would do aught to cloud their future, despise their interests or hinder their welfare, is so contrary to his life-long convictions and actions that it would be preposterous were it not made at times by those whose prominence gives them the right to be heard. Nothing troubles him more than this. All the labors incident to the duties of a President are comparatively easy beside the burden of being unjustly accused, and President Hayes is deeply sensitive to such accusations. It must be borne in mind that he was a supporter of the republican party when it first had an existence, born of the Missouri compromise. Even in his boyhood his sympathy was with Garrison and Phillips, on the anti-slavery platform. Not from any lunatical notion, but from a sense of the deep wrong which the subdued people suffered, from a sense of humanity for the oppressed. Now when he is President, with these life long convictions rooted in his heart, the idea that he could forget for a moment the great opportunity he has of bettering the condition of the freed people of the South is so preposterous that he has hardly the patience to assure his accusers of their mistake. He knows the course he is to pursue and he is confident that the end will justify the means he has taken to insure the promotion and welfare of every citizen of the South.

NO RECENT CONVICTION.

It is no recent conviction with President Hayes that the time has gone by for holding an iron hand over the Southern States. Had he been President four years ago that which has but recently been done would have come to pass in the early days of that administration. Therefore, when it came for him to write a letter of acceptance it was an easy task, and that which he clearly saw then he more clearly recognizes as a duty now. The pacification of the South is the only outcome for the colored race. He sees it is the only possible source of sustaining the republican party, and he repeats as to the key of that policy, "He serves his party best who serves his country best." More than this the President leaves to the future to decide.

VIEWS OF ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS.

Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, though for many months an invalid, is now enjoying fair health and is able to ride out daily, remaining in his carriage for several hours. His attention had been directed to the subject of "new lines of departure," and he remarked that he was struck with the expressions of the Secretary of the Navy in regard to the old whig principles. The question being asked whether he thought the signs of the times indicated the formation of a new party out of the more conservative elements of the existing political organizations Mr Stephens replied:—

"I do not see anything to warrant the belief that a new party is likely to be formed or that the old whig party will be revived. The old whig party is *functus officio*, though its principles are daily being vivified in the acts of the new administration. Issues and principles make parties. A new party must have for its foundation a permanent issue. It must have time and development for its formation, and as our public questions stand to-day I do not see upon what men could unite to form a new party. A party cannot be manufactured to order any more than a government. The Mexicans tried the latter experiment and signally failed. The subdivision of the Mexican territory into States, in imitation of our form of government, everybody knows is a failure, and this reminds me that the President is a Jeffersonian republican in his political views."

PRESIDENT HAYES' POSITION.

Your correspondent suggested to Mr. Stephens that President Hayes felt annoyed at the insinuations made by some of the radical leaders that he was not standing by his party, when the truth was that Mr. Hayes had been a lifelong advocate of the anti-slavery cause, and had no idea of surrendering his principles.

Mr. Stephens continued—"He could not be more of an anti-slavery man in his sentiments than was President Jefferson. But that issue is forever dead, and he has now to deal with a living issue—the pacification of the South and the establishment of home rule in the Southern States. That, sir, is the living issue of to-day; but I do not say that it will be likely to demand the formation of a new party."

"Let us look at the question as it presents itself now. The Jeffersonian idea was the reserved rights of the States in administering their internal affairs, while the action of the federal government is to be confined to its limited restrictions, and it is upon that platform that President Hayes has squarely planted himself. With him are the people of the South, who have been longing for the time when they would be allowed to govern themselves without the intervention of federal authority. In the North there are, doubtless, a vast number of the members of the old Whig party whose judgment approves of the action of the President. The name of the political organization is immaterial. Principle is the only thing essential, and while the great question of home rule is some rule, it is not important whether the supporters of the President's policy call themselves republicans or democrats. Upon no other question can we have anything like unity."

TEMPORARY ISSUES.

"Temporary issues such as the tariff or free trade have no cohesive power. You could never form a party upon such a basis as that. It might be an important appendage of a campaign, but you cannot nationalize it, so to speak. No, sir, there is but one issue pending and that is home rule. Coming back to the Jeffersonian doctrine, there may be some who are disappointed at the turn matters have taken; some who are still in the woods who may at first be inclined to oppose and condemn the President's course, but in my opinion, formed upon a knowledge of the Southern people, that opposition will be short lived. I look for an almost unanimous support of the administration by the democracy throughout the country, and especially on the part of our Southern delegations in Congress. For this reason I do not think there will be any effort made to organize the House on any other than existing nominal party denominations. I think it would be impolitic for the real supporters of the administration to attempt such a divergence at this time, but they should remain steadfast in carrying out the pacification policy according to the expressed convictions of the President."

