

# Weekly National Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1864.

## Weekly National Intelligencer.

By GALES & SEATON.  
JAMES C. WELLING, ASSOCIATE EDITOR.  
The subscription price of this paper for a year is TWO DOLLARS, payable in advance.

A reduction of 20 per cent. (one-fifth of the full charge) will be made to any one who shall order and pay for, at one time, ten copies of the Weekly paper; and a reduction of 25 per cent. (one-fourth of the full charge) to any one who will order and pay for, at one time, twenty or more copies.

No account being kept for in advance, it will not be sent to any one unless paid for in advance, nor any longer than the time for which it is paid.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1864.

## OLD AND NEW SYSTEMS OF EDUCATION.

It is remarked by Robert Hall that there are subjects on which men for many ages have thought deeply almost from the moment they began to think, "and where, consequently, whatever is entirely and fundamentally new must be fundamentally false."

We have often been reminded of this dictum of the great pulpit orator by the new systems of education which in modern times have been propounded by their respective votaries for the purpose of radically changing the processes by which certain results are to be reached in a given time. It seems to be forgotten by many that while the world has made progress both in the discovery and in the diffusion of knowledge, there has been no change in the faculties or in the calibre of individual minds at their birth, and that if the minds of men are to be informed by culture and by study there can be no dispensation from that labor and assiduity which, in the nature of things, are the conditions of all mental improvement.

We have before us, for instance, a publisher's circular recommending certain text-books for common schools in which a popular work on English Grammar receives the following clumsy endorsement:

"Those who are familiar with the difficulties attending the imparting of a knowledge of English Grammar, to the youthful mind, should hail with delight a book which will certainly relieve them of at least half their trouble, and make the remainder light."

Now, we are by no means certain that a text-book, whatever may be its subject-matter, which relieves youthful minds "of at least half their trouble and makes the remainder light" is for this reason a proper book to place in the hands of the learner. All schemes for facilitating the acquisition of learning which proceed on the assumption that mental improvement can be attained by simply "relieving students of half their labor and making the remainder light," are schemes founded on an ignorance of the nature of our faculties and of the real end of education. And all discussions on this topic which imply that any "royal road to knowledge" can be thrown up by human art or device are discussions which prove nothing save the socialism of those who engage in them.

But, within certain limits, the processes of education afford not only a legitimate but a very proper and interesting subject of inquiry. The relative place that should be given in a complete and liberal educational course to the physical sciences and to the classics upon such a theme for discussion; and, in illustration of this fact, we observe that a Parliamentary Commission has recently made a new report in England "upon the revenues and management of certain colleges and schools, and the studies pursued and instruction given therein," of which perhaps the most interesting portion is found in the appendix, giving the opinions of some of the first men in England upon the relations and intrinsic worth of the two kinds of knowledge—the linguistic and the scientific.

The only danger of all such inquiries resides in the fact that the devotees of particular studies are under the constant temptation of doing injustice to other branches of human thought or investigation. The bigotted admirer of the classics, as a means of educational discipline and cultivation, would find crowd the physical sciences out of his curriculum, or give them only a beggarly place in it. The one-sided physicist, in his addition to the positive sciences, may wish unduly to disparage "the humanities." In point of fact there is no question of conflict between them. They should both have their recognized place in every system of education which professes to be liberal and thorough. One of the classical martinet of Rugby having expressed the opinion before the Parliamentary Commission that the judgment of a first-rate scientific man, who is not a first-rate man in classical attainments, is depreciatory of the disciplinary value of classical attainments, is not of very high value, was immediately asked if he did not think that the opinion of a first-rate classical scholar, not having the same rank scientifically, if tending to depreciate the disciplinary value of scientific attainments, was also not of very great value? He replied as follows:

"No; I do not think it would be in the same degree at all. It is essentially a part of the one kind of study to know human nature, and it is not a part of the other. The one is naturally led to the study of man, and to the study, therefore, of what is good for the discipline of the mind; the other has not studied man, but things, and it is not his business to know what is good for the discipline of the mind. The study of the philosophy of the question comes properly within the sphere of one man's science, but not properly within the sphere of the other man's science."

