THE MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL.

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The Memphis Appeal.

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McCLANAHAN & DILL,

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Local notices will be charged at the rate of fifty cts. per line.

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APPEAL JOB OFFICE

WE have the satisfaction of announcing to our friends that we recently purchased and have now in connection with the APPEAL publication office, one of the most

EXTENSIVE and FINEST

JOB PRINTING OFFICES

In the Confederacy,

And are consequently prepared to fill orders for

JOB WORK

OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Our facilities for executing ARMY WORK are superior, and we invite the attention of Quartermasters, Commissaries, and other government officials thereto.

We have, also, a large amount of English paper on hand, suitable for the finest work.

Orders will be promptly filled by experienced workmen. Address

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jn6 Atlanta, Ga., or Montgomery, Ala.

To the Friends of the Soldiers Throughout the Confederacy.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, RAILROAD BUREAU, Richmond, Va., Feb 20, 1864.

The friends and relatives of soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia are hereby notified that an arrangement has this day been effected with the Southern Express Company to carry all packages of food and wearing apparel to Richmond, Va.

To secure the advantages thus obtained through the Express Company, the following instructions must be observed:

Packages must not contain more than one hundred pounds; be well secured, and plainly marked, and sent at the expense of the shipper to either of the Soldiers' Relief Associations, which are located as follows:

In North Carolina, at Raleigh; in South Carolina, at Columbia; in Georgia, at Augusta; in Alabama, at Montgomery; or to any other point at which one of these Associations have an office.

The Agents of these Associations will there take charge of them, and ship daily, by Southern Express Company, to the proper Agents of the respective States at Richmond, who will see them distributed to the proper individual owners.

To meet the wishes of the soldiers, and to give them a certain and speedy communication with home, the Southern Express Company has agreed to give the freight preference over everything else; and, in order that no obstacle may occur to the success of so laudable an enterprise, the several Railroad Companies are hereby requested to render the Express Company such facilities as will enable it to make this arrangement a complete success.

As the Southern Express Company assumes all responsibility of the transportation of these packages, the Relief Associations are requested to withdraw their Agents who have heretofore acted as traveling messengers. If the Relief Associations will establish agencies in the rear of other armies, they may enjoy the same privileges hereby secured to the Army of Northern Virginia.

E. W. SIMS,

Lieut.-Col. and Quartermaster.

Approved.

A. R. LAWTON, Quartermaster-General.

OFFICE SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY, Augusta, Ga., February 20, 1864.

The Southern Express Company hereby notifies the friends and relatives of Soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia and elsewhere, that they are prepared to carry out arrangements as announced in the above card, and that they will do all in their power to fulfill its requirements.

JAMES SHUTER,

General Superintendent and Acting President South'n Express Company.

mh7 1m

BOGERT & CO.,

Commission Merchants and Auctioneers,

Corner of Parliament and Bay streets.

G. C. BOGERT, of New Orleans. } NEWSON. N. P.

Orders and consignments solicited. mh9 3m

J. P. WOODSON,

COMMISSION MERCHANT,

Hunter Street, Near Corner Whitehall,

ATLANTA, Georgia.

SPECIAL attention given to sale of Manufactured and Smoking Tobacco. Now offering some desirable lots of Tobacco for investment.

200 packages of James Thomas' extra fine Tobacco, various brands, for sale. J. P. WOODSON.

mh11-1m

L. S. MEAD & CO.,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DEALERS IN

DRUGS,

MEDICINES, PAINTS, OILS, Etc.,

At the old stand of

WILLIS & YOUNG,

Whitehall street, Atlanta, Ga.

A COMPETENT AND MOST RELIABLE *Prescriptionist*

Can be found at the store at all hours of the day and night, (Sundays not excepted,) to compound prescriptions or fill orders.

ja18 2m L. S. MEAD & CO.

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WELLBORN, TAYLOR & CO.,

GENERAL AUCTION AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,

REAL ESTATE and NEGRO BROKERS,

KILE'S BUILDING, corner Peachtree and Marietta streets, Atlanta, Ga.

Consignments solicited. Goods bought and sold on commission.

WM. M. HILL, Auctioneer.

ja27-3m

CONFEDERATE MONEY WANTED!

WE will sell at market value 1000 Sacks best Va. Salt, and will receive in payment until 20th March Confederate Treasury Notes, including the new hundred dollar notes. The money should be sent by express, or in some other safe way, and the Salt will be shipped as per instructions as soon as possible, or stored subject to order. SEAGO, PALMER & CO.,

ea27 3m Atlanta, Ga.

Daily Appeal.

MORNING EDITION.

ATLANTA, GA.

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 17, 1864.

RAGS WANTED.

The highest market price, either in money or subscription, will be paid for clean cotton or linen rags, white or colored, delivered at the APPEAL counting-room, Atlanta.