Allusion being made to the President's feeling annoyed at the charge of deserting his colors, Mr. Stephens continued:—

"Well, I can sympathize with him in that trouble, for I know what it is to be charged with being a traitor to your party and to your country. But when men think they are right and act from heartfelt convictions there remains, at least, the consolation of knowing that one believes he is doing right. President Hayes has no uncertain knowledge of the duty he has been called upon to perform, and if he finds his friends press him too closely he can appeal from the new to the old republicans, as Burke, in his masterly letter, in a most important crisis in England, appealed from the new to the old whigs. There can be no doubt of the result of such an appeal. The South would hear it as a unit, and the conservative element of the North would respond in solid columns."

THE COMING SESSION.

The withdrawal of the troops from South Carolina and Louisiana having disarmed the democrats in their opposition to the Army Appropriation bill, the question was asked, what subject was there likely to arise at the coming session that would agitate the members.

Mr. Stephens said he did not know of but one subject. There might be a lively debate upon the proposition to insert a proviso restricting the use of the funds similar to that adopted by the House at its last session. He had noticed several weeks ago that there was a disposition on the part of a prominent republican journal to advocate this restriction, and if such a clause was proposed, he did not see that the President would have any cause for complaint. That was the only point for debate likely to cause differences worth mentioning.

ATTORNEY GENERAL DEVENS.

Attorney General Devens, while he did not want to express an opinion as to the course of the HERALD, could not refrain from speaking an encouraging word for the object it had in view. It was a good work, and one could not very well keep silent about it. Everything that can be done will be done by the administration to harmonize the discordant elements in the Southern States. It is an important work, deserving of the heartiest support of all the citizens of the country. The first evidences of its success would undoubtedly meet with reciprocal good will throughout the North, and of the consummation of this policy of the administration there could be no doubt.

SENATOR JONES, OF FLORIDA.

Senator Jones, of Florida, is regarded by his democratic colleagues as one of the ablest exponents of Southern interests in the Senate and after carefully reading the HERALD's articles on "Lines of New Departure," he expressed his views as follows:—

"The President's policy toward the South is both wise and just, and if carried out in good faith and up to the full spirit of the inaugural will do more for the interests of that section and all classes of its people in a few years than could be accomplished by a century of experimenting, such as has been carried on there by previous administrations. Politicians may howl, but the people will rejoice over the near approach of a better state of feeling between all sections of the country than has existed for many years. All that the South has ever asked since the overthrow of her arms was a fair opportunity to exhibit her good faith in the acceptance of the conditions imposed upon her by the war. In her convulsive struggles with corrupt and weak local governments she was unable to show the country her capacity for wise statesmanship and enlightened policy. But now, when left to the free exercise of all her energies and her own regulation of her local affairs, she is willing to be judged by the fruits of her labors.

THE EFFECT ON THE SOUTH.

"What effect the changed condition of the South will have upon parties it is difficult at this time to conjecture. Up to and including the last national contest the chief topic of dispute was the 'Southern policy.' The constant interference of the general government in the local affairs of the South was the subject of long and just complaint, and embittered party contests there to a degree which no other cause of difference could have produced. With this old and irritating grievance removed I think that party divisions will not be attended by the acrimony and bitterness which existed in the past. The struggles for power will not partake of the passion or prejudice of race conflicts. The authority of the Union, which should always be the same to all citizens, will no longer be looked upon as the source of the most bitter evils to one class of people and the only means of protection to another. In place of the jealousy and distrust felt by the former, confidence, respect and sincere loyalty will succeed, and the latter, too long taught to believe that government was created for their especial benefit, will seek, through self-reliance, industry and good deportment, that respect, consideration and security which neither penal laws nor armies can ever bring to them.

"One step further the President ought to go. The authority of the general government at the South ought to be reflected through different mediums from those that have been set up there. In most instances the persons holding federal offices there obtained them for party services or on account of political influence. They regard their positions as trusts, not for the benefit of the people, but for the benefit of their party. Owing to the fact that the business and property of their section are chiefly in the hands of the democrats the offices of the government are far more important to them than to their opponents. It is not as in the North, where party lines separate pretty equally its intelligence and wealth. There business interests and property are sure to be fairly represented in the public offices. But in the South to select all officers from the non-property holding classes is to create a dangerous, at least an unwise, antagonism between two classes in the State which it should always be the object of government to prevent. This subject needs greatly the hand of reform."

THE PRESIDENT AND THE LABOR LEAGUE.

