MEMPHIS APPEAL.

MEMPHIS.

SATURDAY.....FEBRUARY 2, 1867.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Communications. Whatever is intended for insertion in the APPEAL, must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee for his good faith and responsibility.

All business letters for this office should be addressed to "THE APPEAL," Memphis.

All Communications for publication must be written on one side of the paper, and with all other matters connected with the editorial department, should be addressed: Editors of THE APPEAL, Memphis.

We cannot, as a rule, undertake to return articles not found suitable for publication.

TO THE PATRONS OF THE APPEAL.

In consequence of judicial proceedings, had in respect to the interests of different parties in the APPEAL, the paper, the printing establishment and the good will of the paper have been sold, and the undersigned have become the purchasers.

Every possible exertion will be made to render the APPEAL more acceptable to its readers, and more desirable as a medium of advertising. Much more space will be devoted to reading matter, and a special column be appropriated weekly to Masonic information.

The undersigned hope, by close attention to the affairs of the paper and office, to give it claims equal to those of any other journal of the city to the support and confidence of the community.

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MILITARY COMMISSIONS AND TEST OATHS.

The Supreme Court of the United States has strangled these twin abominations. It has decided that Congress not only never did authorize those infernal engines and convenient instruments of despotism, Military Commissions; but that it *could* not have empowered them to try persons wholly unconnected with the armies. Of course the execution of men, and more especially of women, in the District of Columbia, by the sentence of an unlawful and unconstitutional board of military officers, *after official notice given by the Secretary of State to foreign governments that the war and rebellion were completely at an end*, was MURDER.

The plain truth is, that no respectable lawyer ever could have believed that there was any law of the land authorizing Military Commissions; or that, if they *could* be held legal, they could try *civilians* upon a charge of murder. Even a common soldier could not be tried for that crime before a regular court martial; and if it had ever been attempted in England, to try a freeborn Englishman or Englishwoman before a Military Commission, even for assassinating the King, a HOLT, a HALE, a SOMERS, or a DENMAN, would have been found, to set the heel of the law upon the neck of such a tribunal and stamp out its life. We can hardly imagine an English lawyer, ERSKINE or BROUGHAM, for example, offering such an argument before the Court of King's Bench, in defence of Military Commissions as Mr. Attorney SPEED and BINGHAM and CHIPMAN, were not ashamed to make, to the scandal, and, as far as they could disgrace it, to the disgrace of the legal profession. For, to the honor of that profession, it is to be said that it has rarely become the advocate or apologist of usurpations and judicial murders: though England has had *some* Attorney-Generals, when she had such judges as JEFFERIES and SCROGGS, who were willing to pervert the law to murder innocent men and gratify the bloody desires of power. An attorney presenting for the government, who could so far forget his loyalty to law, as to argue in favor of the 'jurisdiction' (God save the mark!) of Military Commissions to try women, ought to be put on the same roll with the judges who decided that JAMES II. had the power to dispense with the penal provisions of acts of Parliament.

The attacks of political rascality on the Supreme Court for its late decisions, are but the frank out-speakings of that jacobinism, possessed by which, the Northern States are drifting toward anarchy, and through that hell into unknown seas. They are but one symptom of the malignant disease that is rotting the bones of the States. It was strange enough, to one who could look back twenty years, and remembered the themes with which the orator then stirred the popular heart, not only to see lawyers, journalists and legislators shameless enough to pretend a belief in the lawfulness of military commissions; but to find that in all the Northern States hardly a voice protested against them, and the public rejoiced over the swift and sure "justice" which they executed on unfortunates assumed to be guilty, if they could not prove themselves innocent. It did not shock a people, once *seemingly* jealous of its liberties, that the judicial functions in matters of life and death were exercised by the merciless men of arms, instead of the ermined judges and lawful magistrates clothed with the *real* majesty of the law.

But the most fatal sign of the rottenness of the body politic, of the tainted condition of the public mind of the North, of the universal want of confidence in the honesty of men and the stability of free institutions,—that which most plainly reveals the real insecurity of rights not long ago deemed beyond the reach of power or fraud, and the immense and treacherous bog and quick-sand, covered by a thin crust of apparent and deceitful prosperity, on which the crumbling pillars of the State stand, is that it long was a matter of very grave doubt, what might be the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, upon so plain a question. When confidence in the Courts is lost, we feel insecure as those do who live in a country continually shattered by earthquakes, and where even the solid foundations of the earth seem unstable, and men feel helpless as infants.

Fifteen years ago, if any public man had expressed the opinion that Military Commissions could be used for the trial of citizens, for offences not military, or used at all, in the absence of law, language would have failed to express the emotions of indignation that would have struggled for utterance in the bosoms of the SUMNERS, the HOLTS, the FORNEYS, and other Democrats who now admire the "Bureau of Military Justice," at the bare idea of taking away from the citizen the right of trial by jury, that palladium of American liberty!