ARE WE STRONG ENOUGH?

It is at no time wise to underrate the strength of an enemy. To do so can only beget a confidence that, when the hour of trial comes, we will discover when too late was misplaced, and entail upon us, when too late to correct our error, the most disastrous results. We know our own strength, but self-pride should not lead to an over-weening confidence to an extent that would make us believe our enemy is not stronger, or cannot be stronger.

Particularly should we be wise in the hour when a single defeat would be almost anihilation—at the moment when we cannot, perhaps, recover from disaster.

Gen. JOHNSTON has a splendid army, an army large in numbers, veterans in the service, every man of whom loves his commander, has confidence in him, and will fight for him. Pitched in battle against anything like approximate numbers, we need fear nothing. But cannot the enemy be stronger? As at Vicksburg, may he not concentrate in such strength as to be able to accomplish his object by mere wright of numbers. In that relige he lost more men than the city had defenders. Opposed to a vast army of 125,000 men, assisted by a powerful fleet, we had but a handfull, and the result that followed was inevitable. Is there no danger now, that another almost countless host may be gathered in our front.

☞ We observe some of our exchanges are disparaging GRANT'S present force, or his ability to augment it. Let them remember he is now at the head of the Federal armies, and control them. Consequently he will risk nothing if he can avoid doing so. He will increase his army until he thinks it strong enough. This has always been his policy, and is the way he won his victories. At the same time we were decrying his strength, and neglecting to increase our own, and in this way we have suffered defeat at his hands.

We would much rather see our brethren of the press urge upon the people and the authorities at Richmond the necessity of so strengthening Gen. JOHNSTON'S, as to render success certain. We would rather hear them demand that every available man be placed at his disposal. We believe he cannot be beaten, but we would make assurance doubly sure. We cannot afford the defeat of his army. Its rout would be our ruin. It must, therefore, be avoided, as it can be. We hope to see both his hands held up cordially, and the people and the government appreciate to its full extent what he may have to encounter, and give him the means of doing so successfully. We want no more Donelson or Vicksburg disasters entailed upon us, and both these resulted from a contemptous idea of the strength of the enemy. We repeat—we cannot afford to deceive ourselves, or be deceived, in like manner at this time.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

"When rogues fail out honest men come by their own." This homely adage, says the Richmond *Examiner*, seems in a fair way of being verified among the Yankees. In the open dissensions, the secret cabals and intrigues, which are now so rife among them, with respect to the rich prize of the presidential succession, we can discern at least a germ from which we may hope to pluck the fruit of peace and the tranquil possession of our soil.

Already, before the rapture of the Union, had the patronage and spoils become of such enormous value as to make the Chief Magistracy of the republic in reality an elective monarchy. The rank luxuriance and teeming opportunities of war have augmented the harvest a hundred-fold, more especially since the elimination of the Southern element, which, by the confession of our enemies themselves, was a check on the corruption so often brought home to Yankee representatives. What, then, must be the eagerness with which the political gamblers are playing for the mighty stake? The absorbing theme is fast beginning to take precedence of the war. After the furious struggle for the immediate possession of place is determined, it will be time enough, in the opinion of these patriots, to revert to the process of Union-saving.

Various candidates are pressing their claims, and it is yet too early to say what will be the result of a struggle which is carried on with unremitting energy by all sides. If the Yankees wish a truly national and representative Administration, illustrating with completeness all the qualities which the war has brought into bold relief, BUTLER and CAMERON would be the very men. For the South, as matters stand at present, there is small reason to desire the success of one candidate more than another. It is in the contest itself, in the feuds and disintegration produced by the struggle for plunder that she may hope for relief from the attacks which have heretofore been concentrated upon her. In pillaging their own camp, their host may find occupation which will unfit them for further assaults upon the fortress which so definitly resists their utmost might.

THE CONFEDERATE TAX LAW.

Conflicting views have been suggested as to the tithe tax of the farmers. We learn on good authority, says the Raleigh *Progress*, that the following is the proper construction:

The tax of five per cent is due in June or as soon thereafter as practicable. The farmers have the right to deduct the tenth of their products for 1864 out of this five per cent. Their wheat and oats will come in first, then potatoes, then corn, fodder, pork, etc. When the whole is in then a final settlement will be had, and if the tithe falls short of the five per cent. the balance is paid in cash.

Thus every man is stimulated to produce all he can.

☞ The weather continued exceedingly cold yesterday, and at the present writing—10 o'clock, P. M.—ice is an eighth of an inch thick on stagnant water.

☞ The council of the State of North Carolina, which met on the 11th instant, decided against an extra session of the Legislature. There will, therefore, be no meeting of that body until May.

FROM FLORIDA.

