THE APPEAL FOR 1882.

In issuing its prospectus for 1882, the APPEAL has but one promise to make, and that is, a determination to maintain its character and rank in the fore-front of American newspapers. The APPEAL is now regarded as one of the institutions of the South. Its history for the past forty-one years is the history of the development of Southern thought, Southern politics, Southern industry and Southern literature, and its sympathies and aims will be the same in the future. The paper will continue to be the constant reflex of the most reliable intelligence obtainable from all parts of the world. It will remain inflexibly Democratic, but its space will be mainly devoted to news, the interests of agriculture, trade, commerce, manufactures, internal improvements, the development of Southern resources and all branches of industry. While always on the alert for the latest intelligence, it will avoid the mere sensational, and will never pander to vitiated tastes. The APPEAL is specially devoted to the interests of Tennessee and Memphis, its great commercial emporium, and will use its best abilities to promote both. It realizes that the future empire of this country lies in the South and West, and will labor to combine the political and business relations of these two sections in inducing the legislation of Congress for improving the navigation of the Mississippi river and its tributaries.

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MEMPHIS APPEAL

WEDNESDAY, : DECEMBER 28, 1881

THE Fall River, Massachusetts, manufacturers say they cannot afford to increase the pay of their operatives. They probably mean that they do not wish to lessen their large profits.

A CORRESPONDENT calls attention to a mistake we made in stating that Judge Horrigan had saved the county $46,000 in two years. We should have said two terms of court, in all one year.

THE Philadelphia *Record* declares the new Attorney-General, Brewster, to be like Caleb Cushing—a man of large abilities and small conscience. If this be true the Star-route gang have yet a chance for their freedom. An attorney-general of small conscience is just what they want.

A CORRESPONDENCE in relation to the evacuation of Nashville by the Confederate and State forces in 1862, elsewhere published, will prove very interesting reading to most of the readers of the APPEAL, especially those who were serving in the army or connected with the State Government.

THERE is simple reason for belief that the Elections Committee in the House was made up for the purpose of unseating several Southern Democratic members and giving their places to Republicans. Keifer has a "bloody shirt" in his private office, with which he keeps himself stirred up to the "Stalwart" standard.

THE New York *Sun* puts it in a nutshell when it says that "to keep the general Government honest, pure and efficient, there is but one infallible rule: Confine its operations strictly to the objects specified in the Constitution." To do this the Government will have to be placed under Democratic control.

ENGLAND, alarmed lest foreign nations learn the secrets of her naval superiority, is said to have issued orders for the exclusion of all foreign visitors from England's dockyards, unless provided with special letters of credit, to guard against the possibility of their coming thither from some rival power, "a chiel" for the purpose of "takin' notes."

SENATOR CONKLING is getting in some very effective work with the Administration. The appointment of Mr. Acton, a pronounced Stalwart and intimate personal friend of the ex-Senator, as sub-Treasurer at New York has been followed by the appointment of Mr. John G. Lamoree as Collector of Customs at Oswego, another earnest friend and supporter.

ACCORDING to the correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce*, a plague more terrible than Egypt's worst has descended on Washington. It is the annual horde of office-seekers. The "cranks" who infest the capital may be locked up in lunatic asylums, but the office-seekers are irrepressible. They swarm over all the public buildings seeking their prey.

THE Turks who dwell on the banks of the Dardanelles, having just got rid of a plague of locusts, are now groaning under a plague of horse-thieves. An organized society for the stealing of horses, under the protection of members of the government of the Porte, is carrying on its operations so successfully that scarcely a farmer or settler in that region has not been victimized. The operations of the society are conducted by instructions issued from its "head center."

ACCORDING to the statements of Mr. Healy, the Irish member of Parliament who lectured here last night, twenty years in hell would be a more comfortable sojourn than a week in Ireland, where, between the agitation of politicians, the consequent idleness and thriftlessness of the laboring classes, the persecutions of the British government, and the substitution of military for civil law, chaos, confusion, anarchy and crime are rife and rampant.

PHELPS, of Connecticut, is a rival of W. H. Moore's. Before Congress adjourned he proposed that a colored commission be appointed to inquire into "the intellectual status of the colored people of the South, their needs, and what, if anything, the Federal Government can do for their advancement." The New York *Herald* suggests that "the report of a colored commission on the intellectual status of Mr. Phelps and his constituency would be interesting."

