On his death-bed Fletcher expressed his deep regret that he had quarrelled with Gov. Brownlow saying he was ashamed that Fletcher had lured himself the tool to make war upon Brownlow.

The Knoxville Whig.

Knoxville, Tenn., January 20, 1869.

Secretary Fletcher Airs Himself.

In the Press and Times of the 11th instant, A. J. Fletcher, Secretary of State, has published a letter denunciatory of the Republican party of Tennessee in general, and of the administration of Governor Brownlow in particular. As he has courted ventilation, he shall have our co-operation in securing considerable of it. The gravamen of his charge is that he could not, "without doing violence to his convictions, approve much of the policy of the present administration of the State government, especially of the Executive department." We quote the main portions of his letter:

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,
NASHVILLE, Jan. 9th, 1869.

Editor Press & Times:

I am so much accustomed to injustice and misrepresentation of late that a simple word spoken justly of me in a newspaper is most gratefully appreciated. I therefore thank you for the statement in your paper of yesterday that I am "a Grant man and a national Republican." Since I have no right or authority to speak of me otherwise than as a sincere and thorough national Republican, I do not. Your great party may have committed excesses in the prosecution of a great war, and in the management of the still more difficult question of reconstruction, or it may not be. It was inevitable, and to be expected; but it is the party that saved the nation's life, and the party to which we must look for the purification of the country and for protection to the loyal men of the South, and I therefore give it my hearty support.

Notwithstanding the above has been uniformly and invariably my position, I have been of late denounced as a "copperhead," "disunionist," and "traitor to the party." These constant and persistent lies have made charges against many members of the Legislature who voted for me for Secretary of State have fell it due to them that I should make some explanation and defense. Regarding my re-election as a sufficient defense, and not being an applicant for further promotion, I have so far declined to call the public attention to my party status. But justice to my friends may require further explanation.

Permit me, just here to say that I have never spoken or written a word or performed an act with a view to the gubernatorial nomination, nor do I intend to do so. Regarding such a nomination as most unlikely, I have not considered the question of acceptance.

The trouble in my case grows out of the fact that I have not been able without doing violence to my convictions of right to approve much of the policy of the present administration of the State government, especially the executive department. The commanding position of the present Governor as the popular head of the party in the State, and as the source of power and patronage, has unprecedented him by a class of admirers who denounce every man who dares to differ with him even in matters of detail as wanting in party fidelity or as giving bark to the party. The kind personal relations which had existed between the Governor and myself from my boyhood, and the intimate official relations which, by law, existed between our offices, made me extremely reluctant to differ with him in his views of State policy, or to disagree to any of his official acts. As a consequence, for a long time I acquiesced in many doubtful measures. But as the fall of 1867, His Excellency, upon entering upon his second term, sent in his message asserting his right, under the schedule to the amended constitution, to appoint all the officers of the State, both civil and military, for the full terms provided by law for such officers. Consequently, I felt bound to dissent to the management of the non-paying railroads, the proposition to issue gold-bearing bonds, the use of militia instead of county police, the administration of the machinery of the franchise law, and many other minor matters and measures too tedious to allude to. In these differences I have been courteous and reluctant, and have deeply regretted that I could not harmonize with his Excellency on all subjects.

Many have supposed that the difference between the Governor and myself were of a personal character. I gratefully declare that such is not the fact, so far as I am concerned.

Candor requires me to say that I differ with some of my party in the temper with which ex-rebels should be treated. The State government should have remembered itself as standing in loco parentis to the whole people of the State. I should have sought to allay the strife among the children of Tennessee—to heal and soothe rather than to irritate and provoke. Discussion—to cure rather than bear upon the wounds which the war had inflicted upon the body politic. It was absolutely necessary that while the passions of the people were yet inflamed and heated by the war, that the victorious minority should be protected from the majority. A partial and conditional disfranchisement could not be avoided. Our mistake was that we made the franchise law sweeping and perpetual—offering no hope or inducement to the ex-rebels to become loyal. Thousands of them would join our party to-day, but we see they cannot get in so without perjury in taking an iron-clad oath. They are politically severe policy of our party is about to produce its natural consequences. It is about to explode for the benefit of soldiers. If we had allowed the courts or the Legislature, if we had provided a special tribunal, to deal with ex-rebels, we manifested a loyal and patriotic spirit, we would have manifested a proper spirit, and would have built up our party and have made it impregnable. Instead of this we are growing weaker daily, and many of our best men have become disgusted and declared openly in favor of universal suffrage at once. The Confederates will give us the boon in spite of us, and we, thanks to us, will be the loser, instead of honorably. The only consolation that can be offered for the disfranchisement of our citizens is the protection of the minority. I pity the man who would disfranchise his neighbor for his own justification.

The man who is disfranchised, in a republic is not apt to love the government, or to take any pride or interest in it, nor apt to make a needful or even law-abiding citizen of it. I do not feel comfortable residing in a State where half of the people and two-thirds of the taxpayers are politically degraded by law, without any motive on the part of the State and its government. I desire reconciliation, harmony and a restoration of confidence among the people, and that this chronic strife may cease for our generation, and not be left as an heir-loom for our country.