A member of the 1st Florida cavalry, who left the front a few days since, reports to the Savannah *News* all quiet in the vicinity of Jacksonville. Our pickets are within three miles of that place, and report that for some days past the enemy's drums have not been heard. The impression exists that the Yankees have withdrawn a considerable number of their forces from Jacksonville. There are not the slightest indications of any movements by the enemy or our troops.

A number of our sick and wounded troops arrived at Savannah on the 14th inst. Those who came from Tallahassee report that our wounded are rapidly recovering. Some of the enemy's wounded have had their limbs amputated, and the greater portion who have been operated upon have died.

TEXAS ITEMS.

We have full files of the Houston *Telegraph* from the 22d of January to February 10th. As the Federal forces keep close to their works at Brownsville and on the Gulf coast, there is but little war news of interest given. We glean, however, other items of interest to our friends from Texas in the armies.

Cotton was selling at Eagle pass at twenty cents in specie; in Matamoros it was worth thirty-five cents.

The *Telegraph*, of January 26th, says:

We hear of sales of several Sixte bonds for $1000, paying 8 per cent. interest in specie, at $255 specie. This is about the best investment we know of, as it pays over 31 per cent. interest—truly a good return for capital.

The weather just now is extremely favorable to farming operations. We are glad to learn that planters are preparing to make the best corn crops in their power. We hope to see corn enough made this year to feed both the army and the people.

It is said that Col. Majors, who has done so good service in command of a brigade of Texans for a year past, has been commissioned as brigadier-general.

General Price was on a visit to his family in Washington county on the 28th of January.

Vidal, who was taken up by the Yankees on their arrival at Brownsville, and commissioned as major, and who raised quite a large battalion of recruits for the Yankee army from the Mexicans, has left his new friends very much dissatisfied, and joined Cortina in Matamoros.

The same paper, of February 9th says:

We are informed that Brig. Gen. Slaughter has been appointed chief-of-staff to Maj. Gen. Magruder. General Slaughter's staff is attached to that of the Maj. General.

We learn from Erath and other counties in the wheat region, that the wheat is coming out much better than was feared since the freeze, and that there is a prospect of a considerable crop after all. We hope nothing will cut it off."

On Saturday morning about 9 o'clock some cotton on the platform at the Central depot took fire from sparks from the locomotive. The alarm was given and the people rushed to the rescue of the fleecy king. The fire was extinguished with the loss of a few bales.

The latest dispatches report the enemy quiet at Dockrow's Point and Indianola. Our fortifications along the coast are completed and everything in readiness to give them a warm reception should they try to advance.

The schooner "Frederick the Great" owned by a firm in this city, was ran ashore near the mouth of Caney river on the 24 inst., by the gunboats of the enemy. She had a very valuable cargo, and it was all saved by the exertion of the 21 Texas regiment, who will each receive a nice sum for salvage.

The *Telegraph* of January 30th has the following:

The weather has been better adapted to agriculture during the past few weeks, than we remembered to have seen for years. We believe that plowing is being done all over the country, and in some of our lower country lands, corn planting on a small scale, has already begun. If frost does not affect early planted corn any more than it did last year, that planted now will escape. The best crops we saw in this region last year, were planted in the last week in January.

We learn that small-pox is prevailing in Brenham, Chapel Hill, Fairfield and other towns in the interior. New recruits come in over in this city, but it attracts little or no attention. We hear of few deaths.

From the Peninsula.

A report was in circulation yesterday that a detachment of the enemy's force had appeared on the Mattaponi, at Piping Tree ferry. We have, however, a positive contradiction of this rumor, from a gentleman who left the Mattaponi about ten o'clock yesterday morning. It appears that the Yankees who came up the York river disembarked on the King William side, and that a detachment of infantry had proceeded as far Centerville, while a force of cavalry took a direct route to King and Queen Court House. At the time our informant left the Mattaponi, news had been brought there by a scout that the Yankees had destroyed a mill in the neighborhood of King and Queen Court House, and a report was also in circulation that the court house had been fired. The latter story had received no confirmation. The force of the enemy, so far as observed, did not exceed five hundred men.

There are two theories of the designs of this expedition of the enemy. One is, that it is intended to afford cover to the scattered fugitives from the recent demonstration on Richmond. The other, and more probable supposition is, that it is Kilpatrick's original party, who having got to Yorktown, having determined to return to Meade's lines by this route, which was originally in his programme, and to lay waste the intervening country, in furious revenge for Dahlgren's death, and other recent disappointments of the raiders.

The torpedoes in the York are said to have been avoided by the pilotage of the man who superintended the sinking of them. The Yankees managed with their usual adroitness and cruelty. The person referred to, an old man of the name of Gage, was placed in a boat with his wife and children, and thus compelled, at the risk of the lives of himself and family, to pilot the expedition through the lines of the rebels, the positions of which were of course exactly known to himself.—*Richmond Examiner.*

The Enrollment of Conscripts.