It is a shame and a disgrace to American jurisprudence that the highest court in the country should have hesitated a moment to pronounce illegal and infamous the attempt to naturalize in the United States that which NAPOLEON resorted to, to murder the DUC D'ENGHIEN,—a Military Commission, elsewhere used by despotism only. It is a shame that it even heard argument upon so plain a question, and permitted the Attorney-General to disgrace his office by discussing it. It should, (as honest Justice WILMOT once did, in the case of an infinitely less outrage), have decided instantly and "with great indignation."

The question as to the constitutionality of the test oaths prescribed by the acts of Congress and of the Missouri Legislature was not so palpably clear, but that a lawyer might be permitted, without being deemed to dishonor the profession, to argue that they were valid, however disreputable to the State and nation. But it is not comprehensible, by us, at least, how any respectable judge could entertain any grave doubt upon the question, and how the Supreme Court of the United States could hesitate, and consent to delay its opinion for a whole year. There neither is, nor ever was, any question in England or France or the United States as to the effect of a pardon to annihilate the offence and all its consequences. The cannot be any doubt that to exclude from office or employment or the right of voting, by means of such an oath, is a *punishment*; that there can be no punishment without legal conviction; and that in many respects both of the enactments in question were *ex post facto* laws.

It is a terrible fact that these enactments have been decided to be unconstitutional by the opinion of a single judge, and that if the President were put aside, the Jacobin majority in Congress would immediately create new judges and procure a reversal of the decision, in another case made for the purpose. It was an immense power entrusted to a single judge, appointed by LINCOLN; and Mr. Justice FIELD is entitled to immortal honor, for remembering, as Chief Injustice CHASE *never* remembers, that he owed no duty to Power and Faction, but only to the Law and the Constitution.

The Court has put it beyond further dispute, that no person can be punished or incapacitated as guilty of an offence, in *any* other way than by a conviction, upon a trial by due course of law. That is the great point decided. This annuls *all* test oaths, no matter by what power enacted; and those of Tennessee are henceforward as much a dead letter as those of Missouri. If it should be still attempted to maintain them, let any man whose vote is refused, bring his action. Lord Chief Justice HOLT long ago decided that an Englishman could maintain such an action, because, he said, "his vote is his birthright."

And also the Court has conclusively settled that the power of the President to pardon is plenary, and that no other power, of Congress or a Legislature, can limit or diminish the effect of a pardon given by him. The offence and *all* its consequences are as if they had never been.

One *does* wonder that Mr. Justice WAYNE should have dissented from these conclusions. But no one is amazed at Chief Justice Chase, whose appointment was one "not fit to be made," since neither his legal ability or intellectual greatness entitled him to it; and it is for him so completely a stepping-stone to *political* preferment, that he dragged the ermine through the pollutions of the kennel, when it had hardly been flung upon his shoulders.

Of course, under our miserable system of dissenting opinions, which is *wholly* unknown in France, and little indulged in in England, and which has become with us an intolerable pest and nuisance, the minority of the court, through Mr. Justice MILLER, has done all it could to weaken the authority of the judgment and decision of "the court." Nevertheless it may be that these two decisions are to cause the people to reflect, and arrest the career of radicalism. The tide may be about to turn. But we confess that we consider it more probable that the mad current will not be stayed by the feeble barrier interposed, and that the people will be easily persuaded by their leaders to revolutionize the court, no matter by what means, and so to put all power in the hands of the body which will then be, not a Congress of the States, but a National Assembly of the populace. When WILLIAM of Orange ascended the English throne, Serjeant MAYNARD said to him, "Your Majesty, I am the oldest lawyer at the bar. I have outlived all my brethren; and if your Majesty had much longer delayed your coming, I should have outlived the law itself." Thanks to Mr. Justice FIELD and those who agreed with him, the law still lives, short as its lease of life may prove, and the rights of man are not yet entirely annulled.

THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Late at night, while the fire and lamps burn low and dim, we lay down No. 10,039, Vol. LXVIII of this noble old journal, and lean back to think, overcome by the many memories which its familiar caption calls up. We have read it constantly for thirty-two years, minus the four bitter years of civil war, and had the good fortune to know its old editors, JOE. GALES and WM. W. SEATON, both great and good men, now numbered with the dead, but of immortal memory. Not only of these princely gentlemen does the *Intelligencer* remind us, but of many, many another whom we were fortunate in knowing, and whom the country has lost,—WEBSTER and CLAY and CRITTENDEN; DAWSON, the "Commodore," of Georgia, peerless at the dinner table; RUSK and HOUSTON, FLOYD, kindest-hearted of all living men; that noble gentleman, BUTLER, of South Carolina, PRENTISS, worthy to be called CHRYSOSTOM, golden-mouthed, and not only beyond comparison the most eloquent, but the most genial and generous of men; large-hearted TOM. CORWIN, KEITH, gallant and good; BADGER, wise beyond other men, of admirable wit and always enamored of the Truth; SEVIER and DOUGLAS, CLEMENS and QUITMAN, with many a dear old familiar face, of others less known to fame and even more beloved, crowd around us as we write; the dead mingling with the living, PORTER of the *Spirit* and INMAN the Artist, and glorious JOHN BROUGHAM, and ALEXANDER DIMITRY, large-souled as one of HOMER'S heroes and wise as PLATO; BRECKINRIDGE and BONHAM, BOYCE and ROBERT JOHNSON, four men of like princely natures,—all these and many like these we met at Washington in the better times when the Senate of the United States sat in the old Chamber, and that city was the capital of both the Northern and Southern States. *Eheu, fugaces!*—how the years drift away—and we become garrulous, and forget that the long list of names, and the memories they call up, of "the refections of the gods" and times gone never to return, and scenes already dim as they recede into the Past, have interest for no one but ourself! Nevertheless, it is written—it is a cry from the heart. Let it stand. Thank God, neither Power or Malice can confiscate and sell for coin to knaves the happy or the sad mementoes of the Past.