A DELEGATION OF LABORING MEN AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION—EMPLOYMENT FOR THE IDLE AND RESTORATION OF SUFFRAGE IN THE DISTRICT REQUESTED—THE PRESIDENT IN REPLY.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1877.

A delegation of the Labor League of the United States, consisting of twenty-six white and thirty-five colored men, called upon the President this morning for the purpose of delivering an address upon the labor question. The delegation was met by the President in one of the ante-rooms to the Executive Council Chamber, and the address was delivered by Mr. Hadnett, President of the Labor League, the headquarters of which are in this city. The request was made to the President to embody in his message to Congress a recommendation for the appropriation of money for internal improvements, in order to give employment to idle labor throughout the country, and also to recommend the restoration of suffrage in this district and the payment of 10,000 workingmen who, the address asserted, were defrauded by contractors under the Board of Public Works.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPLY.

The following is the reply of the President, which embodies answers to the material points of the address:—

This speech is so voluminous and the topics so numerous, that I would not undertake in unconsidered, off-hand sentences to express opinions in regard to it. Some of the statements of facts perhaps deserve a good deal of consideration. Certainly, if there are 20,000 men in this district out of employment, or that number of men to whom the government owes money, such money ought to be paid, and Congress would be very derelict in its duty if it is not done. As for the general expression of good will you express I appreciate it and return my thanks very fully. Perhaps this is all I desire to say on the subject without further consideration. The rights of all citizens are precisely equal before the law, and our courts and executive departments must see that these equal rights are maintained with such assistance as Congress and, above all, the people can give them.

THE SUFFRAGE QUESTION.

The right of suffrage in this District is not a question that I have given any consideration to. The fact is that during the administration of Washington and of Jefferson, Madison and the earlier Presidents suffrage was exercised by the people of this District with regard to local affairs, but none as to the general officers. There have been various changes from that time to the present.

Here the Chairman of the Labor League interposed a query as to what the President thought of that order of things as an American principle?

THE PRESIDENT—We'll not discuss it. It is enough to say whatever you desire upon that subject it is within the power of Congress to grant. It is not within the power of the Executive, whether it is a voice in the election of a member of Congress or of a President. This, of course, is a very large question and is to be considered in accordance with the wishes of the people. I do not know what the feelings of the people are upon this question. It is not for the President to lay down the rules for the decision of questions of this sort to the people. It is safe to leave them to the great body of the people. If the people of the United States wish to extend suffrage in this District I shall not interfere with them, and should not veto, but would sign any bill on that subject. If there is nothing further in regard to this I again return my appreciation of your kindness.

JUSTICE TO GOVERNOR TILDEN.

[From the Evening Post.]

It was in April of the year 1870 that Samuel J. Tilden, not a frequent visitor at the office of the *Evening Post*, came and desired an interview with the senior editor, which he had, of course. He seemed moved from his usual calm and quiet demeanor. His errand, he said, related to the charter which Tweed and his creatures were trying to get enacted as a law. It that should happen, he said, it would give the city, with all the powers of its government, into the hands of men who felt no restraint of conscience and who would plunder it without stint. The city would be ruined, he said, if this charter, contrived with a special design to make peculation easy, were fastened upon it, and it was altogether important that the *Evening Post* should resist its passage with all the power or argument which it possessed, and prevent it if possible. He then, with his usual perspicacity, pointed out the contrivances for misusing the public funds which were embodied in the bill, and expressed his earnest hope that the people should be warned of them in our columns. We make this statement out of a desire to deal fairly with Mr. Tilden, who has in some quarters been accused of favoring the Tweed charter in the early stages of the discussion. On the contrary, it is but simple truth to say that he was its enemy from the beginning.

STREET CASUALTIES.

An ordinance was yesterday introduced before the Board of Aldermen providing for the prevention of casualties in the streets. It prohibits all persons, whether of full age or under, without express permission of the owner, conductor or person in charge thereof, to ride in or upon any car, train, engine, wagon, carriage, stage or other vehicle drawn by steam, horse power or other motor, in, upon, under or about any street, bridge, tunnel, public place, pier, bulkhead or other space within the city limits, and that any person who shall be guilty of violating the ordinance shall be fined not less than $5 nor more than $50 for each offence.

MUNICIPAL DISFRANCHISEMENT.

The following resolution was yesterday passed by the Board of Aldermen, on motion of President Purroy:—

Resolved, That this Board, in the name of their constituents, the people of New York city, solemnly protest against the passage by the Legislature of the proposed amendments to the State constitution, which, in violation of the principle of universal suffrage, the corner stone of republican government, proposes to disfranchise a large portion of the most intelligent and worthy citizens of this city.