Again, while I denounce and condemn those leaders who brought on the war, and those of the lower order who maltreated citizens and prisoners, I am persuaded that the misguided masses of the Southern people were inclined to their devotion to the Northern cause—had act it was. It is wrong to say that the men and women of one-third of a nation are all traitors. I take it that the man who left his family and home, and fought and suffered for four years without pay, and to his own impoverishment, would not have done so if he had not thought the war right.

These people were greatly impoverished by the war. They suffered defeat, wounds and captivity. We have emancipated their slaves; we have disfranchised the master and disabled him from holding office or voting on a jury; we have enfranchised the slave, and given him the right to hold office and sit upon juries; then in exact violation of the spirit of our institutions we have conferred the franchise upon the negro, and that it is time to commence, gradually, to make to restore their claims. A father may punish a child for rebellious and until he gets himself into the wrong. A. J. FLETCHER.

It will be seen that Mr. Fletcher's objections may be thus enumerated:

1. The Governor claims to appoint all the officers of the State, both civil and military, for the full terms provided by law for such offices. The Governor simply submitted the warrant of the Constitution dead for his action in the premises. The implication that lies over Mr. Johnson and the beginning of the rupture between the Governor and the Secretary is false and misleading, as we propose to show before this article is closed.

2. The management of the non-paying railroads. Except in the case of two East Tennessee railroads, and the reasons for those exceptions were fully given in a Message to the Assembly, the Governor has strictly trodden the line in the management of the non-paying roads.

3. The proposition to issue gold-bearing bonds. This was an immaterial incident of the State administration, recommended by Judge Watson, the Financial Agent of the State.

4. The use of militia instead of county police. The militia was not employed until it became perfectly evident that in no other way could the peace of the State and the lives of its friends be preserved. Nor was it then employed until the law was practicable, and many acts of murder and violence had occurred.

5. The administration of the machinery of the Franchise law. It is quite apparent that as to this law, and the temper of the party towards ex-rebels, as the Secretary is pleased to term them, he has more care for them than for the unhappy victims of their brutality. The blood of scores of ghastly, dead loyalists cries out against the misplaced sympathy of the Secretary, who can argument in plenty for the reinstatement of murderous outlaws, and only bestow a word of sympathy for those who have, thus far, kept the control of the State government from their bloody clutches.

6. Sundry minor matters, not necessary to mention here. Why then have they been mentioned? Does this statement of the Secretary mean the negro and carpet-bag question? Perhaps. We shall see.

7. The party "he is about to explode for want of soldiers." Will the Secretary inform the public when, so far as Tennessee is concerned, the party had more soldiers than now? How did it lose its soldiers? When? Where? Is it because of the defections from it? We judge Mr. Fletcher could scarcely have been re-elected to his present office had the letter first been published. Perhaps he sought, under the apprehension that the party would otherwise lose the soldier that his seeming adhesion gave it. But upon no other hypothesis that we can conjecture.

8. The Secretary claims still to be of the party and in it. In every one of the above specifications of dissent, save, perhaps, the second and third, and in these by implication, he has planted himself squarely in opposition to the platform of the party, as adopted unanimously at the last State Convention. None but an enemy of the party could condemn its general policy as he has done. How very respectful, (?) modest, (?) dignified, (?) to charge a great party, like the Union Republican party of Tennessee, which has maintained itself in the van of the National Union Republican party for four years, with want of soldiers! A man who could do this, a member and be friend? No!

9. The Secretary disclaims aspirations for gubernatorial honors. Far, if from the Republican party, So, if from the other. His letter is a bold bid for Etheridge's place.

10. The Secretary solemnly disclaims that, in all this, and in his general course, he has been influenced by personal feelings against Governor Brownlow.—We take the opposite ground, and we fix the date of the rupture earlier, and for other causes than those assigned by the Secretary for his surely official and political divergence from the Governor. It began before the Governor's assertion of right to fill all the offices, and hence there must have been another cause or causes. We can, at least, guess at their character.

The consent of the Governor to be a candidate for a second term of office was apparently distasteful to Mr. Fletcher. Here began the rupture. This interfered materially with his hopes, disappointing the Secretary's aspirations. This was the real difficulty. And this occurred several months before the date of the message referred to.

Another fact is this: the Secretary recommended a certain man to the Governor for Chancellor in the Nashville district, and then afterwards denied having so recommended him. The Governor proved the denial untrue. Not unlikely, this event irritated the sore.