"ROSALIND MAY" must be a man-hater. She seems inclined to lead the young of her sex to too much reliance upon machine-made corsets. In one of her recent letters she says that the new magnetic corset is the thing. That "the only sensation usually felt from wearing this corset is a comfortable glow of warmth, differing from ordinary heat by being most sustaining and exhilarating, as well as imparting a soothing influence." If dear "Rosalind" would brace up with the assistance of a six-foot man with a strong arm and a steady, *staying* grip, we think she would surrender the magnetic corset. She would find that arm equal to a whole galvanic battery-corset. Try it, "Rose," if you still are young.

IN another column we publish a letter from Commissioner Hawkins, which deal-severely, but we hope justly, with the Rugby colony and its founders and managers. From this we learn that all the troubles of the colonists arose out of the ignorance of Mr. Thomas Hughes and his co-workers, who were blessed with imaginations much more vigorous and persuasive than common sense. Their idea was a Utopian one and beyond the possibility of realization. In this country work, and a great deal of it, is necessary to success. There is no room for idle gentility. Even our millionaires work, and work hard. If the Rugby colonists, having learned their lesson, will only "buckle to" they can retrieve their fallen fortunes and live to pluck the flowers of safety from the nettles of danger now surrounding them. They should send Mr Hughes and his dream to the rear, and establish themselves on a practical basis.

THE Rev. Mr. Miln writes of the stage: "I go to the theater myself. During the past week I have seen Mr. Lawrence Barrett in his new and noble play, *Pendragon*. It inspired me with chivalrous emotions. It stirred my pity. It aroused my sense of justice. It gratified my dramatic instincts. It penetrated the past with a searching light and exhibited the men of other days in 'their habits as they lived.' I thank Mr. Barrett and his author, Mr. Young, for this noble picture. I thank John McCullough for many a pleasant evening. And in the midst of his darkness I stretch out my hands in gratitude to Edwin Booth for some of the best and noblest inspirations of my life. I have not found the theater a cesspool of evil." Mr. Miln has evidently never entered a theater of the "Shadow of Death Circuit." Had he done so the stage would have lost a brave and steadfast friend, and Booth, McCullough and Barrett would never thus have been vindicated.

THE PRODIGALS RETURNING.

There seems to be a peculiar fascination about Memphis. No old citizen ever removed from this city without regret and cherishing a yearning desire to return. Although subject to occasional epidemics, it seems impossible for the new home to subdue the attachment for the old one. The wanderers never abandon the expectation of returning. This has been recently illustrated by the return of the Rev. W. C Johnson, who brings with him the paper he so ably edits—the *Western Methodist*. Two years ago Mr. Johnson removed his paper from this city to Little Rock. There he did battle in the city of the unclean beast, and now he returns, weary and war-worn, yet cheerful, to the place of his early love, where he will be cordially welcomed. Not only his religious denomination, but the public generally will be sure to make it plain to him that they are glad to have among them again a man and a paper that have done so much for Christianity. The people of Memphis were sorry to see Mr. Johnson leave them. But the only question to be decided was the purely private one, whether his personal interests would be better served on the banks of the Arkansas or those of the Mississippi. It proves that the latter are better suited to him than the former, and, like a wise man, here he is again. In this we were not surprised. Indeed, we were looking for Mr. Johnson's return about this time. When he departed westward we thought the separation would not be eternal, and that within about two years he might return, and fling himself into the arms of his old friends, and vow that he would never, never leave them more. Two years have just elapsed, and here Mr. Johnson is, shedding tears of joy on the shoulders of his old friends and admirers. We are reunited once more, and it may be pretty safely assumed that we shall not be parted again very soon or very readily. We hope our prodigal son will not be fed on the husks which the swine did eat, but that he will be feasted and banqueted. But, badinage aside, the reasons which Mr. Johnson gives for returning to Memphis with the *Western Methodist* are highly complimentary to our city. He says:

> Two years ago, in view, on one hand, of obstacles apparently insurmountable, and, on the other, of promises which were flattering, the office of publication was removed from Memphis to Little Rock. This change, though well meant, was a mistake; but neither we as editor and publisher, nor the friends of the paper, should indulge regrets, because the experience gained has settled questions long under consideration and taught lessons of much value. The South is rapidly and prosperous as it is, is not such a center of trade and commerce as Memphis, and particularly it is not the center of the Methodist population, upon which this paper has depended and must depend for subscribers. Nearly all the subscribers in Arkansas can be supplied with the paper as well from Memphis as from Little Rock, and but few of them feel any greater interest in the paper at Little Rock than they did in Memphis—the fact quite a number of them entertain an unreasonable prejudice against Little Rock. But at the same time subscribers east of the Mississippi river very naturally prefer the paper in Memphis. Indeed, Memphis is an intermediate city—it belongs almost as much to Arkansas and to Mississippi as to Tennessee.
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> Again: The mail service radiating from Memphis is excellent, but that from Little Rock is seriously defective. Newspapers, and even letters from Little Rock to many portions of Arkansas, and to nearly all points east of the Mississippi river are not delivered any sooner than are newspapers and letters from New York. Complaints of slow and irregular delivery, and of entire failure, have been perhaps five times as numerous during two years in Little Rock as they seem to be, for the same length of time, in Memphis. We must add, that the civil in question has been in part chargeable to us—we have not been able to secure here the speedy service, such as we had in Memphis, though quite recently there has been very decided improvement. Annoyances and losses growing out of the mails, we have felt most seriously, and so have subscribers.
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> Again: Very considerable receipts from advertising are absolutely necessary whenever paper is furnished to subscribers at the present low price. But little Rock does not and will not furnish the needed aid, though very liberal to the daily press. Why this is we do not know. Advertising is a business, and every man has the right to manage his own business. But it is a fact that Memphis has furnished the paper much more advertising for the last two years than little Rock; and it is a fact, also, that the advertising furnished by Little Rock in the last two years, has not been as remunerative as formerly was that furnished by Memphis in three months. The difference implies a loss that would be ruinous in the course of time.
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> Again: There is such a division of policy among the brethren of the three Arkansas conferences, and there are so many newspaper enterprises on hand in prospect, that it is not practicable to secure in the State patronage sufficient to support a first-class paper and at the same time it is not practicable to stand the paper here to the wants of subscribers in other States, so as to supplement the lack with subscriptions from those States. An impartial city, such as Memphis, offers independence which solve the problem and remove the difficulty. The many can unite on it as they do in regard to trade and commerce. In view of these reasons, and others for which there is no need, we have reached a decision as to the movement of which we have not a doubt, and for approval we rely confidently upon the judgment of all friends of the paper.

This is a high tribute to Memphis, showing, as it does, our central location and commercial advantages. After a sad and unfortunate experiment Mr. Johnson returns to Memphis, which he seems to regard as the emporium of the Southwest—the great distributing point for every prominent enterprise. The talk about competing railroads destroying it strikes no terror to thoughtful men. No man can contemplate its central position, and the radius of rich country which it has for its support, and the enterprise which is now in its three prosperity as a great city. The above extract from the *Western Methodist* and the return of Mr. Johnson furnish a practical illustration of the natural advantages which our city has over all others. The next edition of that paper will be issued from this city. It is one of the recognized organs of the Methodist Church, and being ably edited by the Rev. W. C. Johnson, deserves a liberal patronage. And here it will not be out of place to congratulate Mr. Johnson on the rapid progress of the Church for which he has so long and faithfully labored. Only a hundred and forty years ago the Wesleys—John and Charles—began to form their societies, and to-day there are fourteen millions and a half of Methodists in the British Empire and the United States. They constitute, in fact, the second in point of numbers of all the churches, and are spreading everywhere with a zeal and fervor unprecedented. Unlike the great historic churches, Methodism owes nothing either to traditional weight on the one hand, or political needs on the other. The little band of Oxford students who, between 1729 and 1735, met together to pray, to exhort and help each other, sought no aid from other sources. They knew but this, that religion was asleep and needed spiritual awakening; that worship had degenerated into formalism; and that the faith once delivered to the saints had fallen upon evil times. England had a Christian name to live by, and yet was dead, wrapped in a stiff and barren moralizing. Deism did not so much alarm the spiritual-minded as the frigidity, the bloodlessness, the sickly pallor of a listless religion. The enemies of religion were chiefly those of its own sleepy households. It was into the midst of this spiritual decay that John Wesley burst with his example. He had been in America, he had caught the fire of enthusiasm, and the mystic power which had lain dormant for generations was once more to do its reviving work. There was nothing revolutionary in Wesley's movement, he was neither against Church nor State, but fought only against formalism and spiritual death. He was one, says Macaulay, "whose eloquence and logical acuteness might have made him eminent in literature, whose genius for government was not inferior to that of Richelieu." Whitfield perhaps excelled him in impassioned oratory, but Wesley possessed what was more permanently valuable, not only the spiritual fervor which seizes upon the hearts and consciences of the masses, but the organizing ability which binds them together. Mr. Johnson is a worthy disciple of the great apostle of Methodism, and while he is laboring for a better and more active religious world, we trust he will meet with his merits as a gentleman and Christian, which is wishing for him unbounded prosperity.