RENTS AND REAL ESTATE IN CINCINNATI.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* says that rents in that city remain very high. Houses that before the war rented for eight and ten dollars per month cannot now be had for less than twenty-five and thirty dollars. A single room which could then have been had for three and four dollars per month cannot now be touched for less than ten and fifteen dollars, and even twenty dollars per month. At present a common house, containing six or seven rooms, in a central location, will command from fifty to seventy-five dollors per month.

We have the same evidence of high rents in Memphis; and not long since a futile attempt was made by some of those who *pay* rents, to have them reduced. Of course the movement was merely idle. Rents, like every thing else of the nature of prices, are regulated chiefly by the relative proportion of demand and supply.

But it also occurs to us that the depreciation of the currency accounts in large measure for the difference between rents in Cincinnati before and since the war. For the value of the paper currency is not determinable by comparing it with gold, which has become an article of merchandize, and for which there is no *general* demand. Few persons have special occasion to use gold, or care to have it. It performs only a few limited offices and moves in limited circles, and not much except in the great commercial centres, where duties are payable, or it is needed for exportation. The *real* value of the currency is determinable by the amount of rent and wages it will pay, the amount of provision and fuel it will purchase, and the like; and for all those purpose it is worth *far* less than it appears to be when compared with gold. It is not that rents and provisions are high, so much as that the currency is worth much *less* than is generally imagined. If 1 of a cent represents its *nominal* value, as compared with gold, it will *fully* represent its real value, as exchangable for commodities, and this after the great diminution of the amount in circulation.

Ristori Receipts.

A dispatch from Chicago says: "Ristori states that her receipts at her performances Tuesday evening, at the opera house were the largest since her *debut* on the stage, amounting to $4800. Moscow ranks second, and Brooklyn third. Of the $4800, her personal share is $2600. Her own personal receipts since her arrival in this country, in September last, have been $136,000.

THE POLICY AND DUTY OF THE SOUTH.

I.

There was a people once, in the days when men found it easier to die than to live dishonored, who, rather than submit to the yoke of the Victor, placed their wives and children and household gods in their vessels, and one and all sought a new home under strange skies.

The South put every thing in the scales of chance, in its great struggle for independence. When it lost, it lost all but honor; because it is not a King, but a People that has conquered; and Monarchs *may* be merciful, but victorious Republics never are. Cruelty is the principal attribute of mobs; and no Republic ever was generous to the vanquished. A victorious democracy has neither soul, nor heart nor conscience, and is equally incapable of generosity and remorse. The Republics of Greece had no mercy for each other, and Rome had none for Carthage; nor have any controversies been so ensanguined as those between the Italian States in the middle age.

The unparalleled unanimity with which the Northern States have sustained the Destructives, leaves no room to doubt that hate of the Southern people, and an insatiate thirst for vengeance possess the Northern mind, so that it will blindly support any measures that the Jacobin leaders in Congress may originate. Whatever the private opinions of a lean minority in the dominant States, they are legally parties to the acts of their government; and they are morally responsible also, because their opposition is limited to feeble protests and remonstrances, and few of them dare to say that they are not in favor of disfranchising seventeen-twentieths of the people of the South, and of the trial and execution of the man whom the South selected for its leader.

The measures adopted and those proposed by the leaders of the North in Congress, and approved by the vast majority of the people, are not measures of policy, nor even, as is commonly supposed, measures to perpetuate the power of a party. They are, on the contrary, simply parts of a comprehensive scheme of vengeance, dictated by a deathless hatred. To disfranchise all who were not faithless to their States, test-oaths have been maintained, when no lawyer worthy of the name could think that they were or that they were not constitutional, contrary to the great principles of *English* liberty, and equally contrary to the pure principles of justice, and of enlightened wisdom and sound policy.