DECORATION DAY.

The following preliminary orders relative to the observance of Decoration Day in New York city have been issued:—

HEADQUARTERS GRAND MARSHAL'S OFFICE, G. A. R., THE "COTTAGE," UNION SQUARE, SEVENTEENTH STREET, NEW YORK, April 25, 1877.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 1.

I. By virtue of an election by the Memorial Committee the undersigned hereby assumes command as Grand Marshal for Decoration Day, May 30, 1877.

II. The following staff appointments are hereby announced:—Comrade J. C. Julius Langbein, E. A. Kimball Post, No. 100, Adjutant General and Chief of Staff. Comrade James H. Stevens, Phil Kearney Post No. 8, Quartermaster General. They will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

III. Marshals of divisions, aides-de-camp and special aids to the Grand Marshal will be announced in future orders. Commanders of posts are requested, without delay, to forward to the Adjutant General the names of comrades to act as aids to the Grand Marshal: also, to report the number of comrades they expect to parade and the music they will furnish. Posts that propose to proceed to Woodlawn, Greenwood or other cemeteries are requested to notify these headquarters of the same.

IV. Committees having charge of transportation, flowers or other matters that may come under the supervision of the Grand Marshal on Decoration Day will report full particulars thereof to these headquarters as soon as practicable.

V. Military organizations, societies, associations and citizens who desire to unite in the parade will please announce the same to these headquarters promptly, in order that they may be assigned to their proper divisions.

VI. The attention of post commanders is called to the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted by the Memorial Committee, the provisions of which will be strictly enforced:—

Resolved, That trucks, wagons or signs representing any business or business firm shall be prohibited from taking part in the parade of the Grand Army of the Republic on Decoration Day.

VII. The Grand Marshal and staff will be at these headquarters from seven to ten P. M., where all communications should be addressed.

JOHN K. PERLEY, Grand Marshal.

ORDER OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

PHILADELPHIA, April 26, 1877.

Governor Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, as Commander-in-Chief of the national organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, has issued the following general order in reference to Decoration Day:—

HEADQUARTERS GENERAL ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, PHILADELPHIA, PA., April 26, 1877.

In accordance with the annual custom Wednesday, May 30, 1877, will be observed as Memorial Day, in commemoration of our dead comrades. It is fitting that we should turn aside from our accustomed pursuits to do honor to those who have given the strongest testimony of patriotic devotion, and for a general observance of the day the active participation of the members of societies, the children of the various schools and the citizens generally, is earnestly invited. Every effort should be made to mark the last resting place of each soldier and sailor, and we should also remember with tenderness those who died away from home and kindred and now rest in distant or unknown graves. Each post will be the judge of the manner in which it may best perform this duty, but concert of action should be had wherever practicable. Wherever there are no posts of the Grand Army to lead in the good work the Commander-in-Chief, in behalf of their surviving comrades, asks the citizens to take steps to decorate the graves of the gallant dead and secure a proper observance of the day. By order

JOHN F. HARTRANFT, Commander-in-Chief.
ROBERT B. BEATH, Adjutant General.

HEROES OF THE GRAY.

EX-CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS TO TAKE PART IN THE BROOKLYN CEREMONIES.

The Executive Committee of the Grand Army of the Republic appointed to perfect arrangements for the celebration of Decoration Day, when flowers will be strewn over the graves of the soldiers who died during the late rebellion on the field of battle, recently resolved to invite the co-operation of all ex-Confederate veterans in the ceremony. As an evidence of the sincerity of the desire of Union soldiers to put aside all feelings akin to sectional antagonism which has so long estranged many brave men they extended an invitation to an ex-Confederate general to deliver the oration at the Academy of Music on the evening of Decoration Day. In furtherance of the object of fraternization Mr. John W. Shorter called a meeting of gentlemen who had been in the Southern army, and last evening there assembled at No. 361 Fulton street a number of ex-Confederates, among whom were Roger A. Pryor, Jr.; Edward Woollolk, Captain Kibbee, William Caldwell, Amos S. Bates, Joseph W. Gilder, ex-Senator North, Colonel W. L. Fox and others. Mr. Shorter stated the object of the meeting in a few well chosen remarks, and Mr. Woollolk said he felt assured that all Southern men would be pleased, as he was, to display a spirit of friendship, and would be glad to accept the invitation which had been extended to them by the Grand Army. There are a number of Confederates buried in Brooklyn cemeteries, and their graves had been regularly honored by the Grand Army comrades. All party feeling was now past, and Southerners resident in Brooklyn should, and would, attest their appreciation of the courtesy extended to them by the Memorial Committee by attending at the cemeteries and joining in the ceremonies there.