Then, also, the temerity of the Governor and his friends in aspiring to the United States Senate, thus overlooking the calibre of the Secretary himself, had perhaps, some influence to the same direction. In addition, the Governor has been fully endorsed and sustained by the loyal people of Tennessee and by their representatives, all of which has, probably, not increased the amiability of the distinguished Secretary towards the Governor. Another fact, still, may be given, as bearing upon this subject. During the Governor's absence from the State, in September, 1866, Mr. Fletcher commissioned a brother-in-law of his as attorney general for the Columbia circuit, who had been a bushwhacker and Texas Ranger in the rebel army. Upon his return from the North, Gov. Brownlow revoked the commission, whereat Mr. F. was greatly displeased. Now, after all this, for Mr. Fletcher to solemnly aver that the differences between him and the Governor were not of a personal character is a most marvelous assumption, indicating a heap of calibre in him who makes it, and requiring more calibre in one who, knowing the facts, would, for one moment, believe it.

There is one other slightly personal remark due at this point. To other it may seem ungracious; yet it will force itself upon the minds of persons familiar with all the facts. It is that he has been guilty of ingratitude, base, utter, inexcusable. He himself admits that from boyhood his personal relations with the Governor had been kind. He might have said much more. He probably would, but for the entire lack of sensibility he has evinced. Ingratitude is justly denounced as "treason to mankind." Another has said

"If there be a crime
Of deeper dye than all the guilty train
Of human clime, 'tis ingratitude."

Justice demands that this crime be brought home and fastened upon him.

Mr. Fletcher was poor and in exile. Mr. Brownlow procured his recall and accession to the Secretaryship. He came on borrowed funds from his exile to the position which has yielded him wealth and honor. No sooner is he firm in his seat than he attempts to strike down the hand that had lifted him from obscurity to eminence and from utter penury to opulence. He may talk of independence and of manliness; he may urge that gratitude did not require the sacrifice of principle and right. But such a subterfuge will not avail him here. The public will fail to see, in the objections Mr. Fletcher argues against the party, or the Governor, anything so dark and perfidious as the base, black ingratitude of him, who, after all this, would pursue, and strike at, his lifelong friend and benefactor.

Mr. Fletcher's ingratitude, however, were it darker than it is, is no justification of any views in the Governor's administration. It is not presented for that purpose. His administration needs no apology, requires no vindication. It has received the president of commendation—the endorsement of a popular majority of loyal Tennesseans of fifty-two thousand—the endorsement of the State Convention and of the Legislature, and that, also, of the late election, which would have exceeded the majority of 1867 but for the murderous violence and lawlessness of those for whose enfranchisement the Secretary so beseechingly pleads.

At the risk of seeming impertinent, we make bold to put a few questions to the Secretary. Did he, or did he not, write a letter to a certain distinguished Congressman, doubting General Grant's fitness for the office to which he is elected? Did he in that, or any other letter or way, propose to that, or any other gentleman, to get up a white man's party and put down the niggers and the carpet-baggers? Did he publicly state, in Bradley county, last fall, that he thought as much of a man who had lost a limb in the Confederate army as of one who had lost a limb in the Federal army? that both thought they were doing right? Did he go so far as to say, at the same time and place, that he felt more concern about his sows and pigs than he did for the election of Ulysses S. Grant? Will he answer whether he stated to Mr. Bovell, the editor of the Jonesboro' Flag, that carpet-baggers and niggers could not run this State much longer? When these questions are disposed of there may be others to ask.

In the meantime, take the Secretary's own letter, and looking no further than its plain language, what must be thought of the consistency of one who could employ it and yet claim to be in and of the party whereof he writes? He assails the political, financial, military and general administration of the party, and especially its course as to ex-rebels, in unstinted manner, and yet claims to be of it and in sympathy with it. What strange inconsistency! The statements and admissions of the Secretary compel the conclusion that he would have the State government in the hands of the rebels if he could. That this is the purpose at which he is aiming. He says "half the people and two-thirds of the taxpayers are politically degraded by law;" that is, they are without the franchise, which he argues they should have. He says, had we been more lenient towards them, "thousands of them would join our party to-day." But these "thousands" added to our party would not, by his own showing, make our party that of the majority. Therefore he is pleading to have the State turned over to rebels, ex-rebels, he calls them, and he is "uncomfortable" because it is not done.

His course and his letter convict the Secretary of inconsistency, of infidelity to party obligations, of gross faithlessness to friends, of utter insensibility to the claims of gratitude, of reckless disregard of truth, and of a false, sickly, sentimental sympathy for rebels.

We have written this with no pleasure, but with great pain. Our only aim has been truth and justice, let results be what they may and fall where they may. If in this examination and exposure of the fallacies, not to say falsehoods, of this singular letter, we have seemed severe, the apology is,

"Its offence is rank,
It smells to Heaven."

We were republicans against this professed friend, but really earnest enemy of the republican party.

Tennessee in Congress.

The following bills were introduced into the House of Representatives on Tuesday, the 11th instant, by Tennessee members:

By Mr. Arnell: To allow for the payment of work on fortifications. To the Committee on Claims.

By Mr. Mullins: For the appointment of a committee to adjust and audit the claims of loyal citizens of Tennessee against the Government of the United States. To the Committee of Ways and Means.

Also, to remove and punish all unconstitutional office-holders. To the Committee on Reconstruction.