THE New York *Telegraph* reminds its readers that Captain Shaw, Chief of the London Fire Brigade, in his useful pamphlet on "Fires in Theaters," strongly advocates the general adoption of a metal curtain, supported and worked by steel or iron chains, capable of dividing the theater into two separate and distinct compartments, before and behind the scenes. There are, he says, thousands of engineers who, if not hampered by restrictions, would guarantee that fire would not get through it by it in less than an hour—ample time in which to clear the audience portion of the building, provided the mischief broke out on the other side of the house. Captain Shaw's excellent advice was given to the world five years ago, since which time sixty-three theaters have been burned down in the United Kingdom and abroad because managers generally are too contemptibly mean to spend a few dollars to insure the lives of the people. Such liberality would reduce their box-office receipts, besides which they regard the public as an aggregate of fools whom they can kick and cuff at pleasure without fear of results. Once in a while, however, they find out that this is not true. The public on occasions asserts its dignity, and then they howl like whipped dogs because there are no box-office receipts. Such is the case just now in Vienna, where their cormorant greed cost the public one thousand lives.

AWFUL EXPLOSION.

Nineteen Men Blown to Atoms by the Explosion of the Steamship West Point, of the Clyde Line, While Lying At the Wharf at West Point—The Vessel Catches Fire and is Totally Destroyed—Full Particulars of the Accident.

NEW YORK, December 27.—A Richmond special says: "News was received here this morning from West Point, on York river, of a terrible disaster to the steamer West Point, of the Clyde Line, plying between that point and Baltimore. The West Point arrived at West Point early yesterday morning, and the gang began to discharge her cargo. They cleared out all the freight between the decks, and had gone below into the hold to take out a quantity of kerosene oil, when, at 12 m., an explosion occurred which blew off the side of the vessel into the river and set fire to the ship. Nineteen persons, including four of the crew and nearly all the stevedore hands, perished. The first and second officers escaped, one of them being badly injured. The captain being on shore, was saved. The crew was mostly from Baltimore, and the laborers from Richmond and West Point. The West Point was a new ship, having only made a few trips. She was valued at $60,000, and was insured.

Another Account.

RICHMOND, VA., December 27.—An explosion occurred yesterday at West Point, Virginia, on the steamer West Point, plying between that place and Baltimore, which resulted in the total destruction of the boat and the loss of nineteen lives. The following particulars have been received: The steamer West Point arrived at her wharf on Sunday afternoon, but discharging her cargo did not begin until yesterday at noon, and after the hands had been engaged nearly two hours, a terrific but as yet unaccounted-for explosion occurred near the forward hatch, blowing out the starboard side of the steamer, and almost instantly enveloping the forward part of the vessel in flames. There were twelve colored men in the forward hold, all of whom were either killed by the explosion or burned to death. Five other men jumped overboard and four were drowned. When it was found that there were no hopes of saving the steamer she was cut loose and the tide drifted her two miles up the Pamunkey river, where she continued to burn until everything combustible about her was destroyed and her iron hull had broken in two amidships. Among the killed were L. S. Bradford, chief stevedore. First Officer Peter Geohegan, of Baltimore, was blown overboard and badly burned. Quartermaster William Bohannon, also of Baltimore, was seriously burned. Of the nineteen lives lost, eighteen were colored. Three others were injured.