The military power is still supreme over the civil, whenever occasion requires, and the "Magistrates" of the Freedmen's Bureau everywhere usurp upon the courts and deny the right of the citizen to trial by jury; and if Military Commissions are no longer to murder civilians never connected with the army, the exemption of the citizen from this hideous and despicable tyranny is owing only to a majority of one on the Supreme Bench of the United States.

To destroy the agricultural interests of the South, the tariff that gives gratuities to Northern manufacturers levies an unconstitutional tax upon cotton, although ours could only compete with that of India and Egypt, when, by the best system of labor, for the laborer himself, that the world ever saw, it could be produced and sold at from four and a half to ten and eleven cents per pound.

And finally, to completely abase and humiliate and ruin the Southern States, they are to be declared Provinces, and the right of voting and holding office is to be confined to hordes of semi-savage negroes and a few "loyalists" and renegades, to the exclusion of the people at large; and this government is to be maintained by bayonets in the hands of negro troops. That this is a measure dictated by hate, is palpable, since there is no man so besotted as not to know that the negroes of the plantations are not fit to exercise the right of suffrage, and that to confer it upon them is to immensely increase the danger with which unlimited suffrage even of the white race in the populous States and cities menaces the country.

We may accept it as a certainty, that our States are to become Provinces governed by Pro-consuls, and their municipal and domestic affairs controlled by negroes, legislating for the disfranchised white men guilty of being true to their political faith and to their States; that we are to be burthened with unconstitutional taxes, imposts and stamp and export duties; that all our judges of civil and criminal jurisdiction are to be appointed by a Radical President at Washington, for terms so short as to ensure their complete subservience, or elected by negro voters or legislators; and that we are, in short, to be but foreigners without rights civil or political, in our own country, holding even our little lease of life at sufferance, always under military surveillance, always suspected of disloyalty, and free opinion being a crime, with the spies of government every where, and the devilish ingenuity of greed and malice combined seeking daily occasion, by accusation, true or false, to confiscate the property that the torch of war and the hand of the spoiler spared. Ruled by a radical oligarchy chiefly composed of men who hate the States that they betrayed, and these sustained by hordes of negro voters and a negro soldiery paid by the United States, what shall we be but Helots? In what respect more fortunate than Ireland under CROMWELL, the Netherlands under ALVA, Poland under NICHOLAS?

We need not hope that this is not to be our condition. It is the registered decree of resistless power, restrained by no considerations of justice or generosity, by no lesson of history, by no inspiration of wisdom. The French Jacobins were not madder, when they deposed God and worshipped a naked prostitute as the Goddess of Reason, than the American Congress is. The Northern States were so swift and eager to denude themselves of all their sovereign prerogatives, and their citizens of all their dearest civil rights, in order to arm the National Government with ample power to crush the attempt of the Southern States to win their independence, that they are now powerless to resist the progress of consolidation or prevent a complete remodeling of the Constitution. The Democratic party is contemptibly impotent every where; and the leaders of the old Whig party are, as a general rule, among the most Jacobinical of the Radicals.

We need only add, to complete the picture of our gloomy and apparently inevitable future, that the general demoralization and corruption of government officials, of which every day furnishes new assurances and additional proofs, ensures us a general system of extortion and plundering, such as CICERO, denouncing VERRES the Proconsul, and BURKE and SHERIDAN prosecuting HASTINGS, graphically described; so that what once were STATES, "by the grace of God, Free, Sovereign and Independent" will be rather Pashalliks to be fleeced and plundered, than Provinces to be governed.

Why *should* we hope for better things? Already the dark shadows of the coming Future fall upon us, and the crucifixion of the South has begun. Conquered Provinces have been so dealt with before; and every day the evidence accumulates that men are neither worse nor better than they were centuries ago. The race that maimed and hung unoffending Quakers, prating at the same time about religious liberty, retains its old merciless characteristics and intolerance of opposite opinion, although the general opinion of the world, fortunately for us, forbids their resorting in all respects to the savage barbarities of the middle ages.

Thus anticipating, in order to be prepared to endure, the worst, what are the duty and policy of the Southern people?

A dispatch from Kansas City, Mo., dated the 2d, says: Col. Watterman, contractor, commences work to-day on the Kansas City, Fort Scott, and Galveston railroad. Extensive preparations have been made to push the work rapidly. Immense quantities of timber and rock are being delivered on both sides of the Missouri river for the bridges at this place. A large force is at work on the North Missouri railroad, within sight of town, and also on the tunnel near Liberty landing.

NEWS SUMMARY.

—The Boston *Post* says ten females are confined in the Vermont state prison.

—The ship Daniel Crockett arrived in Philadelphia recently with 6,000 bushels of California wheat and 5,000 bushels of barley. This is the first lot of California grain ever brought to Philadelphia.

—There have been six snow storms in Louisiana since the year 1800.

—A young man in Indiana cut down a tree that contained two coons and six rattlesnakes.

—Hon. Millard Fillmore is president of a new club in Buffalo.