By Mr. Butler: To amend the revenue laws. To the Judiciary Committee.

In the vote in the House on the repeal of the tenure of office law, Tennessee members voted as follows:

For repeal—R. R. Butler.

Against repeal—Messrs. Arnell, Maynard, Mullins, Stokes and Trimble.

South Carolina has nineteen million acres of land. Only one-fourth of this is under cultivation. The rest is mostly forest land. Good farming land has been sold in this State for 85 per acre during the past year.

Proclamation, by the Governor.

WHEREAS, There exists, in the Middle and West divisions of this State, lawless bands of desperadoes, who are setting at defiance civil law; and who, by threats and acts of violence, are forcing many of our citizens to leave their homes; and

WHEREAS, In certain localities, in those divisions of the State named, it is entirely impossible for the civil officers of the State to enforce the laws thereof; and

WHEREAS, Those masked villains, called Ku-Klux, are taking prisoners from the county jails and hanging them without due form of trial, and are entering Railroad trains and abducting thence, passengers pursuing their legitimate business, and notifying conductors, of Northern birth, that they must leave the State, forthwith, thus having driven four conductors from one road; and

WHEREAS, Certain ambitious, disappointed and bad men have been engaged for the last two or three years in making incendiary speeches, advising the overthrow of the State government, and thereby infusing an insurrectionary spirit into the deluded wretches who are thus breaking the laws and destroying the quiet and welfare of the State; and

WHEREAS, The leading rebel newspapers of this State have encouraged this state of things—first, by denying the existence of the Klan—secondly, by ridiculing their atrocious acts, and further, by failing to condemn and denounce their outrages, showing, thereby, that at heart they approve their conduct; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature, now in session, has so amended the Militia Law of Tennessee, as to remove the restrictions which heretofore crippled it, giving the Governor full authority to meet such outrages with sufficient force

Now, therefore, I, William G. Brownlow, Governor of Tennessee, do call upon all good and loyal citizens, to enter the ranks of the State Guards and be mustered into service, and assist in putting down these lawless combinations and proceedings, and bringing the offenders to justice, so aiding to preserve the peace of this commonwealth.

Those enrolling under this call will be subject to the rules and regulations, as to rank, pay, &c., governing the United States Military. Those enrolling in East Tennessee will be furnished with transportation to Nashville, where they will be armed, equipped and distributed, under command of Gen. Joseph A. Cooper. Companies, heretofore organized, will be preferred.

This proclamation will, in due time, be followed by another, designating the counties over which I shall declare Martial Law, the effect of which will be to set aside civil law, and turn offenders over to the Military, who will try them, and upon their conviction, dispose of them in summary manner.

These outrages have been long borne with, in the hope that they would be abated by the public sentiment of the respective communities concerned. Forbearance has now ceased to be a virtue. The Executive is not to be brow-beaten, cajoled nor terrified out of the discharge of the duties demanded by existing exigencies.

All citizens who may not enroll under this call, are hereby requested and enjoined to use their utmost endeavors in conjunction with the State Guards, and otherwise, to restore and preserve the peace and dignity of this commonwealth, and all citizens are also hereby warned against harboring those masked marauders called Kuklux Klans, or giving them aid and countenance.

The Governor is determined to make the State Guards sufficiently numerous and effective, and to continue them in the field sufficiently long, until Middle and West Tennessee, are as orderly and secure, as, happily, East Tennessee is to-day.

Papers in the State, authorized by law to do the public printing are requested to copy this Proclamation, three times.

In testimony whereof I have signed the foregoing, and affixed the Great Seal of the State, this twentieth day of January, A. D. 1869.

[SEAL] WILLIAM G. BROWNLOW

Southern Railroads.

Our neighbors in South and North Carolina are moving with earnest vigor in the matter of their railroads. Appropriations, wise and liberal, have been made to form western connections. If they are met by Tennessee with like spirit, it will open an era of prosperity most cheering to contemplate.

Now is the time to do it. Railroad connections and lines are forming in other parts of the country.—Norfolk and Cincinnati, Washington and Cincinnati, Washington and Pittsburg, New York and St. Louis and San Francisco. Unless we move promptly, trade will have found its lines, business will have chrystallized upon those lines, and Tennessee will be left out in the cold. In that case, we cannot in twenty-five years, if ever, recover what we might have secured by prompt and energetic action. We urge these considerations upon our legislators.—There never was a moment in our history as a State fraught with more significance than the present. It is the simple question of now or not at all within the present generation. An appropriation of next year, or two or three years hence, will not avail, as then trade would have found its channels or formed its connections, and we could not recover it. In South Carolina an effort is being made in the Legislature to consolidate the Columbia and Augusta roads with the Charleston road. Doubtless a wise arrangement; thus saving the expense of one set of officers and giving greater efficiency and unity to the roads so consolidated, as well as greater comfort and satisfaction to the passengers, as it is not pleasant to change cars so often. Consolidation is the true policy of short roads.