The enrollment of conscripts is going on throughout the State, and many men are being sent to the army through the camp of instruction, near this city. There is no difficulty whatever in the enrollment of the substitute men, nor would there have been had the habeas corpus not been suspended, for the decisions of the judges and courts would have been respected and enforced by State authority, and there is hardly a doubt now but a decision of the supreme court—should one have been necessary—would have been adverse to the substitute men. We are glad to see that the enrollment is going on smoothly and that the men enter the service cheerfully; in fact we learn that large numbers of these subject, under the present call, have volunteered.

Our people are doing their duty in this matter, however, and we do trust that the cheerfulness with which they submit to conscription, impressments and other drains on their resources will hush the tongue of slander in other States. The conscription will be enforced here without trouble, as it has been heretofore, and we hope the agents of the Government will be equally as fortunate and successful in other States. We believe North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia are about the only States where it has been thoroughly enforced.

The people of this State desire to end the war, and they are willing to fight or negotiate, or both, to accomplish their purpose; and though they may hold peace meetings, demand conventions, or vote as they please, they are always in front when the bugle calls them to action. We hope our neighbors and brethren of the other States will understand us after awhile.—*Raleigh Progress.*

☞ A gentleman, whose father had been hanged, was accustomed to say of him: "He died suddenly upon a platform at a large public meeting."

Latest from Suffolk.

We have received no further official information of the movement of our troops in the vicinity of Suffolk, and the accounts given by passengers by the train from Ivor yesterday afternoon were rather conflicting and unsatisfactory. After comparing all the statements, we set down the following as about as near the truth as we could reach.

Gen. Ransom, learning that the Yankee troops had occupied Suffolk on Sunday, moved his force from the neighborhood of Somerton, and reached Bethlehem church on Wednesday. About 10 o'clock in the day, his skirmishers advanced to the Merry Oak, two miles from town, where some negro pickets were posted. They fled, and were pursued into the town, where a regiment of negro cavalry were stationed. The fight took place in the streets, the negroes dismounting after the first fire and flying in every direction. Several were killed in the streets, and many took shelter in a vacant house just beyond the limits of the town on the east.

This house was charged by our men, and all but four captured. These four refused to surrender and the house was fired. When the flames were well underway, one came out firing upon our men as he did so, and was killed. The other three remained and were consumed in the flames. The flying negroes were pursued to Jericho run, where they tore up the bridge; also the bridge at the canal, a quarter of a mile distant. Ransom's forces pursued and charged the camp at Bernard's mill, the Yankees running as though the arch-fiend of the regions of wo was after them. Having only a small force of cavalry they could not be followed. The camps and quartermaster's stores were destroyed, the men first supplying themselves with overcoats and other articles, which they could bring off conveniently.

We lost three men in the engagement, and the number killed of the enemy was about thirty. We had two men captured, and have not learned how many prisoners we took. The affair is regarded a very brilliant one.

Gen. Ransom has fallen back this side of Suffolk, and the Yankees have again advanced, and there was some skirmishing Thursday morning at Cowling's landing, two miles west of Suffolk. Should the Yankees be reinforced and make any further advance, they will find the gallant Ransom in the right place.

Several of the negro soldiers killed in this battle belonged to gentlemen in Suffolk, and died in a few hundred yards of their old homes.

Gen. Ransom obtained from the enemy some fine horses, a piece of artillery, and many small arms.—*Petersburg Express*, 12th.

Three Popular Lecturers.

The new literary paper, the *Round Table*, thus cauterizes lecturers:

Popular lecturers may be divided into three classes: the serious, the serio-comic and the humorous. George William Curtis is a specimen of the serious lecturer. Stephen C. Massett is a pretty fair type of the serio-comic lecturers. At the head of the popular humorous lecturers stands Artemus Ward. The styles of the lectures delivered by these three gentlemen are, of course, very different; but as we shall presently show, they are only different varieties of the same species, and take almost the same methods to prepare their wares for the market, and to advertise themselves and their shams.

Mr. Curtis is not only a popular lecturer, but also an author and a sort of a journalist. He has been to Egypt, and formerly had some acquaintance with a lady named Pisa. He is a man easy chair in one of the magazines, and lounges about the office of an illustrated weekly. These positions upon the press afford him frequent opportunities in eulogizing popular lecturers in general and himself in particular. His lectures are a mere rehash of the numerous books he reads. For the rest, he has a pleasant voice, a good delivery, and a very good looking face, and his terms to lyceums are one hundred dollars a night and traveling expenses—college commencements free.