The boat's cargo was made up of miscellaneous freight, among which were several hundred barrels of oil, sixty of which were gasoline oil, and becoming ignited the flames spread with such frightful rapidity that there was no chance of saving the vessel, nor any one on board, even if there was one not killed by the explosion. The forward portion of the deck and a great part of the starboard side were thrown out, and there is no doubt that all in the hold, or near the forward hatch, were instantly killed. Four men were drowned, which allowed four-fifths of the gang stowing cotton in the afterhold. As soon as this gang heard the explosion and saw the rapid spread of the fire, they, together with the boy assisting them, made for the starboard part and plunged into the river. Just then the large hatch slid off the deck and falling on then disabled four or five more of the crew. The fifth saved himself by swimming back to the wharf, while the boy succeeded in getting on a floating hatch, and was recovered by a boat from the shore. The names of the four drowned men were Fenning, Taylor, Stark and Tiler. These names are included in the list previously sent. The cause of the explosion is as yet a mystery. The officers of the Richmond and Danville Railroad company, which runs its West Point line in connection with the Baltimore steamer, who arrived to day from West Point, state that they were utterly unable to account for the disaster. They say the only fire on board was under the boiler which runs the hoisting engine, and the engineer running it remained at his post and was unhurt. The hold had been opened nearly two hours when the explosion occurred, so the theories of boiler or confined gas explosion are done away with. John Jarvis, colored fireman, was in the boiler cleaning it out. He of course had a light, and this was the only light known to be on board the steamer. The West Point was built in Baltimore, at a cost of $70,000, and this was her second trip. She took the place of the steamer Shirley, which, together with the wharves at West Point, were destroyed by fire November 28, 1880, and a portion of the Shirley's iron plating was used in the construction of the West Point. All the upper works of the Shirley were burned in Baltimore December 27, 1877, this making the third time the vessel or a portion thereof had undergone the ordeal of fire. The West Point was owned by the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Richmond Steamboat company. The value of her cargo cannot now be ascertained.

Latest.

BALTIMORE, December 27.—The steamboat West Point destroyed by an explosion to-day at West Point, Virginia, was insured for $40,000. George F. Needham, General Freight Agent here, says that all the cargo between decks has been discharged, and a greater portion of the freight in the lower hold, which consisted of carload compressed hay, twenty tons of fertilizer, coal oil and gasoline. The freight hold was separated from the boiler room by an iron bulkhead.

TENNESSEE TRIFLES.

Snow fell at Purdy Thursday night.

Mrs. Aden, wife of Judge Aden, of Paris, is dead.

Eggs are selling at twenty cents per dozen in Purdy.

Horse-stealing bothers the people around Union City.

Corn is worth four dollars a barrel in McNairy county.

Knoxville is said to be the healthiest city in the State.

Nashville is to have another large wholesale cigar and tobacco house after the 1st of January.

Clarksville *Chronicle:* "Hon. J. D. C. Atkins's health is reported as very bad, and he will return to Hot Springs."

The *Wayne County Citizen* says that a compositor of that office is teaching the students of the academy the "art preservative of all arts."

Mr. R. M. Hemphill, one of Medina's merchants, failed a few days since. His liabilities were about $5000 and his assets nearly $2000.

Dr. A. W. Smith has purchased an interest in the Ripley *News*, and Colonel George C. Porter has been placed in one of the editorial chairs.

The Paris *Post*, heretofore an ultra low tax paper, has enlisted in the State-credit ranks, and announces that it will hereafter "work for the maintenance of the honor, the credit and the welfare of Tennessee."

A man by the name of Wm. Roberts was found dead near Huntingdon recently. It is supposed he was under the influence of liquor and fell into a deep gully, fracturing his skull, which resulted in his death.

Prof. G. J. Lennox was lynched by a mob of disguised men near Dyersburg last week. Lennox is said to be a trifling fellow who treated his family unkind, hence the lynching for the purpose of driving him out of the community.

A tombstone at Sweetwater bears this inscription: "J. C. R. Hardin, Born December 25, 1775, Died January 3, 1881, aged 105 years, 1 month and 8 days." Mr. Hardin lived near Ball Play, in Monroe county, where he has descendants living.

Brownsville *States and Bee:* "It is said that over a thousand negroes have left the county during the past few weeks. The larger majority, if not quite all, go to Arkansas. Some of our citizens who have had opportunities of observation, predict that over two thousand will leave before spring."

Chattanooga *Times*, 25th: "Yesterday afternoon, while a small boy named George Day was engaged in firing a small cannon, he pointed it the wrong way, and when it fired several shot struck his small brother Fred in the leg, inflicting painful flesh wounds, but not at all serious."

The Spring City *News* learns that Mrs. Miles, the mother-in-law of A. J. C. Robbins, of Robbins Station, committed suicide by hanging herself to the bed-post. In a fit of insanity, about two months previous to taking her own life, she murdered her two-year-old infant by cutting its throat.