Captain Kibbee and others urged the appointment of a committee to communicate with Southern residents of the city that they may more fully learn their views in relation to the matter. The committee appointed is comprised as follows:—Messrs. John W. Shorter, Edward Woollolk, Captain Kibbee, William Caldwell, R. A. Pryor, Jr.; J. W. Gilder, S. D. Lewis and J. C. Brome.

The meeting adjourned till May 10.

DECORATION DAY CEREMONIES IN HONOR OF THE DEAD.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., April 26, 1877.

The graves of the Confederate soldiers killed in battle who are buried here were profusely decorated to-day with floral offerings, but those of the federal heroes were neglected. The most conspicuous motto erected in the cemetery over the tombs which were thus honored were the words, "They Wore the Gray." Touching devotional hymns were sung and prayers offered by a Presbyterian and an Episcopal clergyman. The orator of the day delivered an eloquent eulogy on the dead and an unqualified expression of regret over the lost cause, whose aims he fully justified, but his allusions to the North were temperate and just. He also found occasion to congratulate the Southern people on the resumption of self government, after sixteen years of oppression.

SLEEP.

NEW YORK, April 18, 1877.

The following correspondence will be of interest to the public in general and the supporters of a worthy charity in particular:—

Professor WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M. D.:—

DEAR SIR—The undersigned, in behalf of the trustees and friends of the Metropolitan Throat Hospital, respectfully invite you to deliver a public lecture for the benefit of that worthy charity. If your engagements will permit you to accept this invitation, will you kindly name the subject of the lecture and the date when you can deliver it?

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

Thurlow Weed, James W. Alexander, David Dows, Rev. George H. Houghton, D. D.; J. Marion Sims, M. D.; John W. Bigelow, Clinton Wagner, M. D.; H. B. Hyde, D. B. St. John Roosa, M. D.; T. B. Musgrave, J. T. Darby, M. D.; Max Herzog, M. D.; and William Alexander.

43 WEST FIFTY-FOURTH STREET, NEW YORK, April 19, 1877.

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst., and in reply thereto have to state that it will give me much pleasure to comply with your request. I will therefore, if agreeable to you, suggest Monday evening, the 30th inst., at the time, and "Sleep" as the subject.

I am, gentlemen, yours sincerely,

WILLIAM A. HAMMOND.

To THURLOW WEED, Esq., and others.

TERMINAL CHARGES ON GRAIN.

A conference between the Committee on Grain and the representatives of the railroads relative to the terminal charges on grain at this port was held this afternoon, at which a virtual agreement was arrived at on the basis of the recommendations previously made by the representatives of the Produce Exchange and of the trunk roads respectively. The first recommendation, "That, commencing May 1 prox., the time of storage of grain from the railroads in boats or elevators be made ten days, including dates of receipt and delivery, and the charges therefor be one and one-fourth cents per bushel on all kinds of grain," was adopted. The second recommendation was amended and adopted in the following form:—"That all the said charges be collected by the lighternen as agents of the railways from the holders of the certificates, and that the said lighternen pay therefrom the charges of the elevators for receiving and weighing grain from their barges and delivering the same to vessels or stores, not exceeding an aggregate of one cent per bushel therefor—providing, however, that the holder of the certificate shall be permitted to designate the elevator if he so desire. The third recommendation, which tended to remove the liability of the railroads as common carriers and substitute therefor a liability for marine risks only, was not adopted on account of the decided expression previously given by the grain trade against any such change being made. As both parties have agreed to waive the thirty days' notice required by the existing agreement between the Produce Exchange and the railroads these recommendations will go into effect as soon as they shall have been acted upon by the Board of Managers, which will probably be on or before the 1st of May.

MUNICIPAL NOTES.

The Railroad Committee of the Aldermen have requested an opinion from the Corporation Counsel relative to the powers of the Board in dealing with the question as to whether or not the city has a right to take possession of the franchise of the Sixth Avenue Street Railroad on complying with certain conditions specified in the charter of that corporation.

The Commissioner of Public Works has been directed to place a free bath at the Battery.

The ordinance preventing the use of calcium lights in the streets without a proper permit from the city authorities was yesterday passed by the Board of Aldermen.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

GOVERNOR HAMPTON'S MESSAGE—THE FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE STATE CONSIDERED—ACTION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

COLUMBIA, April 26, 1877.