The example of the East Tennessee roads is in point. The two roads—the East Tennessee and Virginia and the East Tennessee and Georgia Roads—are now run under one set of officers, at a saving to the roads of perhaps $50,000 a year. This, however, is one of the least of the advantages of this combination. In various other ways, benefit is realized by consolidation. We can well remember when the New York Central Road, from Albany to Buffalo, was controlled by several different companies, and when rival interests and lack of unity rendered the route unpleasant, expensive and tardy, as well as kept the stock down in price. They are all consolidated. Their stock is among the best in the world. The fare is only two cents a mile, and the passengers are put through without detention. The Legislature of South Carolina is seeking to improve the speed of their roads and reduce the fare. Both of these are important objects.

The Ku Klux.

Nothing further has been heard from Detective Barmore or Mr. Dowdy, although some ten or twelve days have elapsed since they were abducted.

Last week the same bloody organization entered the jail at Murfreesboro', and took therefrom a negro named Joe Copeland. How they disposed of him may be inferred from the fact that he was carried off with a rope around his neck.

The Legislature has passed an amendment to the militia bill, which gives the Governor adequate power to employ it availably. The proclamation, in another column, indicates how he proposes to deal with the lawless disturbers of the public peace.

BOOK BINDING of description done at the WHIG Office on short notice.

Southern Outrages.

A band of Ku Klux stopped the passenger train on the Nashville and Decatur road, at Columbia, and abducted detective Barmore, of the Nashville police. This occurred on the 13th instant, at 11 o'clock, A. M.—Since then nothing can be learned of him, although diligent search has been made—the supposition is that he has been murdered.

The coincidence between these outbreaks and efforts in the Legislature to extend the franchise is remarkable. It will be remembered that the same thing occurred during the extra session, when the rebel generals, including him of Fort Pillow notoriety, attempted their masterly flank movement to procure enfranchisement for themselves and their fellow-Ku Klux. We reluctantly accept the idea that this may be a part of the process. Raise a general muss, alarm the peaceful, law-abiding citizens, put men in fear of midnight raids, and arson and rapine. Lay it all to the injustice of withholding the ballot from the "ex-rebels," and under this sort of pressure urge the passage of a universal franchise law as a sovereign panacea for all these terrors and ills. In other words, hug the venomous viper to your bosom to keep it quiet and to prevent it from stinging you to death. Turn the sheep over to the tender mercies of the wolves, to pacify the wolves. We are well-nigh forced to the conclusion that it is a part of the Fletcher-Forrest Foot-Fowler "ex-rebel" policy to worry and terrify the loyal people into turning over the government into their hands. As for Fletcher, he is "uncomfortable" to live in a State where the "ex-rebels" are prevented from directing its policy.

A man is corrupt or brainless who would propose such a theory. One who would consent, for a moment, to yield to such an argument is both a fool and a coward. We hope and believe that the General Assembly will never grant the franchise to "ex-rebels" who are unrepentant. And a very good way to bring forth fruits meet for repentance, is to use every exertion to put a stop to the crimes of the scarlet-robed knights of the mask, and to bring such a pressure of public opinion and of social influence to bear against it that it will no more be tolerated than any other form of high-handed, outrageous crime.

More of the Ku-Klux in Tennessee.

In Warren county, recently, the Ku-Klux villains approached the residence of a colored man, masked and armed, and began their depredations. The colored man defended his castle, and sent a load of buckshot into their faces, severely wounding one of them, when they fled.

In Bedford county, more recently still, viz on the 2d inst., sixty masked men, all armed, came into Shelbyville and concentrated on the public square. The negroes had received warning of their approach, and met them prepared to defend themselves. Firing commenced, on which side is not stated, and was continued for half an hour. The chivalrous marauders were worsted and fled. One of the raiders was mortally wounded, and several of them slightly. The band were young persons, none of them scarcely more than sixteen years of age.

The Banner, from which this account is taken, says that all parties in Shelbyville denounce the raid as most inexcusable, in which conclusion that paper concurs. But that paper gives a quasi approval of the outrage, by alleging, in its account of the fray, that "Radicalism has ever industriously developed and intensified race animosity."

The following incidents of the fray are thus given:

While the strangers were "shushing" about the town, a small squad of them met a naval cadet, at home from Annapolis on furlough. They attempted to cut the buttons from his jacket, when several citizens of Shelbyville, who had been Confederate soldiers, stepped up and declared the outrage should not be committed; and that they would prevent it if there had to be a fight "then and there." The buttons were not disturbed.

Major Ivie, an ex-Confederate soldier, was a heavy sufferer by the raid. He, on several occasions, openly and strongly condemned the violent deeds of the lawless men who had made their appearance in various portions of Bedford county.—Whether his misfortune was brought about by those whom he had so fearlessly criticised, or whether it was of an accidental nature, is not known. On the night in question, his newly-erected barn, containing five horses, several cows and calves, two fine carriages, 250 barrels of corn, 8,000 bundles of oats, etc., in all valued at $5,500, was burned to the ground. We are inclined to believe that the building was accidentally set on fire by a squad who had entered it for the purpose of donning their disguises. It was about far enough from the town for that purpose, and the evidences left behind point to that conclusion.