The *Democrat* says that the population of Sweetwater is rapidly changing. The number of new faces in a congregation of the people is wonderful. On the principal street for residences nearly every other house has changed its occupants in the past year. The citizens moving in are of that class which build up a town.

Deputy United States Marshal A. B. Cooper, with a squad of men, captured three illicit distilleries near Buck Snort, Henderson county, Tennessee, on the 9th instant. A large quantity of beer, whisky, malt, corn and meal were found. Pink Brewer, Ben and William Cary and James Crambie, the respective owners, were not captured.

Nashville *American*, 25th: "Among the distinguished outcokers and enjoyers of the L'Allegro ball, Friday evening, was Senator James E. Bailey, who is visiting the city with his wife. Colonel Bailey is politically as staunch and undismayed as when he sacrificed his place for his principles and chose retirement rather than compromise his convictions."

Jackson *Whig:* "The friends of the Rev. J. H. Evans in this part of the country are pleased to note the hearty welcome given him and his family by the Central Church congregation at Memphis on the 6th instant. On that date the good people of the congregation gave substantial tokens of their esteem and support by ample donations of flour, lard, sugar, coffee, tea, hams, cheese, canned goods and useful tableware."

Jackson *Whig:* "Some colored prisoners, confined at the county jail for larceny, attempted to escape last week by running over Mr W. F. Willie, the assistant jailer. But Billy was not to be run over in this manner, and threw his first man to the floor with such force and power that the rest feared to tackle him. In the meantime, Sheriff Blackard, hearing the noise, went to his assistance, but the conspirators had discovered their error and returned to their cells before the sheriff reached the scene. One prisoner had taken from the sole of his boot a steel plate, which he had converted into a saw. This was captured, and the sheriff, to prevent further trouble, examined the other boot and found a similar plate in the sole of it, which was also captured. Verily, prisoners invent many devices."

RUGBY.

Letter from Mr. Julius A. Taylor to Representative Whitthorne.

MEMPHIS, TENN., December 10, 1881.

Hon. W. C. Whitthorne, M. C., Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR—Inclosed I hand you an article purporting to be the production of B. C. Truman, in which he undertakes to give a very ridiculous account of the departure of Governor Harris from Nashville, shortly before it was taken possession of by the Federal forces. The statement is so little in accord with Governor Harris's character that it has only caused his friends mortification to think that any political enemy would resort to such means to impeach the reputation of this distinguished citizen, of whom every Tennessean is justly proud. Knowing that you were, at the time stated, the Adjutant-General of Tennessee and filling the position of private secretary of Governor Harris, and familiar with all that transpired, I ask that you give a detailed statement of the matter. I am, your friend, JULIUS A. TAYLOR.

THE ARTICLE BY TRUMAN REFERRED TO IS AS ABOVE.

B. C. Truman:

After the fall of Fort Donelson and the Confederate evacuation of Bowling Green, in February, 1862, and the subsequent stampede of prominent Secessionists from Nashville and other important cities and towns in Middle Tennessee, it was not long before thousands and tens of thousands of Federal troops poured through the streets of the above-named capital. It was customary, during those early days of the rebellion, for many writers, either soldiers or professional correspondents, to state that, upon such occasions, the Federal troops were welcomed by Union men and by displays of National colors. There were some such demonstrations made on the occasion of the rebel army, in some places, no doubt, but there were none in Nashville at the time mentioned in the opening of this paragraph. There were a few quiet expressions of satisfaction among the citizens, of course, but they were peculiarly undemonstrative. In fact, Nashville looked and seemed like a deserted city; nine-tenths of the able-bodied men, between the ages of eighteen and fifty, had been enrolled under the Confederate flag, and were in the army or in their graves. Isham G. Harris, then Governor of Tennessee, and now United States Senator from that State, had been persistent and aggressive in his efforts to prevent a stampede; but, upon the appearance of a Federal gunboat, that old gentleman himself seized upon the first quadruped that happened in his way, and made his flight from Nashville upon the hurricane deck of a white mule. This story was told me by an eye witness in Nashville, by Archie Cheatham, a merchant; M. Burns, a manufacturer, and W Hy. Smith, editor of the *Patriot*, all Secessionists and friends of Senator Harris. They did not, therefore, relate the incident to throw ridicule upon the self-exiled executive; indeed, it was to demonstrate his staying qualities until the appearance of a Federal gunboat admonished his excellency to get out; yet the above-named gentleman, and others, used to felicitously say, when alluding to the subject: "Notwithstanding the serious aspect of affairs, it was mighty funny to see the State Government of Tennessee humping itself out of Nashville upon the back of a mule."