—There are 4633 fewer votes in North Carolina now than there were in 1861.

—A severe snow storm prevailed on the 26th ult. in Wisconsin, blocking up the railroads.

—A man and wife, named Cook, were lost in the snow storm last Sunday night, at Florida, Massachusetts, and have been missing since.

—Sulphur has been found to answer the purpose, in its application to sugar-making, better than the bi sulphate of lime.

—In France a man who spoke disrespectfully of the Emperor in a stage coach has been fined $100.

—The selectmen of New London, Conn., propose selling the town square, and a New Yorker has offered $12,000 for it, to build a house on.

—Five persons were knocked down and severely injured by a snow-slide in Boston on Wednesday.

—The late storm in California has equalled in severity the remarkable one of 1861-62, and has been attended by equally extensive floods.

—A fireman at the Milwaukee gas works, a few days ago, slipped into a vat of hot water and was scalded to death.

—It has been affirmed on credible authority that, if he lives, the young Lord Belgrave, son of Earl and Lady Constance Grosvenor, and grandson of Marquis of Westminster, will be the wealthiest man in the world.

—The toilettes of Madame Ristori embrace collections of merchandise and jewelry to the extent of $85,000.

—It is proposed to convene a meeting of the working classes in London for the purpose of eliciting their views as to the cause which alienate them from religious worship.

—A citizen of Chicago has been fined for letting two worthless horses starve to death. The poor animals' last meal was a handful of shavings.

—In her hurry to attend a sick child, a woman in Wabash, Ind., threw unconsciously a package containing $1700 into the fire.

—A private fancy dress party is being gotten up in Washington, at which all those present are to wear some costume of the era of Queen Elizabeth.

—The present population of Indiana is estimated at 2,700,000. At the same rate of increase it will amount to 2,000,000 in 1870—an increase of forty-eight per cent. in ten years.

—A few days since a farmer near Newark, N. J., was waited upon by a respectable looking gentleman, who said he had come to pay for a basket of apples which he had taken from the orchard when he was a boy, sixteen years previously. He insisted upon paying not only the original value, but also the interest.

—Canadian volunteer organizations are costly luxuries to the officers. One company has placed five captains and as many subalterns financially *hors du combat* by the expense entailed in keeping up the necessary style.

—An important precedent was set in Washington on Friday, in appropriating $9500 for the relief of Josiah G. Armes, whose property at Anandale, Fairfax county, Virginia, was destroyed for military purposes. It was favored by Mr. Stevens, but opposed by Mr. Morrill, who contended that it would open the door to claims amounting to a thousand millions.

—During the performance of the drama *Peep O' Day*, at the Boston museum last Wednesday evening, a stage carpenter named Wm. Hart, while engaged in setting the bridge scene, fell from the flies to the stage, a distance of nearly thirty feet, striking upon his side and breaking his hip bone, beside sustaining other severe injuries. He was taken to the Massachusetts hospital.

—A curious etymology of the phrase "Christmas-box" is given by a writer in *Notes and Queries*, who says: "Tourists in Egypt and Syria are pestered by begging Turks and Arabs for *bockshis*—*i. e.* gift or present. At Calcutta, the poor Hindoos, with both hands extended, imploringly ask for *bakis*. The work seems common over all Asia; and Christmas 'boxis' or 'baxis'—*i. e.* presents—is no doubt a term introduced by the Crusaders into the language of this country."

—About eighty a day of the new breech-loaders are now being turned out at the Springfield armory, and their number will be constantly increased until in February two hundred will be the daily production. The working force is being increased, but only those are engaged who have been in the army or navy, or who have served long and faithfully in the government workshops in that city.

—Gen. Dyer, chief of ordnance, states in an official letter to the secretary of war that no contract made subsequent to April 5, 1864, for the manufacture of rifles, carbines and pistols, has been renewed, and none has been extended. With a few exceptions, no increase of price has been made upon any of these contracts; and if any of them have been sub-let, it has been done without the authority of the ordnance bureau, so far as can be ascertained from the records of the office.

—A mischievous youngster in Richmond, Va., upon hearing read an account of a fire, in which a play-fellow figured as the originator, remarked that "he'd be dogged if he wouldn't get his name in the paper too," and straightway went up stairs and set fire to his own bed, which but for the timely arrival of the fire department, would have laid the dwelling in ashes.

—The New Berne *Commercial* says that within a radius of thirty miles of that city, during the last twelve months, there have been perpetrated not fewer than one hundred cases of rape, murder, arson and burglary, to say nothing of the hundreds of cases of minor offences against the law. These offenses are committed, in nearly every instance, by negroes, and the *Commercial* urges the assembling of public meetings to take some action to repress the evil.

Mr. Gilbert Munger, a young artist who began to paint in oil colors two years ago, has produced some landscapes that are remarkably fine, considering the short experience of the painter in his art. At Messrs. Philp & Solomons' bookstore, three of his pictures—view on the Rapidan river and a view on the Robertson river, both in Virginia, and a larger picture of the great falls of the Potomac river. These paintings are well worthy of inspection.