The Memphis Evening Post, of January 8th, has this account of the Ku-Klux murderers and their doings:

We have already repeatedly called the attention of our authorities to the outrages being perpetrated by the Ku-Klux in the northern part of the county. We learn from a reliable gentleman that nine men have been murdered, in cold blood, by these masked villians, within two months, in the vicinity of Big Creek. Such is the terrorism existing that colored men from that neighborhood dare not refer to these horrid outrages. Among those murdered since the election was an aged, inoffensive colored preacher, who had raised a good crop, and whose only crime was voting for Grant and Colfax. This man, white with age, was taken out by masked men, at midnight, and butchered in the most fiendish manner. His throat was cut from ear to ear, and his body cleft open in the most ghastly manner. It is time that this hideous brutality was put an end to.

More recently, the Ku-Klux troubles have broken out in Overton county. The colored people were assailed but defended themselves and dispersed the rioters and captured their horses. Subsequently they reappeared and made threatening demonstrations, demanding the return of their horses. From the Press and Times of the 9th we get the following particulars:

The Ku-Klux, being gentlemen of metal, smarted under the disgrace of losing their ghostly armor, and their trusty steeds; and returned to town on the following Saturday night to demand the rendition of the lost property. A prominent citizen of the place, and a Union man, anticipating that his house would be made an object of attack that night, made some preliminary arrangements therefor. A few friends were gathered in there who brushed up their weapons, and made things tidy. They waited through the long slow hours of the night till towards two in the morning, then, concluding that no demonstrations of a hostile character were intended, the party went to sleep; but in a short time they were roused. There was noise outside. Mr. Lewis went out on the porch, pistol in hand. He saw a solitary Ku-Klux underneath the porch, and was in the act of firing, when he was prevented by one of his party, who pointed out a company of the shrouded heroes away in a field at a distance, and after a short time another company was developed down the street. In the face of this demonstration of power, it was deemed best to take the discretionary side of valor. The object of the Klan was speedily made known. They came boldly up to the house and demanded to know where were the horses which had been captured. It was with difficulty they could be persuaded that the inmates of the house knew nothing of the missing stock; that it was an affair between themselves and the colored people, and that the information sought could not be obtained there. The Klan became hostile; something serious was about to happen, when, at the suggestion of a cool-head among the ghosts, another mode of procedure was adopted. They extorted a promise from the people of the house that they would influence the negroes to return the horses within 24 hours. This was making a promise which perhaps could not be fulfilled; but it could not be avoided without a fight there and then. The Klan went off. They numbered about a hundred men. In the morning, about 8 o'clock, something like a dozen of them returned and made threats. They made things lively about town for awhile, and finally camped just outside of town, where they continued to be reinforced every now and then through the day.

The Sheriff was also busy getting up a posse, and had about fifty men under arms ready for an attack, when Mr. Lewis left to come to Nashville to see if something cannot be done to exterminate these pests of the State.

It is rumored among his friends that Col. Dowdy has fallen a victim to the blood-thirsty ghosts. He was to have met parties here in town days ago, but has not made his appearance yet, and serious apprehensions are entertained for his safety.

THE State Union Republican Convention is called to meet on the 22d of May.

One Cent a Mile.

At the late railroad convention in Atlanta, the railroads extending South from Virginia agreed to transport immigrants over their lines at one cent per mile. This is a very sensible movement. Let the fact be published far and near. Only by adopting the tactics of the States which are seeking and getting immigration, shall we successfully compete with them. Ring the bell, loud and long.

Inquiries about Tennessee.

The following letters are samples of many being received from other parts of the Union:

CUYAHOGA FALLS, Ohio, Jan. 4th.

Knoxville Whig:

Dear Sir—I have been desirous of learning something more definite in reference to your place. (1) I have been reading the Hank Book of Tennessee, but it does not give the size of towns and business, &c. I have thought some of visiting Tennessee, and should like to learn all I can before making the visit. Will you have the kindness to answer me a few questions? First, do you think it a healthy place in that vicinity? What number of inhabitants have you in Knoxville? Is there any business that a man could engage in there with a capital of say five or six thousand dollars that would be profitable? (2) What is mechanical labor worth? (3) Have you a planing mill, sash, door and blind factory? (4) or would one pay? (5) Have you any paper mills in that section? (6) What is printing paper worth? (7)

Enclosed find $1 to pay for answering the above questions, and if you can afford to send me a few copies of the WHIG do so, and you will confer a favor on one anxious to learn something of your country and town. Yours truly,

AUSTIN BABCOCK.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Jan. 4, 1869.

Editor Knoxville Whig:

Dear Sir—Enclosed find $2, for which please send one copy of your paper.