II.

Representative Whitthorne's Answer to Mr. Julius A. Taylor.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, December 23, 1881.

Julius A. Taylor, Memphis, Tenn.:

DEAR SIR—Your letter of the 10th, which you invite my attention to an article purporting to have come from the pen of B. C. Truman as to the time and manner of Governor Harris's departure from Nashville after the fall of Fort Donelson duly received. You are pleased to ask me to give the facts in regard to the evacuation of Nashville at the time referred to. Now in reply to your request, permit me to say the charges in the article are wholly untrue and unjust to Governor Harris. The story published by Mr. Truman purports to be upon the authority of Archie Cheatham, a merchant, M. Burns, a manufacturer, and W. H. Smith, editor of the *Patriot*, all Secessionists and friends of Senator Harris." Mr. Cheatham is dead, Mr. Burns is dead, and therefore cannot speak. Mr. Barnes lives to speak, and, in doing so, denies making the statement as reported. You are aware that at that time I was the Adjutant-General of the State, and was engaged in the duty of organizing and equipping troops responsive to a recent call made by President Johnston upon Tennessee and other States for a large number of troops, and hence was constantly on duty at Nashville. In assuming that position Governor Harris placed me under the orders of General Johnston so far as to direct me that whatever request he made of the Executive of the State in relation to State troops I should give it prompt attention. The result of this order on the part of Governor Harris was that very frequently General Johnston telegraphed or wrote directly to me in relation to matters necessary to be done in and about Nashville and in the State. Some short time before the movement of the Federal forces upon Fort Henry General Johnston commenced throwing up some works north of Nashville looking to its defense, and in order to hurry this work slave labor, to a large extent, was called for. Of course this was quite suggestive to me, and hence I talked frequently with Governor Harris about the propriety of moving the archives of the State. Governor Harris was sanguine and determined upon a prolonged defense of the capital. I can never forget those days and incidents. Passing over much that might be said which could demonstrate the courage and fidelity of Governor Harris, I come to the day and night of the fall of Fort Donelson. He had full knowledge of the movements of General Johnston, and of the location of his troops; he was fully requainted with the agreement and deliberations of Generals Beauregard and Johnston. During the day of the battle of Fort Donaldson, there came from General Pillow almost hourly dispatches of the progress of the fight; these were confident and full of hope and promised victory. These dispatches were given to the public; the people were thoroughly excited; the residents of Nashville were congregating at different public points canvassing the news as it came; but toward nightfall the dispatches ceased to come, only stray ones as to some personal details. I remember that Governor Harris felt great anxiety over this. Separating at about supper time we did not meet until about 11 o'clock p.m., in his office (the little brick on Capitol Hill). I had received no telegrams for him, nor had he personally. After talking over the situation and the fact that no telegrams had been received, which gave rise to grave apprehensions and fears, Governor Harris said he would go down to the telegraph office and see if he could get anything from Dover. I awaited his return, which was near 2 o'clock a.m., and he then informed me that nothing from Dover could be obtained, and that the only message which had come through was one from the operator at Dover to the operator at Nashville, which said, "The enemy occupy our rifle-pits on the right, but our boys say they will give them hell in the morning." This gave the Governor great concern; in fact he was filled with gloomy apprehensions. Laying down together, I was aroused from my sleep by a knock at the door, and asked who was there. A voice replied: "Get up Governor." Governor Harris, who awakened at the same time I did, replied: "Is that you, Fisher?" (Fisher being the gentleman in charge of the telegraph office at Nashville.) The answer came, "Yes." Immediately Governor Harris rose and opened the door, asking as he did: "Fisher, what is the news?" Fisher replied: "I cannot tell you, but it is as bad as it can be, and I came to say to you that you should go to see General Johnston at once." General Johnson, with a part of his troops from Bowling Green, had reached Edgefield, and his headquarters were there. To a second demand from General Harris to know what was the news, Fisher said that he could not tell him without violating his duty, but that he would do so if it was his obligation to Governor Harris to come at once and urge him to go over and see General Johnston. I knew as well as Governor Harris that this meant a severe disaster to us at Fort Donelson, but the nature and extent of which we were left to guess. Governor Harris went immediately off, with a view of seeing General Johnston. Of course there was no more sleep with me, and as soon as daylight appeared I went down into the town. I had promised some friends from my own town to procure them transportation as nurses to Fort Donelson. I could not disclose to them what I knew at any rate, and hence postponed them and delayed returning to the capitol until I saw, by movement of bodies of men in the streets of Nashville, that the facts