—The Columbus (Ga.) *Sun* learns that steps are being taken by a number of ladies of that city to give an entertainment, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the benefit of Mr. Davis and his family. It is intended to have both tableaux and music. The promise is that the affair will be one of a most pleasing character. It will take place some evening between now and the 22d of February. With such an object in view, and with ladies animated by the influence of a sacred cause, the entertainment cannot fail to be a complete success.

—Not long since a judge of the tribunal of the first instance of Rheims, in France, M. Lozier Lamothe, was so awkward or so unlucky as to wound three people, including one of his brother judges, while aiming at a woodcock. In consequence of his judicial rank he was tried by the imperial court of Paris, the first president, Devienne, presiding, for the offense of "wounding by imprudence." He was found guilty, and was sentenced to a fine of one hundred francs.

—A destructive fire occurred at Shubuta, Miss., on the night of the 23d ult. Eighteen business houses were consumed, including three warehouses belonging to Champoner & Sons, whose losses alone amount to $50,000.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.

The following letter from the United States commissioner general for the Paris exposition contains matters of importance to all who are interested in the exhibition:

MR. BECKWITH TO MR. USHER.

[Copy transmitted by Mr. Beckwith to the Secretary of State for his information.]

PARIS, December 3, 1866.

Sir: The documents issued by the imperial commission relating to the various classes of prizes were published by the government at Washington in June last, (3 series, page 43,) but the new class of prizes does not seem to have attracted much attention in the United States.

The new class is nevertheless most important of all. It is not composed of the material products of industry, but relates to the source of all industrial products, viz: the producers. It is composed of the persons, establishments, or localities which have developed in a remarkable manner good order and harmony, and the material, moral and intellectual well-being of the workmen and laborers.

The prizes are comparatively large, ten of 10,000 francs each, and one of 100,000 francs, which indicates the importance attached to the subject.

Material improvement precedes all other improvement, and is the source of them.

Associations and organizations which combine the sciences and industrial arts with labor and skill, augmenting the productiveness of both in an eminent degree, and at the same time improving the condition of the laborers, are among the most important institutions of the time, and they are without parallel in any past civilizations.

This new quality is, that they not only make the rich richer, but they make the poor richer; a result which was never before startled nor attained, and in place of industrial populations devoted to immorality and poverty, we have now thriving communities acquiring properties and education, and rising constantly in their material, moral and intellectual condition.

These organizations are not the result of accident or the mere growth of time, but they are the combined product of the ablest thinkers, the best judgments, highest motives, superior science—the practical skill and the solid knowledge of the age.

Each country makes its own development in conformity with its condition and its wants, and the attempt to bring together the most successful of these institutions, to be carefully studied and compared by competent men, cannot fail to be instructive and useful.

We have many industrial establishments which, properly presented, might compete successfully for the prize; but whether successfully or not, they could not fail to improve by the competition.

The reports of these should contain their organization, administration, capital, number of hands of both sexes, ages, wages, schools, libraries, churches, charities, publications, sanitary regulations, plans, marriages, births, deaths, savings and accumulations, investments, quantity and value of raw products, dividends, and, in fine, all the important facts relating to these small communities as if they were states.

These should be tabulated and briefly and accurately stated, to facilitate the understanding of them and the comparisons.

Similar reports will be sent in from all civilized countries, and will be submitted to the study of a special jury of twenty-five men, selected for the purpose from the different nations, and where labor has no connection with class, juries, or products.

The jury commenced their work on the 1st December, instant, and will continue it through the winter, that they may complete their reports and render their verdict in May, in time for the general distribution of prizes in July next.

Our representative on this special duty is Charles C. Perkins Esq., of Boston, a gentleman whose cultivation, general knowledge, studious habits, and acquaintance with continental languages qualify him for the labor, and whose circumstances permit him to devote the requisite time to it.

The reports, in conformity with the regulations, should all have been sent in by the 1st of December; but the jury resolved at their first meeting to remain open a short time longer, and will probably fix the last day for receiving reports at their next meeting, of which I will notify you. If this subject appears to you of sufficient interest to call for your exertions, be assured that any reports which you may send me, if received in time, will be clearly and amply developed to the jury by Mr. Perkins, and receive the consideration they may merit. But I need not dwell on the necessity of immediate action.

Your obedient servant,
S. M. BECKWITH,
United States Commissioner General.
J. M. USHER, Esq., Boston, Mass.

A ROMANTIC HISTORY.

A California correspondent, in a recent letter, gives a sketch of one of the pioneers of that state, with the preliminary reflection that "there must be something exceedingly fascinating in the life of a trapper, spent, as it has been, among the wildest portions of the Sierras, to induce a person of his character to embrace it." The name of this young man is Hartly. He is about thirty years of age, although his fresh features make him look much younger. He is small in size, slim and erect in figure with a frame knit together with sinews of great strength and endurance.