In the House of Representatives to-day the principal matter of interest was the adoption of the report of the joint committee appointed yesterday to investigate and pass upon the claims to seats of the members of the Mackey House. The report, which was only partial, provided that upon purging themselves of their contempt in their action toward the legal House of Representatives the following delegations, or parts of delegations, would be admitted to seats:—Four members from Beaufort county, two members of this delegation having joined the legal house last winter; two from Chester, the full representation being three, and the third man being excluded on the ground that he had a disqualifying office—to wit, Postmaster at and since the time of his election, and that he is now under indictment for larceny; two from Clarendon, two from Georgetown, four from Orangeburg, one being excluded on the ground of being an alien; five from Richland and three from Williamsburg—eighteen in the aggregate.

AN ABJECT APOLOGY.

Those admitted came forward by delegations to the front of the Speaker's desk and after an apology from each member, delivered in most abject terms and with a manner that strangely contrasted with their lofty and defiant bearing in the same place a few months ago, they were separately sworn in and took the seats assigned them.

THE REMAINING COUNTIES.

No action has yet been taken in relation to the remaining counties, but it is exceedingly probable that the entire delegations of four counties, including Charleston, will be excluded on grounds of fraud and intimidation and a new election ordered in each.

POLITICAL PROSECUTIONS.

A concurrent resolution was adopted authorizing the Governor to communicate with the President of the United States and invoke his clemency to so direct the power and authority vested in the Department of Justice as to have the political prosecutions against the Ellenton, Hamburg and other such prisoners stopped, and to grant to all such prisoners now confined in the national prisons a full and free pardon.

CHIEF JUSTICE AND SENATOR.

The election for Chief Justice and United States Senator will not come off before next week. It is now generally conceded that Judge Willard, the present Associate Justice, is likely to win the first named position.

In the Senate a protest from the republican Senators against the admission of the four democratic Senators on Tuesday was entered on the journal.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The Governor's Message was read in both Houses, and its several provisions referred to appropriate committees for action. It is regarded by both parties as a characteristic and able document. The following embraces its principal features:—

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—It is proper that I should, before entering into a discussion of the grave questions which will come before you, give the reasons that impelled me to call the General Assembly together at a time so inauspicious and inconvenient to its members. I recognize and appreciate fully the great personal sacrifices demanded of the members by the call which brings them here, but the critical condition of public affairs and the welfare of the State make it imperative that I should invoke the aid of the legislative branch of the government to assist in the great work of reform before us, and I felt confident that the patriotism of those comprising this branch of the State government would inspire them to meet cheerfully all sacrifices required for the interests of the State. Your presence proves that I have not been disappointed in this hope, and I cherish the additional hope that you will forget the animosity engendered by political strife, rise superior to the petty considerations of partisanship, and devote yourselves with patriotic zeal to the service of your State; that you will strive earnestly to restore its lost prosperity, to revive its wasted industries, to reform all abuses in its government and to promote peace, harmony, good will and justice among all classes and parties. To the accomplishment of these noble aims I pledge my constant unwearied and earnest efforts, and in this patriotic work I invoke your aid, gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives, not alone as members of the General Assembly, but as patriots and Carolinians.

THE RECENT GUBERNATORIAL STRUGGLE.

The anomalous condition of affairs during the past few months, while it has entailed the necessity of convening the General Assembly, has precluded me from laying before this body such full and accurate information as is desirable, or making precise or definite recommendations on particular measures which will demand your attention. Circumstances with which you are all familiar have prevented my access to the books and records of the various departments of the State government, and hence I can neither speak authoritatively of the exact financial condition of the State nor make such particular suggestions as under the ordinary condition of public matters it would have been my pleasure no less than my duty to have done. At present, therefore, I can only call your attention in general terms to a few subjects which require immediate action on your part, and I must ask for your indulgence if I am unable to do more than to indicate the broad and comprehensive principles which, in my judgment, can give peace, stability and good government to our State. To the wisdom and patriotism of the General Assembly is committed the grave duty of bringing back to our people those inestimable blessings. The merit of success will belong to you, gentlemen, if you succeed, and to you will the responsibility attach if the hopes of your constituents are disappointed.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION.