The object of the writer is to ascertain through your columns what protection Northern men would have for life and property if they were to settle there. (8)

I was a soldier in the Northern army during the late war, and I have traveled over the greater part of East Tennessee, and became much attached to it on many accounts, and if I could only satisfy my friends that they could go there with safety, could induce many of them to go there with me; and if the editor will take the trouble to insert a short article in his columns, stating the kind and quality of land to be found there, also the average price at which lands improved and unimproved can be bought, (9) he will not only confer a favor, but will aid in bringing to that section both capital and labor, both of which are needed to develop its resources.

Trusting you will find it agreeable to grant the within request, I am, Truly yours,

D. W. EARAT.

We briefly respond to the inquiries of these correspondents, following the several questions in the order in which they are given.

(1) Knoxville is the county town of Knox county, the third city in the State for proportion, only Memphis and Nashville being before it. It is central to the valley of East Tennessee lying between the Cumberland and Alleghany Mountains. It is one hundred and thirty miles from Bristol on the Virginia line on the east, and one hundred and twelve miles from Chattanooga on the west, near the Georgia line. It is as healthy a place as can be found east of the Rocky Mountains. Knoxville contains, probably, nearly or quite ten thousand inhabitants, and is growing faster than any other city of the South of which we have knowledge.

(2) There are many branches of business that might be profitably followed in Knoxville and elsewhere in East Tennessee. We would suggest a broom factory, a tub and pail factory, a wooden ware manufactory, a pottery, or a trip hammer.

(3) Depends upon what it is. Railroad engineers receive $3 per day, machinists in proportion, carpenters from $1.50 to $3, day laborers $1 per day.

(4) There are two planing mills and sash and blind factories.

(5) Both these find plenty to do, as we are advised. The presumption is that the business pays, or it would not be continued.

(6) We have a good and extensive paper mill near Knoxville. But there is plenty of room for another.

(7) Printing paper, a fair article and size of the WHIG, sells at $5 per ream.

(8) Ample protection is furnished to all orderly citizens. The people in East Tennessee are as law-abiding and peaceable as in any of the Western States. A great reason for this is in the fact that the large majority of the citizens are and were loyal to the government of the State and of the United States. You may assure your Luzerne county friends that they will be entirely safe in settling in East Tennessee.

(9) The lands in East Tennessee are rolling, that is the country is greatly uneven in surface, consisting of valleys, hills and ridges. From land of poor quality it varies up to as good as can be found in any country. The great body of the land is above the average of ordinary farming land. Clay soil, clay and alluvial, slate subsoil, and soil on limestone, are the general discriptions. The country is all well watered, both for stock and for propelling machinery. The winters are short and mild. The summers are pleasant and not too hot. It is a fair wheat country. Vegetables do well. For corn crops it is unrivalled. Farms can be bought at from $2 per acre to $100, (according to location and improvements,) but good farms with fair improvements can be secured at from $15 to $30 per acre. The country is well adapted to sheep and stock-raising. Tell your friends that East Tennessee contains all the mineral advantages of Northern and Western Pennsylvania, and as a farming country it is superior.

How they Describe Him.

The Forerunner, a Conservative paper which hails from Sweetwater, speaks of Gov. Clayton, of Arkansas, as "Devil Clayton," and thus further speaks of his doings:

Powell Clayton, so-called Governor of Arkansas, has turned out to be a very devil. Since he has gotten the power to injure and oppress, no man in the country has used it more persistently and mercilessly. A few years ago he occupied a surveyor's office in Leavenworth, Kansas, and had no fame except as the laziest man in the town. Since then, however, things have changed with him, and he bids fair to achieve the reputation of being the biggest devil out of purgatory. He has kindled, without cause, the flames of civil war in Arkansas, and the suffering people have no redress. Even the Great Mogul, Grant, the telegraph says, has no power to control his acts.

A special from Duvall's Bluff, Arkansas, says that the militia in Woodruff county have been augmented to eight hundred. Business has been suspended for three weeks, and is paralyzed in adjoining counties. Men of all parties condemn the oppressions and cruelties of Clayton and his militia, but it seems that there is no help for them. They are defenseless and must submit.

Now look at the other side. A gentleman of character and veracity who recently traversed the State of Arkansas, and who was in Augusta when the rebel papers in Tennessee and elsewhere were speaking of the reign of terror there, assured us that many of the reported outrages committed there by Clayton's militia were sheer fabrications, and that where facts were published they were highly exaggerated.

Gen. Grant's officers, who were sent there to make observations, report substantially the same thing. These rebel sheets will learn after awhile that there is power to punish offenders and protect loyal citizens.

The Penalty of Too Much Brain Work.