Years ago he was clerk of an importing house in Philadelphia. By strict economy and close attention to business he laid up quite a nice little property, and had as fair prospects before him as any young man could desire. Then came the crisis of 1857, and left him penniless. Not discouraged by a reverse of fortune, he left his eastern home and came to California, and failing to obtain such a situation in the city as he thought himself entitled to, he went into the mountains and established himself as a hunter and a trapper among the Sierras. During the fall of 1861 he built a cabin on the head waters of the American river, and proceeded to fortify himself against the coming winter. During the winter the snow fell to the depth of twenty-eight feet and a snow-drift covered his cabin twenty-five feet below the surface, and so great was the pressure that it required thirteen massive timbers to support the roof. He tunneled an entrance to the cabin, which was thirty-five feet long.

During that time he tended two hundred and seventy-five traps and deadfalls, and he succeeded in obtaining many valuable animals. In 1862 and 1863 he lived in the vicinity of Castle Peak, where he remained for five months in complete isolation. At one time, when besieged by storms, he was kept a prisoner in his cabin for thirty-two days, the snow being at that time over 14 feet deep over the surrounding country. In 1863 he heard from some herdsmen, who had been ranching their cattle in the mountains, that the country round about Meadow Lake abounded in ledges of some kind of metal, of what they were unable to tell. In the following year he penetrated the region alone, and from one of the high peaks near by discovered the Excelsior ledge. He at the same time discovered the Great Eastern ledge, and at once located them. He also discovered and located numerous other mines, which, if they turn out as well as present appearances indicate, will make him one of the millionaires of the country.

NOT QUITE A WEDDING.

"There's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip."

A matrimonial engagement, which was expected to culminate in marriage Thursday night, came, we learn, to a very sudden and abrupt termination, a few hours before the time appointed had arrived.

From motives of delicacy we forbear publishing the names of the parties. The lady resides in the First district, on a street between St. Joseph and Girard. She has been attached to a young man for some time, and finally marriage was agreed upon. A short time since she entrusted her devoted intended with a diamond ring, valued at $1400, which she desired to have repaired. The happy day which was to make the two one flesh, rolled around, and preparation was made in grand style for the approaching nuptials, and a large number of cards of invitation transmitted to their mutual friends.

Thursday morning the expectant bridegroom called on the young lady who was so soon to become the partner of his joys and his sorrows, and seeking a private interview, with great contrition confessed that he could not produce the diamond ring; that in a moment of emergency he had pawned it, and could not then redeem it.

The smile of gladness which lit up the features of the young lady to that moment gave way to a deathly paler, her lips quivered and her eyes flashed with indignation. She turned coldly from her suitor, and informed him that from that moment all connection between the two ceased—that she would never become his wife.

The young man pleaded with great earnestness, but all in vain, the young lady was inexorable, and nothing he could offer would shake her resolution. With a heavy heart and a downcast countenance he left the house.

At night, in accordance with the invitations issued, a large party gathered at the residence of the young lady, and their surprise was great when they learned the true state of affairs.

The young lady took matters very philosophically; she retained a gay and pleasant demeanor toward the guests; she evidently had determined that though she did not become a wife that night, she would at least have a merry time of it; and so she did, and in the festivities of the evening the real cause which led to the assemblage was almost forgotten.

Whether the fair one revelled in rosate dreams as she reclined on her lonely pillow, we cannot tell; those of the disappointed bridegroom must have been dark and dismal.

The whole affair was novel and singular, and has created considerable gossip. [*New Orleans Picayune.*

FOREIGN ITEMS.

A gentleman possessed of an estate near Bromley, in Shropshire, England, has hit upon an original plan for settling the church-rates questions among his tenants, several of whom are dissenters and opposed to the tax. He has written a circular letter in which he makes them acquainted with his desire that they should pay the church-rates without demur. He, however, acknowledges the possibility of some of them having religious scruples which would prevent them from paying church-rates except under compulsion, and he adds that any thus circumstanced are at liberty to follow the dictates of their consciences, and in such cases (as the landlord) will pay the rate for them, increasing their rent by the precise amount thus disbursed. He claims for the scheme that it will be satisfactory to all parties, inasmuch as dissenters will not be called upon to act contrary to their principles, and at the same time the revenue of the church will be duly maintained.

A dinner was recently given in Paris at which all the guests were literary men, and all cooks. *La Liberte* says: "Among the company were M. H. DePage, editor of *La Petit Journal*, M. M. J. Noriac, Richard Clarette, Maillard, Baron Brisse, etc. All the guests were dressed in cooks' costume; the older guests wore the classic cotton cap, the younger ones the *toque*. M. Clarette made up excellently as a scullion." After giving the bill of fare, Baron Brisse writes in *La Liberte*: "This dinner was given by and prepared under the direction of M. J. Gouffe. I had the honor of being one of the guests, and when leaving I declared to him, on my honor, that I never in my life ate a dinner more deliciously and skillfully prepared. The 20th of December, 1866, will remain a date illustrious in the culinary *justi* of the 19th century."