The first, as it is the most important subject to which your attention is invited, is that of the financial condition of the State. It is needless for me to say that this condition is deplorable, for it is shown by an empty treasury and a ruined credit, by stagnation in commercial circles and depression in agricultural enterprises, by public and personal poverty, as widespread as it is lamentable. All efforts to bring about a better state of affairs will prove unavailing until the finances of the State are put in a healthy condition and the credit of the State established on the sound and honorable footing it once occupied. But in the meantime there is an imperative necessity that the immediate needs of the State should be provided for, and in doing this the burden of taxation should be made as light as possible, for the resources of our people are well nigh exhausted and the season of the year at which the taxes will be called for is most unfortunate. While it is the province of the General Assembly to fix the amount of taxes requisite to meet the demands of the State and the time and mode of their collection I venture to offer some suggestions on these points for the consideration of the Legislature. It is due alike to the honor and credit, as well as to its future prosperity, that there should be no question nor doubt as to our determination to meet every honest obligation of the State fairly and faithfully, but it is equally our duty to ascertain what are its honest liabilities.

THE STATE OBLIGATIONS.

The suspicions which attach to a portion of the outstanding obligations of the State, and which, to a greater or less extent, affect the value of all, render it imperative that these obligations, whether funded or not, should be strictly scrutinized with a view of ascertaining which are valid and which are not. This should be the condition precedent to the payment of interest on any of the outstanding obligations of the State, whether in the shape of bonds or otherwise, and also to the further funding of any of the state indebtedness into the consolidated bonds authorized to be issued under the act of 1873 to reduce the volume of the public debt. In order to effect this object in a mode satisfactory and equitable alike to the State and to the public creditors I respectfully suggest the appointment of a commission to consist of one member from each house of the Legislature, the Comptroller General and the Treasurer of the State, and three citizens of recognized financial ability, to whom the whole question of the financial condition of the State shall be referred, and under whose directions a thorough and complete investigation of the funded and floating indebtedness of the State shall be made; and who also shall be empowered to require a registration before them, or before such officers as may be designated, of the consolidated bonds of the State obligations, the validity of which shall be thus ascertained, and shall be certified in such form as the commission or the Legislature may prescribe, and the coupons on such bonds alone shall be receivable for taxes. The commission should also be charged with the duty of reporting to the General Assembly at its next session the precise character and extent of all obligations of doubtful validity or clearly fraudulent, with the specific facts or testimony upon which their conclusions are based.

As all the records and books showing the amount of consolidated bonds now outstanding, with the nature of the securities on which they were issued, have been withheld by the late officers I have no means of determining with any accuracy what portion of the public debt has been converted into consolidated bonds and what portion remains to be funded. But from the best sources of information before me I estimate the amount yet to be funded at about $3,000,000, which, at the rate established for funding, will require the issue of $1,500,000 of consolidated bonds. Under the act of 1873 these bonds bear date of January 1, 1874, and the annual tax provided by the act for the payment of the interest on the entire consolidated debt has been regularly levied every year, and the amount unexpended for interest should be in the treasury to meet the past due coupons of these bonds as soon as issued.

I have no reason, however, to believe that there is any such unexpended balance available for this purpose, and if the conversion of the debt into consolidated bonds continues, as provided by the existing act, it will be necessary to provide by legislation for these arrears of interest. I suggest for your consideration the propriety of funding these arrears up to the time of conversion in new bonds, payable at such time and under such conditions as in your judgment shall be equitable to the State and to its creditors.

NECESSITY FOR ECONOMY.

I cannot too earnestly urge upon you the necessity of reducing the expenses of every department of the government to the most economical scale consistent with the dignity and security of the State. You will find many offices which are not only expensive, but useless, and others which, while necessary, can be well filled for compensation much less than is now paid. It is, I am sure, only necessary to invite your attention to this subject to secure your wise and cordial co-operation in lightening the burdens which have so greatly oppressed the energy and industry of our people; but after the most rigid reduction the expenses of the government, time for the common schools and to meet the interest on the public debt must be provided, and this can only be done by a tax on the real and personal property of the citizens.

It is one of our gravest difficulties that we have come into control of the government after the period at which taxes can most easily be paid. Ours is essentially an agricultural community. Our pecuniary crops are harvested in the latter part of the year and sold in the earlier, and the rule which has always obtained of calling for the taxes in January and February had its origin, not in the arbitrary will of the Legislature, but was the natural outgrowth of our industrial system. The late political struggle has been protracted until the proceeds of the past year's crop have been exhausted, and the present crop is not sufficiently advanced to enable the farmer to realize anything upon it. Every available dollar of cash or of credit in the control of the farmer is already applied to the growing crop, and the levy of a tax payable at an early day would seriously embarrass, not only the agricultural, but every other interest of the State. The money is not in the country. It could only be raised by loans to the farmers by bankers or merchants, and it is questionable if it could be raised even in this way. It is therefore incumbent on you, while reducing the tax to its minimum, to arrange for its collection at such times and in such manner as will lighten the burdens of the people as much as possible. A portion of the tax absolutely necessary could be called for in June, and the residue, which should be the larger portion, in October, when the proceeds of a part, at least, of the crops will be available for the payment of taxes.