Mr. S. C. Massett, the serio-comic sham, is also something more than a popular lecturer. Although he does not know a note of music, he claims to have composed several popular airs. He has written a few ballads, and adapted a great many motes and jests to songs, whenever he has a chance, by way of advertisement. He can imitate actors and Englishmen, and gives his imitations at private parties, also by way of advertisement. He is acquainted with Mr. Jas. T. Brady—a fact to which he constantly alludes, by way of advertisement, in conversation and in print. On the whole, Mr. Massett advertises himself more extensively than Mr. Curtis; but he does it more glaringly, and deceives fewer people. His lectures are mere patchwork—a bit of Massett, a bit of Mr. Winter, a bit of Shakspeare, a bit of James T. Brady, a bit of Mr. Anonymous, a bit of Forrest, among every set, Massett is esteemed as a great genius; and no lecturer secures better notices in the newspapers, since he usually writes them himself.

Mr. Artemus Ward is a young man with a Roman nose and a humorous mind. He began his public career as the local editor of a country paper in Ohio. One rainy day, when local items were scarce, the young man perpetrated a letter from a showman and signed it Artemus Ward—his sole design, as he avers, being to fill one column of the paper. The letter was extensively copied, and he followed it up with a series, which made his reputation and a book. This book is said to have been read and laughed over by President Lincoln at certain cabinet councils. This may or may not be true, but certainly the book is very funny and very silly. Mr. Ward's indiscreet friends then urged him to take the tide of fortune at its flood and become a popular lecturer. Mr. Ward is, we believe, a modest man, but he has a Yankee fondness for the almighty dollar. Consequently he adopted the advice of his friends, and began his rounds. Unfortunately, however, he soon discovered that he could not always command his humor, and that lectures were not so easy to write as letters. With business-like tact he immediately set to work to supply the deficiency. He employed three or four persons to collect jokes and witticisms, original and selected, and of these collections he made a hash, which he called a lecture, the peculiarity of which was that it had no beginning, no end, and no connection. To have a new lecture, therefore he had only to change the title, without altering a word of the manuscript. This explains the remarkable similarity between his "Sixty Minutes in Africa," and his "Struggle with the Ghosts."

This lecture, half a dozen taking titles for it, and a certain imbecile innocent manner, resembling that of Dan' a ant, are Artemus Ward's stock in trade. We know of no other stock which yields such large returns, considering the value of the original investment. After realizing considerable money late, Mr. Ward has gone to California, where he pockets a couple of thousand dollars a night, if current and telegraphic reports be true.

We have said enough, we trust, to show the flimsy foundation of the sham reputations which popular lecturers have—and which they boldly claim as public teachers, whose mission it is to educate, and instruct, and refine the people. Some few popular lecturers are indeed worthy of this reputation, but the majority are certainly not. They collect together other people's sense or nonsense, wisdom or rubbish, as it may happen, and palm it off as their own. If they were to do the same thing with other than literary property, they would soon be in prison, instead of on the rostrum. Their reputations are based upon what they crib, not upon what they originate, and are therefore shams.

Why, under the sun, sensible people should go to hear them, we could never understand, until we heard Artemus Ward relate the following anecdote, which is perfectly authentic, and will explain this mystery: "One evening, after lecturing in Cincinnati," said Mr. Ward, "I returned to my hotel, and found a big, burly man pacing before the clerk's desk, and sweating at himself for being such a fool as to attend my lecture. I took a mental photograph of that individual, asked for my key, and retired. The next time I lectured in Cincinnati, I was surprised to see that very man among my audience. He brought a large party with him and sat the lecture through. At its close I procured an introduction to him, related the incident at the hotel, and asked him directly why he came to hear me again? Well, said he, I am a little ashamed to be caught here; but I couldn't resist temptation. I wanted to have the satisfaction of seeing three hundred as big fools as myself, sitting with their mouths wide open, while you gulled them out of their quarters!"

☞ The most important is the first storm both in the spring of the year and in the married state: nearly all the others are likely to come from the same quarter.

From Galveston.

[Special to the Houston Telegraph.]

GALVESTON, Feb. 6, 1864.—The dull monotony so prevalent here of late was agreeably disturbed this morning by the welcome arrival of Gen. Kirby Smith and J. B. Magruder.

A visit from two such distinguished paragnages naturally caused the inhabitants to be on the qui vive, and the ill fated Island City soon assumed an air of bustle and importance it had long been a stranger to. Considering the weighty responsibilities attached to their high official and military positions, and the great tax of late made on their time and ability, both looked remarkably well. In the course of the afternoon, accompanied by Gens. Tom Green and Majors, of Louisiana fame, they proceeded to the old parade ground to review the regiments stationed on the Island and Virginia point. The whole spectacle passed off satisfactorily, the evolutions were gone through with great regularity and precision by the majority of the troops. A portion of the men displayed some awkwardness in maneuvering, but this was accounted for from their having been recently dismounted and their ignorance of infantry tactics.