Dr. Parkar, of New York, delivered a lecture last Sunday evening, in that city, in which he showed the evils proceeding from the transgression of the limits of their physical powers by literary men, &c. He said:

No man can do head work faithfully for more than four or five or six hours. If that time is exceeded, all the phosphorus is carried off, and the man becomes irritable, broken down, and has softening of the brain. I have seen this overwork in lawyers, doctors, clergymen and merchants, who have worked the brain too hours. They have dropped under the burden. You can not violate the law of God with impunity. Sir Walter Scott did a large amount of brain work in the day, but he did not overwork himself. In his latter days, however, he became pecuniarily embarrassed, and resorted to his literary pursuits to save himself; but he worked too hard and completely broke himself down. One of the best scholars I ever knew broke himself down in his younger days, but he lived on to seventy, though he could only work some four hours a day. After then hours he engaged in vigorous exercises to keep him out of the house as much as possible, but he continued one of the best professors in the country.

Barryer kept his papers in such good order that one volume of his memoirs has already been prepared and is ready for the press.

BOOK BINDING of every description done at the WHIG Office.

Items from Washington.

The "Sam Murphy" claim has been defeated in the Senate. It is not probable that it will be reconsidered during the present session. It is hoped that a committee will be appointed to sift the Southern claims for supplies and recommend the meritorious ones for payment.

The claim of Tennessee for additional representation was discussed by Mr. Maynard before the proper committee—the House Committee on elections—and decided adversely.

The Judiciary Committee of the Senate have decided adversely to the admission of the Senators from Georgia. It is supposed that the Senate will agree to the report of the Committee.

The National Convention of Colored Men have adopted measures with a view to secure their objects, and express their belief that in Grant and Colfax they have two honest men, who will exercise their utmost influence, as far as they may consistently, to place all American citizens, without regard to their complexion, on an equal political basis.

Where the Staple Goes To.

During the month of December the shipments of cotton over the Louisville and Nashville railroad amounted to 7,511 bales, destined to the following points:

Louisville,	389
Cincinnati,	2,103
New York,	2,543
Boston,	1,187
Gallatin,	43
Pittsburg,	30
Fitchburg,	50
Providence,	70
Baltimore,	19
Patterson, N. J.,	25
Linwood,	30
Dayton,	31
Total	7,511

The previous shipments over this road since the opening of the season have been 12,773 bales, making a total since the first of September of 21,284 bales, including no small amount shipped through from Southern ports.

From the Anti-Slavery Standard.

Wendell Phillips on Springfield Bowles.

The New York journals are wasting a great deal of excellent indignation on Mr. Fisk, for the course he took in the matter of Bowles, of the Springfield Republican. When we remember the abuse and insolence lavished by Mr. Bowles, from his coward's castle, on every true man for the last ten years, we think such an offender has nothing to complain of. He has only been paid in coin. The combatants seem about equally matched, though, to be sure, Mr. Fisk, a new beginner, can not expect fully to equal Mr. Bowles, who is a veteran in this fine art.

If Mr. Bowles had recalled George Thomson's faithful dealing with him, when that gentleman and his friends were mobbed in Springfield seventeen years ago, and the scores of times since that he has done his utmost to poison the mind of Western Massachusetts against the best men in the State, he might have used his poison hours in profitable, if penitential, meditations—a much better employment than whimpering.

The Springfield Republican, like the Boston Advertiser, has belonged, in times past, to a class of journals noted for abusing those men whose personal unpopularity made it safe, and sometimes profitable, to abuse them. For once it has miscalculated. W. P.

For the Whig.

The Governorship.

Editors of the Whig:—The time approaches for the selection of a candidate to make the canvass for the next Governor of the State. In the selection of a man we should be governed by his reputation heretofore as a Union man and republican, and his ability as a statesman and financier. We wish a man with the iron nerve and fearless integrity of the present incumbent, and, at the same time, the cool, calculating statesmanship and financial ability that will carry our State through her present pecuniary difficulties, and build up her credit on a sure and permanent basis. We want a man also capable of meeting upon the stump the candidate of the opposition, and maintaining the honor and integrity of the republican party. Such a man we have in the person of the Hon. James M. Meek, of the county of Jefferson; and without disparagement to any other aspirants, we the voters of East Tennessee, present him as our first choice for Governor, and hereby request our delegates to the convention to be held at Nashville to cast their votes for his nomination. VOX POPULI.

January 10th, 1869.

That Christmas Present.

The Presidential Amnesty Proclamation of last Christmas has not so much real significance as it would have if the right of the President to issue it was clear. The law of Congress, under which former amnesties had been granted, was repealed before this amnesty transpired. The Senate called the President's right to issue this in question, adopting a resolution calling on him to produce the authority under which he issued it. Benjamin F. Butler has published a brief, showing that the Christmas proclamation is unauthorized and void.

The whole subject will, doubtless, be fully investigated, and the value or worthlessness of this proclamation will be decisively settled. The following comments on this subject from the Washington Chronicle will have interest:

Mr. Johnson has issued two or three proclamations of amnesty since Congress repealed the law authorizing him to issue any, and Congress inquired by what authority he has done it. Mr. Johnson throws himself back upon the constitution, of which it seems he has one left after his liberal distribution in 1866, and claims it under the clause which says that the President "shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offences against the United States, except in cases of impeachment."

It is contended by some of the best lawyers in the country that this gives power to pardon only after conviction, but none to grant amn