There is both force and ingenuity in the reply, but yet who can admit that it is of sufficient avail to confute those who claim a disciplinary value for the study of the physical sciences? The utility of this study was thus defended by Dr. Carpenter before the Commission:

"Mathematical training exercises the mind most strenuously in a very narrow groove, so to speak. It starts with axioms which have nothing to do with external phenomena, but which the mind finds in itself; and the whole science of mathematics may be evolved out of the original axioms which the mind finds in itself. Now it is the object of scientific training that the mind finds the object of its study in the external world. As Bacon says: 'Homo minister interpretatur nature,' so it appears to me that the training which leaves out of view the relation of man to the external nature is a very defective one, and that the faculty which brings his intelligence into relation with the phenomena of the external world are subjects for education and discipline equally important with the faculties by which he has to contend with the abstract. . . . I may add, that having given considerable attention to the related phenomena of mesmerism, electro-biology, spiritualism, etc., I have had occasion to observe that the *mentis habitus* of mind is the source of a vast amount of prevalent misconception as to what constitutes adequate proof of the marvels reported by witnesses neither untruthful nor unintelligent as to ordinary matters. I could mention striking instances of misconception in men of high literary cultivation, or high mathematical attainments; whilst I have met no one who had undergone the discipline of an adequate course of scientific study who has not at once recognized the fallacies in such testimony when they have been pointed out to him."

nomens of the external world are subjects for education and discipline equally important with the faculties by which he has to contend with the abstract. . . . I may add, that having given considerable attention to the related phenomena of mesmerism, electro-biology, spiritualism, etc., I have had occasion to observe that the *mentis habitus* of mind is the source of a vast amount of prevalent misconception as to what constitutes adequate proof of the marvels reported by witnesses neither untruthful nor unintelligent as to ordinary matters. I could mention striking instances of misconception in men of high literary cultivation, or high mathematical attainments; whilst I have met no one who had undergone the discipline of an adequate course of scientific study who has not at once recognized the fallacies in such testimony when they have been pointed out to him."

Sir Charles Lyell spoke of the sound scientific culture of the aristocratic class and the clergy in Germany, contrasting it with men of the same rank and profession in his own land:

"It is a very remarkable fact, if a scientific book is published it depends more for its sale on the middle classes of the manufacturing districts than on the rich country gentlemen and the clergy of the agricultural parts of the country, and, therefore, if there is a distress like the present in Lancashire the publisher would say, 'Do not bring out your book just now.' . . . I think the present state of things unhealthy and dangerous, particularly so in reference to the teaching in the country by the clergy, and a vast proportion of the University men are going into the church. In order to bring their knowledge more in unison with that of the artisans, it is particularly desirable that a certain portion of science should be taught. . . . I feel that there is a dangerous want of sympathy at present between the better informed working class of the manufacturing districts and the clergy. Besides, the principle of limiting education to the languages and the mathematics is a direct injury to many men. A large portion of those who would have shown a strong taste for sciences are forced into one line, and after they leave their college they neglect branches they have been taught, and so cultivate neither the one nor the other. I have known men quite late in life, who have forgotten all the Latin and Greek which they spent their early years in acquiring, but upon geology or some other branch, all at once their energies have been awakened, and they have been astonished to see how they came out. They would have taken that line long before, and done good work in it, had they been taught the elements of it at school. (Mr. Twiss.) So that there was a mental waste in their youth? Quite so."

Very here that Sir Charles shot his arrow wide of the mark when, in his endeavor to exalt the dignity and usefulness of scientific studies, he argued that the acquisition of Latin and Greek was "a mental waste" in the case of those who, after forgetting all the Latin and Greek which they spend their early years in acquiring, had taken themselves with success to the study of geology or some other branch of science. To reason in this way is to ignore all rules of logic and all the lessons of experience, for who does not believe that any man will be a better geologist for having been well trained in classical discipline, even though he may have "forgotten all the Latin and Greek he spent his early years in acquiring," if that were a supposable case?