THE BANK OF THE STATE.

While on the subject of the finances, I beg to call your notice to the bills of the bank of the State, for this question presents a difficult problem. There is a widespread belief that a considerable amount of these bills will be found missing from the Treasury, having been reissued in place of being cancelled or destroyed. It is well, therefore, at this juncture, to consider whether or not these bills should be receivable in payment of taxes. Before receiving them for taxes the most rigid examination should be had, with the view of ascertaining the amount for which the State is clearly liable and what portion is tainted with fraud, in order that suitable provision may be made at the next session of the Legislature for the redemption of the former and for the protection of the State against the latter.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Here Governor Hampton dwelt at some length upon the penal, charitable and educational institutions of the State, and said:—

Akin to this subject is that of free schools, and I earnestly ask that you will use every effort to establish such a system as will place the means of education within the reach of all classes in the State. The present system, as it has been administered, is a mere mockery, under which the children have been imperfectly taught. The teachers have been swindled out of their pay, and the money of the people has been squandered. There have been honorable exceptions to this rule, but they are rare. I have now before me a teacher's pay certificate, to which the Board of School Trustees, consisting of three members, have each affixed his cross-mark as his signature. As this paper is a striking illustration of the new system of public education inaugurated in the State; it is, besides, a literary curiosity well worth preserving. It is transmitted for inspection. While such a disgraceful condition of things is allowed to exist we shall hope in vain to see the work of education proper. The time may be too limited at this session to enable you to perfect a system which will meet the requirements of our whole people. But such legislation can be had as will carry on public instruction until the next regular session. We are bound alike by every consideration of true statesmanship and of good faith to keep up in the State such a system of free schools as will place within the reach of every child, the poorest as well as the richest, black as well as white, the means of acquiring an honest and honorable education, and to this end I shall most cordially second any efforts on the part of the Legislature.

DUTIES OF THE HOUR.

I shall look with confident hope to your aid in carrying out the reforms and fulfilling the pledges to which we are solemnly committed. A great work, the greatest to which a patriotic people can be called is before us, and a heavy responsibility rests upon us. We have to create a new State, which can of right demand and take the proud and honorable position she once held in the sisterhood of this great Republic. We have to restore her credit; to bring back her good name and to develop her boundless resources; to heal her wounds; to secure equal and exact justice to all her children; to establish and maintain the supremacy of law; to diffuse the blessings of education, and to strive to bind all classes of both races in the bonds of peace, fraternity and piety.

Governor Hampton does not make any allusion to the President's policy.

LOUISIANA.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE LEGISLATURE.

NEW ORLEANS, April 26, 1877.

The Legislature to-day adjourned *sine die*. All the State officers elected with Governor Nicholls are now in undisputed possession of their offices and records. The city is very quiet.

THE POPE'S SEMI-CENTENNIAL.

Archbishop Wood and a number of other prominent Catholic clergymen sailed in the steamer Ohio yesterday morning from Philadelphia *en route* for Rome to participate in the celebration of the anniversary of Pope Pio Nono's accession to the pontificate.

DEPARTURE OF DISTINGUISHED CATHOLICS FROM PHILADELPHIA—THE MEMORIAL FUND FOR THE POPE.

PHILADELPHIA, April 26, 1877.

Early this morning a large crowd of people assembled at the pier from which the American line of European steamers sail to witness the departure in the steamship Ohio, Captain Morrison commander, of the Very Rev. Archbishop Wood, of Philadelphia, and a number of other Roman Catholic clergymen and laymen of this diocese. The party are on their way to Rome to participate in the jubilee at the anniversary of Pope Pius IX.'s ascension to the Pontificate. This anniversary will be celebrated on the 21st day of May, when His Holiness will have been fifty years at the head of the Church. The Archbishop carries with him the money which was raised in this diocese during Lent, by the Peter's Pence collections, amounting to nearly $40,000. Mr. Charles H. A. Esling, who is one of the passengers, also has in his possession for presentation to the Pope as a memorial the fund which was collected under the auspices of Mrs. Ellen Sherman, the wife of General W. T. Sherman.

At two o'clock precisely the steamer sailed, amid the cheers and enthusiastic good wishes of a large assemblage.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE DARIEN CANAL EXPEDITION—THE COFFEE CROP—NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

PANAMA, April 17, 1877.

The most important and about the only news since the departure of the last steamer is the return of the Darien exploring expedition to Panama on the 13th inst. The following is an extract from a letter from the commander of the expedition, Mr. Luc