One battle flag, we noticed, was perforated in several places, and many of the soldiers were partially dressed in Yankee uniforms—trophies of their valor and patriotism on many a hard-fought field.

While the review was taking place, a Yankee three-masted propeller was observed watching our motions from the Gulf, and probably we should have had a taste of Uncle Sam's shot and shell, had not the south battery kept the intruder at a respectable distance; but, thanks to the energy, foresight and sagacity of Gen. Magruder, Galveston is now surrounded by a series of fortifications second to none in the Confederacy, in some instances Charleston not even excepted.

It would be difficult to foretell the fate of this devoted city, which has sacrificed and suffered so much since the war began, but we will venture to affirm that thousands of Lincoln's hirelings will bite the dust, and one of the most bloody dramas of the war will have to be played before it will be allowed to pass again into the hands of our barbarous and treacherous foe.

AMICUS.

[By Telegraph.]

EDITOR TELEGRAPH: Nothing new here today. Can see very indistinctly seven vessels outside. We have a rumor of the enemy landing eighteen miles below the city from barges, and two companies have been sent down to reconnoiter. As yet no report from them has been heard.

G.

From Matamoros, Monterey, Etc.

From the Houston Telegraph, Feb. 10.]

We have had the pleasure of meeting our old friend and fellow-citizen, A. S. Rathven, Esq., just returned from a sojourn of several months in Matamoros where he has seen sights and suffered bodily for the cause. At one time, as our readers will remember, he was arrested for landing arms from Mexican waters, on the Texas shore, and lay in jail a week. From all accounts he narrowly escaped a more protracted residence in Vidaurri's Hacienda. Rathven left Matamoros on the 15th, two days after the late fight, going thence to Monterey, where he remained until the 24th of January, and from that date has lost no time on the way to this city. His information from Matamoros is to the 17th, at which date all was quiet there, Gov. Ruiz remaining on the Texas side with his officers, his men being thoroughly scattered. Stores were open, but little trade was going on, and there was no sale for cotton. There was no certainty as to the future.

Vidaurri is at Monterey, and it was thought would leave Matamoros to take care of itself. He has about 4000 soldiers, partly infantry, partly cavalry, under his command, but no fortifications. He is observing a strict semi-neutrality between the Juaristas and the French. He has sent a message to Juarez not to come through Monterey with any force at all. Juarez was at Saltillo, falling back gradually. The French were at San Luis Potosi. They were expected to march thence via Victoria on Monterey.

The feeling in Tamaulipas and New Leon is that of great hostility to the French. Viva Republica Mexicana is the cry of the people. This is stimulated no little by the Yankee emissaries who infest every village and neighborhood of Northern Mexico, owing to Federal bounties, stirring up hostility to both the Confederacy and the French. They are very persistent and spare neither effort nor promises, to accomplish their purposes.

Traveling in Northern Mexico is regarded as comparatively safe, though official robberies are frequent. A pass or permit is requisite in traveling from Monterey to Piedras Negras. For the want of this the ambulance load of passengers, in which our friend Rathven came, were mulcted of all their specie, $3000, by the customs officer at Guerrie, three miles from Piedras Negras. Mrs. Judge Terry, who was there at the same time, was in like manner robbed of $1000.

Cotton is accumulating at Eagle Pass, and is worth there 20 to 21 cents. At Monterey it was worth 26 cents. While at Matamoros, owing to the embargo, there was no market for it. Gold at Piedras Negras commands a premium of two and a half per cent. over silver.

The State Troops.

From the Houston Telegraph.]

It is well known that some misunderstanding has existed between the governor and the commanding general regarding the enrollment of the State troops subject to conscription. We believe the point was that the general sought to have all between forty and forty-five conscribed, in accordance with the enrolling laws of Congress, while the governor insisted on retaining them within the State organization, according to the tenor of the laws of the State Legislature.—It was a point of State rights, and on the point the governor was unyielding. He was elected to execute the laws of the State, and it was his duty to take the stand he did.

After a free conference, we are happy to say, an arrangement has been finally effected which is, we presume, satisfactory to all parties. It is set forth in the following special order:

HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT OF TEXAS, New Mexico and Arizona, Houston, Feb. 4, 1864.

Special Orders No. 35.

After a conference with his excellency, the governor of Texas and the commanding generals of the department and district, the following is announced to the State troops as the decision ultimately arrived at and by which all concerned will be governed:

All members of the State troops under forty-five years of age are permitted, at their option, to form new organizations of companies in the Confederate States service, to serve for the war, and to elect their officers, or may join existing organizations in the Confederate States service, and all who do not join either will be reorganized on the 30th inst., with the State troops, under the late State law.

On the reorganization of the State troops, all men now liable to conscription, will be enrolled and will be allowed to remain in the State troops for the period of six months, at the expiration of which time they will be transferred, in accordance with the conscript law, to the Confederate States service.