Thanks to the Russian embassy at Pekin, which has offered to forward private dispatches, the Chinese now enjoy telegraphic communication with Europe. Telegrams are sent through the post or by express to Kiaonta, on the Russo-Siberian frontier, a fifteen days journey, where the telegraph begins. With the post, which goes four times a month, a telegram to St. Petersburg costs thirty roubles; by one-horse express ninety-eight roubles; and a two-horse express 147 roubles.

The *Salut Public*, of Lyons, says: "As to the fabrication of silk, the year closes under great discouragement, especially for plain goods. A revival in damask is still spoken of, and the truth is that the taste for resuming this article is more decided every day, favored by the approach of the exhibition. But damasks being more particularly winter stuffs, it will be necessary to await the spring orders to know if the demand is serious and will be durable."

The court of Cassaton at Paris has decided that singing in the streets by night does not constitute the offense of nocturnal disturbances, unless aggravated by circumstances which change the character of the act and caused it to become a nuisance to the inhabitants. The proceedings which gave rise to that decision were a charge brought against four young men marching in company and singing a piece from the *Dame Blanche* at 9:45 p.m.

Cardinal Donnet, archbishop of Rheims, France, died on the 22d of December. He was the son of a farmer, and worked in the fields before he entered a clerical college for his education. He was afterward a man of extensive learning, and became bishop of Perigueux in 1835. He was promoted to the archbishopric of Rheims in 1840, on the death of Mor de Latil. He was created cardinal in 1850.

Two thousand francs have been subscribed in France toward the expense of experiments in the training of silk worms in a state of freedom, with a view to collecting their eggs.

THE EMPRESS AND THE POPE.

A letter from Rome, dated the 29th ult., is published in the London Daily *Telegraph*, and contains an amusing account of an attempt of the dutchess de Montebello to obtain an invitation for the Empress Eugenie to visit Rome. The writer says:

"There has been a regular family squabble on the question of the empress' visit to Rome, resolving itself at last into the positive and absolute refusal of the emperor to allow the prince imperial to accompany his mother. It is not quite certain whether the emperor has even now consented to sanction his wife's expedition, but there is no doubt that he firmly resolved for some time, and was driven at last to meet all her arguments and remonstrances with his favorite weapon of perfect silence. About a fortnight ago Madame de Montebello, who is still at Rome, received a very urgent letter from the empress, begging her to obtain an invitation for her from the pope, and if this failed, at least verbally, as the only means of conquering the emperor's objections. The duchess went at once to the Vatican, but was told that interview with his holiness was impossible; that he did not receive ladies in that part of the palace, and, besides, that he was engaged. The duchess begged to see Cardinal Pacca, and on his appearance she burst into a flood of tears, and declared that the empress' instructions were so imperative that she could not go without seeing the pope. The cardinal, seeing the lady was shivering with cold, first ordered a fire to be made, and then went to his holiness, who is said to have been much amused, and have very good-naturedly gone to the galleries where ladies are received, and sent for Madame de Montebello. The duchess used all her eloquence to enforce the empress' request, assured the pope that even a word of direct invitation would be enough to obtain the emperor's consent, and that the empress felt it to be her duty to visit Rome. His holiness at once replied that he should be very glad at any time to see the Empress Eugenie, and that if she felt it her duty to come to Rome, either to show her respect to him as the head of the church, or to visit the tombs of the apostles, he highly approved and applauded her good intentions; but he thought that a woman's first and most immediate duty was always to obey her husband. The duchess of Montebello took her leave and retired.

THE REPORTS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The prince of Wales is going in bad company, if the following story, told by a London letter-writer, is true:

A matter which greatly disturbs the good and loyal subjects of England is the intimacy between the duke of St. Albans and the prince of Wales. The duke of St. Albans is a young man about the age of the prince; and he has succeeded, in the course of his short but eventful life, in getting up one of the most notorious reputations in Europe. His character is so bad that, with very high rank and great wealth, he is not tolerated in the respectable aristocratic society of London. He began his career by getting into all sorts of scrapes at Oxford, in which city he used to appear with greater regularity in the police court than at the college chapel, and from which university he was finally expelled in disgrace. Since then he has been the hero of innumerable adventures on the continent, scandalous and otherwise, is well known in every gambling house, and brothel and police court of Paris, and is as accomplished a villian, for a young man, as you can find in many a day.

At Oxford, one day, while he was yet in his teens, three different young women appeared in court against him with charges of seduction. Since then he has matured in every species of dissipation, and is as well known to the London police as any long-fingered Jack from Billingsgate. And this is the most intimate friend, companion and confident of the heir to the British throne. They are constantly seen together, often go arm in arm together alone o'nights (and where they go to is hardly a mystery). St. Albans stays by