Mr. Faraday was also one of the witnesses examined by the commission. The argument made by him in favor of scientific studies was of a practical nature, but for this reason, within certain limits, it has only the greater force. He said:

"Up to this very day there come to me persons of good education, men and women, who sit at their desks and read from education; they come to me and they talk to me about things that belong to natural science; about mesmerism, table turning, flying through the air, about the laws of gravity; they come to me to ask me questions, and they insist against me, who think I know a little of these laws, that I am wrong and they are right, in a manner which shows how little the ordinary course of education has taught such minds. Let them study natural things, and they will get a very different idea to that which they have obtained by that education. It happens up to this day, I do not wonder at those who are not best educated at all, but such as I refer to say to me, 'I have felt it, and done it, and seen it, and thought I have not flown through the air,' I believe it." Persons who have been fully educated according to the present system come with the same propositions as the untaught and stranger ones, because they have a stronger conviction that they are right. They are ignorant of their ignorance at the end of all that education. It happens even with men who are excellent mathematicians. . . . Who are the men whose powers are really developed? Who are they who have made the electric telegraph, the steam engine, and the rail? Are they the men who have been taught Latin and Greek. Were the Stephensons such? These men had that knowledge which habitually had been neglected and pushed down below. It has only been those who, having a special inclination for this kind of knowledge, have forced themselves out of that ignorance by an education and into a life of their own."

## PROPHECY FULFILLED.

In his Auburn speech Mr. Secretary SEWARD said to his auditors:

"You have already abundant evidence of the exhaustion of the rebels, but not yet evidence of their consciousness of that exhaustion. These evidences will appear immediately on the announcement of the re-election of Abraham Lincoln."

If the following account of the amount of property destroyed by the cavalry division of Gen. Sherman's army, in its operations in the Shenandoah Valley, from the 13th of August last, given by an officer of the 1st Rhode Island Cavalry, as copied from the Provost Marshal's report, be true, the honorable Secretary's prediction has undergone an awful realization in that region of the insurgent dominions:

"Eight hundred and eighty barns: 57 mills; 4,955 tons of hay; 1,910,700 bushels of wheat; 4 saw-mills; 3 furnaces; 1 woolen mill; 515 acres of corn; 750 bushels of oats; 1,347 cattle driven off; 1,231 sheep driven off; 725 swine driven off; 560 barrels of flour; 225 tons of straw; 272 tons of fodder; 2 tanneries; 2 wagons with flour; 1 rail depot; 1 locomotive engine; 3 box cars; 14 army wagons and contents; 38 ambulances and medical wagons; 81 muskets; 4 caissons and contents; 30,000 rolls of carbine ammunition. Total value, \$3,566,372."

## CORRECTION.

Some weeks ago, in referring to some remarks purporting to have been made by Mr. Greeley at Hartford, (Conn.), we stated, on the authority of a New York contemporary, that the Hartford Courant, in its report of Mr. Greeley's speech, represented him to have held the following language:

"He referred to the secession movement, and said he had never had any objection to a people establishing a Government of their own. He was willing if the Southern people, by a fair vote, should declare that they desired to live outside of the Union to let them go."

We learn that this extract was not fairly cited from the columns of the Courant, and that what Mr. G. did say was that he had been willing before the rebellion to let the Southern people vote on the question, and if, by a fair vote, they should declare that they desired to live outside of the Union to let them go. He added that he was well aware that they would not be allowed to have a fair vote. He expressly stated that ever since the South had rebelled he had been for putting down the rebellion, and opposed to letting any State go.

The Provincial Government at Quebec has issued orders forbidding the transportation from Canada, either by land or water, of arms or ammunition, in consequence of information having been received that Southern rebels and their co-operators in that colony are manufacturing and collecting at available points shot, shell, cannon, and other munitions for the armies of Jeff. Davis.

## GEN. SHERMAN'S ADVANCE IN GEORGIA.

### REBEL ACCOUNTS.

From the Augusta (Georgia) Chronicle of November 18th.

We have the best authority for stating that Gen. Brown has received despatches from Gens. Cobb and Wheeler, stating that Sherman had burned Rome and Marietta, destroyed the railroad behind him, and with five army corps was marching towards Macon. Wheeler's cavalry, at last accounts, had been driven in at Jonesboro', and the place occupied by Sherman's army. We give these facts, not to alarm the public, but rather to prepare them for any emergency. It is thought that Sherman's march will be in the direction of Savannah.

From the Augusta Sentinel of the 19th.

A gentleman who arrived on Thursday evening from Stone Mountain reports that the Yankee column moving down the Georgia railroad divided at Decatur, one-half going down the Covington road and the other the Rockbridge road.