would soon be officially known. Detaching myself from my friends I went to the capitol, and, in going, I learned from some friends that Governor Harris, a few moments before, was seen going down College street. I, therefore, did not expect to see him at the capitol, but did immediately upon entering his room. I found crowds gathered in the rooms and corridors of the capitol. I learned from their conversation, as I passed through them, the fact that Fort Donelson had fallen, and the further fact that the General Assembly, which had been in session for some time at the capitol, would meet that morning (Sunday). Upon reaching Governor Harris he took me to one side and told me in brief words what had happened, which, in substance, was this: That General Johnston's dispatches had informed him that with the coming of the morning doubtless a full surrender of the forces at Fort Donelson would be made; that Floyd had surrendered the command to Pillow and Pillow had passed the same to Buckner, and that these steps looked to the surrender of their forces. There was a high stage of water then in the Cumberland river; that General Johnston had said to him that he would be extremely fortunate if he could get all of his command (which had left Bowling Green a day or two previous) to the south of the Cumberland river; that he could not defend Nashville; that he must be in a position to support General Beauregard, etc.; that he (Governor Harris) had protested and warmly urged the defense of Nashville, but in vain; that General Johnson then said to him that it was in a military and political point of view highly important, nay, absolutely necessary, that he (Governor Harris) should remove the archives and all insignia of State authority to a point which would be covered by the Confederate lines; that General Johnston had urged this, especially in its political view, as all important to the Confederacy, and in doing so had asked Governor Harris whether he had authority under the laws and constitution of the State to do so, to which he had replied, that under an act of the Legislature passed at its then session, he did have authority by proclamation to call the Legislature together at any point he might designate in the State, etc. The Governor stated to me, seeing and knowing that General Johnston would not undertake the defense of Nashville, and that his (General Johnston's) determination was to put himself at a point either to support or be supported by General Beauregard, that he was forced to yield to a necessity he was powerless to control, and that he had therefore determined upon the removal of the seat of government and its archives. He finally stated to me that in the course of the conversation he had inquired of General Johnston what was the best point in the event of removal to go to, and that General Johnston had informed him that Memphis was that point. Governor Harris then directed me to take all steps necessary to the removal of the archives under my charge, and that similar instructions had been or would be given to the other officers of the State government, and directed me to see the superintendent of the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad, with a view to transportation, and also to see to the distribution of certain sums, the equipping of certain State troops then in Edgefield, and to see to and do other things necessary and proper preparatory to the removal, at the same time informing me that General Johnston had given a military order to the superintendent of the Tennessee and Alabama Railroad to hold a train of cars subject to the order of Governor Harris; that he (Governor Harris) would be exceedingly busy in various ways, and especially in going over the papers in his office, upon which work he must immediately enter. We separated, and during the day only at intervals would I see the Governor, and then for some directions or orders. At all times I found him engaged in official work, and the only personal anxiety I saw him manifest was in relation to his brother, Major Harris, who had been severely wounded and was then confined to his room in Nashville. During the day I learned from general that he was given some direction about the preparation of a proclamation to the citizens of Tennessee as to the future of Tennessee, his personal programme, which was to go with the Legislature down to Memphis, see that it was organized, and immediately return to General Johnston's headquarters. He regretted that he had to go, but it had been impressed upon him as a strong political necessity; the necessity being a perfect and intact organization of State authority. His programme he carried out literally. Immediately upon reaching Memphis the Legislature was convened in session; he then at once took steps to return to Nashville. At about this moment of time he received a request by telegraph from General Beauregard, at Corinth, Mississippi, as I remember, to come to his headquarters. It was an urgent appeal. Upon Governor Harris replying to General Beauregard that he must return to Nashville, General Beauregard provided a special train to run from Memphis to Jackson, thence to Corinth, so as to meet the regular train, promising Governor Harris he would see that he should not be delayed if he would come; that he would make it up in the speed of the special train. This was done. Governor Harris took me in Memphis, I believe, to body near Grand Junction, where I joined him, and others, used to felicitously say, when alluding to the shooting of the Duke of Modena, "Fisher, what is the news?" 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