By command of Major-General J. Bankhead Magruder. W. A. ALSTON, A. A. G.

There is only one point in this order regarding which any question can arise. It is as to the enrollment or those liable to conscription at the time of the reorganization of the State troops. We believe there was a full understanding that those subject to conscription should be allowed to select their company on being transferred, and this, we doubt not, will be the construction placed upon the above order.

We congratulate all parties on the happy settlement of what, at one time, it was feared, would cause a serious difficulty, and trust the satisfaction will be general among the troops as well as the people.

PRISONER SHOT.—At 2 o'clock, last Sunday morning, while a train containing Yankee prisoners in transitu for Georgia, was standing at the station in Greensboro', N. C., three of them jumped off with a view of escaping. The guards halted them, but the command not being obeyed, the guard fired, killing one of the fugitives. The others made good their escape.—*Petersburg Express.*

☞ The work of raising and removing the Yankee dead who fell at Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge and Lookout, and interring them in the Chattanooga United States cemetry, has commenced.

Letter from New Orleans.

Correspondence of the Cincinnati Commercial.]

NEW ORLEANS, March 11.—The great row in New Orleans for some weeks past has been a controversy as to who shall be governor in the approaching election. The convention, which meets to-day in Lyceum Hall, will decide who shall be the candidate of the Free State Committee, but appearances indicate that, in addition to the regular nominee, there will be an independent candidate. Two persons have been prominently before the people as candidates—Hon. Michael Hahn and Judge Whitaker; but the latter, in a letter published in this morning's *Times*, gracefully withdraws from the contest, and rather intimates that the squabble, taking into consideration the present condition of the State and country at large, is becoming disgraceful. Besides the two gentlemen above named, Rufus Waples, Thos. J. Durant and Mr. Flanders are spoken of in connection with the position. There has been a great deal of crimination and recrimination among the friends of the rival candidates, each claiming that his candidate was one of the "original Union men," and the others are converts of the "eleventh hour."

The opponents of Mr. Hahn have been digging among the old *Picayune* and Crescent files, and have resurrected a speech made by him on the occasion of the presentation of a flag by the ladies of New Orleans to the Calhoun Guards. Mr. Hahn's speech certainly has an ugly look, taken in connection with his present position, especially that portion of it in which he pictures the sanguinary Guards as performing prodigies of valor in defense of their homes and firesides, but, then, how much better record can any of them show. It is *arcades ambo* with each and all of them. With the exception of Dr. Beale, who was driven off, Col. Field and Thomas J. Durant, I do not know a single one of the blatant Union men of New Orleans, who can show a perfectly clean record. Colonel Field was compelled, for sixteen months, to keep perfectly sober, because when he became entheused, he must talk—"a cussin' and a dammin'" secession up one side and down the other. If he talked he stood a fair chance of being hung. This compulsory abstinence may seem a small matter to an inhabitant of the temperate zone, but I assure him, to residents of New Orleans, where the very air is alcoholic, it was little less than absolute martyrdom.

But I do not object to the antecedents of any of the candidates. It is not a pleasant thing to be hung, and I blame none of them for falling in with the popular current, to save their necks. But there is one serious objection to Mr. Hahn. He is as clear a case of a Dutchman, as I ever saw, and yet goes about under the pretense of being an Irishman, deluding the natives of sweet Erin, and scorching his "innards" with hot whisky punches, while his bowels are yearning for lager. The transition is comparatively easy. Instead of "Michel," he spells his name "Michael," and calls it "Hann," rather than "Hawn."

You must not be deceived in regard to the fuss and clamor of the papers about this election. Unionism has certainly made some progress in the city, but it is not so strong as it is represented to be, by a "jug-full" and more. The great mass of the people are, and will for a long time continue to be rebels, and the uproar is made by the slippery chaps, who invariably keep a good lookout for the interests of No. 1, and expect to make something out of the new order of things. A handful of grasshoppers in the meadow will make more noise than a thousand cattle quietly feeding on the hills. Rats desert a sinking ship; but it is none the less true that they swarm where the bottom is good, the timbers sound, and the vessel victualed for a long time.

In some respects, the present canvass is a singular one for New Orleans, and the old stagers scarcely know how to begin it. In the good old times, the most desperate cut-throats in the city were employed by politics and candidates—and well paid, too—to "work" in the elections. They "worked" with the slung-shot and bowie, the light work being done with the "mauleys." But "*nous avons changes tout cela*," which is French, and means that it is now a horse of another color.

Apropos of thugs, the ancient and honorable order is again looking up in New Orleans, though in a somewhat different walk. During the reign of the "heart" Thuggery was at its last gasp. Fort Jackson, the Parish prison and Ship island were full to repletion of the fraternity, while some were quietly awaiting the day which was to see them dangling between the heavens and earth. But now thuggery takes to the police and secret service. Dannois, an eminent thug, is now filling the responsible station of chief of police. Red Bill, condemned to be hanged by the Butler dynasty, somehow or other slipped out of the toil when Banks came, and disappeared.

Lucien Adams, a thug in opposition to thugs after narrowly escaping hanging, which he richly deserved, is now at large, and I understand, is employed in the secret service. Lucien is probably the greatest scoundrel unhung. For years he ruled the Fourth District with a rod of iron, and woe to the unfortunate who seriously offended him. The knife, the pistol or the bludgeon of Lucien's emissaries made sure work of the foe, and dead men tell no tales. He was at the bottom of the "deep damnation" of the taking off of Abe Phillips—a prominent thug of the regular branch. His half-brother, Eugene Pepe, being condemned to die for murder, it is strongly believe that Lucien poisoned him to avoid unpleasant revelations in his dying confession. And yet we are told this vile scoundrel is now in Government employ.

In the general muddle it is hard to arrive at any conclusion as to which is right; but it is generally conceded that Hahn will be elected. It is understood that the commanding general is throwing the weight of his influence in his favor; to you may set it down as a fixed fact that Michael Hahn will, in conjunction with Thos. Overton Moore, administer the civil Government of Louisiana for the next four years. The secessionists look upon the movement to re-establish the civil Government of Louisiana with no particle of favor. They feel that they have nothing to hope from its establishment at this time, and nothing to fear by delay, as the prospects of slavery cannot possibly be darker. The French paper *L'Union*, is most outspoken on the subject. It says, give us no mongrel government, but let the military power continue until such time as a civil government may be established with some show of fairness.

In addition to the Hahn and Flanders parties we also have a "conservative" concern, which is worrying itself about the Constitution. Christian Roselius, J. Ad. Rosier, and other prominent men of the city, are identified with it. They held a meeting last night at the St. Charles Theater, in which the usual rapid rant of the fraternity was indulged in. If those patriots were a little further north, they would be called copperheads.

An agent of the Mexican Juarez Government was in the city last week, for the purpose of procuring arms and ammunition. I understand, from an unofficial source, that his mission was completely successful, and that a large quantity of small arms, shot, shell and fixed ammunition are now on their way to be landed at some point on the Mexican coast. So now we can credit ourselves with at least one payment in kind for his amiable "neutrality."

EATING GRASS.—A French officer who, on one occasion, accompanied a raid against an Arab tribe in Algeria, gives an instance of the spirit of defiance which animated those haughty sons of the desert. The French commander had assembled the Arab chiefs, telling them that his soldiers had filled up their wells, carried off their cattle, and burned their dwellings, exhorted them to submission, asking them what they would do further against a country so powerful as France. "The Arabs, as if impelled simultaneously stooped to the earth, plucked some blades of grass there growing, and began chewing the same in angry silence. This was all their reply, and by it they intimated that they would eat what the earth gave, like the beasts that are upon it, rather than surrender."

Eating grass is not very agreeable, but it is better than eating dirt. The Southern people, if subjected to such an alternative, will not show less spirit than the Arabs.—*Richmond Dispatch.*

☞ The following often-quoted lines are taken from a poem by Frederick Von Logan, written in the 17th century:

Though the mills of God grind slowly,
Yet they grind exceedingly small;
Though with patience He stands waiting,
With exactness grinds He all.

☞ A paper speaks of a man "who died without the aid of a physician." Such instances of death are exceedingly rare.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1863 by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

Richmond Financial Market.

RICHMOND, March 16.—At the auction to day, Confederate eight per cent bonds, due in 1861, sold at 114 and interest; five year bonds opened at 107 and closed at 103; registered fifteen million loan, 1864; gold 20¾ for one; silver 19½ for one; sterling exchange 22½ for one.

From the Trans-Mississippi Department.

SHREVEPORT, LA., Mar 3, via Mobile.—Everything remains quiet in this department, and a passive campaign on the part of the Yankees is anticipated.

☞ The enemy is now making a reconnoissance up Red river, and Gen. Taylor is desirous to meet them.

The action on the part of Congress on the currency question is anxiously awaited.

This department is self-sustaining, and would feed our army for twenty years.

It is bad policy to furlough any soldiers to cross to this side of the Mississippi river. Gen. Lee, Johnston and Longstreet are certainly losing men, who cannot or will not return east of the river.

The people everywhere in this department are hopeful, and expect we shall win our freedom before March, 1865. Stonewall Jackson's commissary, Banks, is no more respected or feared here than when he made his disastrous flight from the valley of Virginia. The people and army have entire confidence in Lieut. Gen. E. Kirby Smith.

**From Gen. Johnson's Army.