At Stone Mountain they burned all the unoccupied houses, comprising some two-thirds of the town, and were laying waste the country as they progressed. They march in hollow squares, their trains in the centre. They united at Baker's Mill, near Covington, and it was not known whether they would strike for Easton or Athens. This gentleman states that the burning of Stone Mountain and the destruction of Atlanta was awful beyond description. The Gate City was "an ocean of flame," as the fiery waves rose and fell throughout its whole extent.

Passengers on the Georgia railroad last night reported that about a hundred Federal cavalry men appeared at School Circle on Thursday and burned the railroad platform. It is not believed that they have come down any further than the Circle. Their infantry encamped at or near Old Sheffields on Wednesday night. It is also reported that they burned Monticello and Hillsboro', which, if true, indicates clearly that they design tapping the Central railroad at Gordon or some other point. The passenger train on the Georgia road yesterday only came from Union Point.

From the Macon Intelligencer.

The latest reliable intelligence from the front in Georgia we have received from a gentleman who left Griffin on Wednesday night at ten o'clock. Gen. Wheeler thought that city on his right, where he had only a few miles to go, and he was advancing with a force estimated at from twenty-five to thirty thousand, in two columns, one on the McDonough, and the other on the Jonesboro' road at Bear creek, ten miles above Griffin, until late in the evening, when he fell back to Griffin, and was passing through that city on his right, where he had only a few miles to go. Our military forces were falling back to Barnevillle. It is probable that the time we write, that Sherman occupies Griffin and will rapidly demonstrate upon Macon, and perhaps Milledgeville.

It is reported that Sherman has applied the torch to a large portion of Atlanta, and has burned Jonesboro', also McDonough. It is also reported that he has destroyed the railroad from Atlanta to the Chattahoochee and burned the bridge at the river on that road.

We learn from a reliable source that Governor Brown's residence in Canton, Chatham county, embracing his commission dwelling house, kitchen, out-houses, &c., together with his office building, were all burnt to the ground by the vandals for a few days ago. The officer in command of the vandals who were sent to execute the work they so ruthlessly and successfully performed, allowed the family who were living in the house, to remain only a few minutes to remove their furniture from the house, and all that was not removed within that time was devoured by the flames. The same party burnt the court-house, jail, academy, both the hotels, and about two-thirds of the best dwelling and business houses in Canton. A force of some three or four thousand of the vandals were within a mile or two of the town, while some seventy of the band were sent into the town, under an officer, with orders to burn the house of Governor Brown, the public buildings, and the houses of all who have been prominent in the anti-secession campaign, and that Georgia is the field which he designs to desolate. A terrible crisis is therefore upon us. Every man in the State able to bear arms should rally to the rescue.

From the Savannah News of November 21st.

We were in hopes last night to receive some further accounts from above, which, if they did not ally the public anxiety, would at least acquaint us with the true state of affairs, in which all feel a lively, if not painful interest; but nothing additional to the meagre and unsatisfactory reports published in our evening edition has reached us up to this quarter. From all we can learn, we believe that Sherman's forces are in the vicinity of Jones county, and that he is moving in an easterly direction, as if designing to reach Augusta, or perhaps Millen. Milledgeville is entirely evacuated, all the public archives and property have been removed to a place of safety. Whether the enemy have burned or occupy the capital of the State we are not reliably informed. It is hardly probable that they have left the opportunity past to indulge their malignant vandalism. The mail went out for Macon last night, and, of course, we need expect none from that quarter to-day; and as the telegraph communication is interrupted, we must expect to receive no news of the important movement going on through the regular channels at present. A few days will reveal the extent of the danger.

From the Savannah News of November 21st.

We are still without reliable information of the precise movements of Sherman's army. The reports which we publish from various sources leave no room to doubt that the invading army is advancing through the centre of the State with a view to reach the coast, but as yet we have no certain information of the route which it will take. Our latest and most reliable advices are that the enemy was in force in the vicinity of Monroe and Jones counties, and that a considerable body crossed the Ocmulgee river at Planter's Factory, seven miles west of Indian Springs, taking a direction which would indicate his purpose to take Augusta in his route to the seaboard. Whatever may be his designs we have assurances that our military authorities are actively on the alert, and that all possible steps are being taken to check, and finally defeat, a movement which is either promoted by reckless over-confidence or by desperation. We are gratified to hear that a feeling of confidence prevails among our people, which, with the unanimous determination to aid the military at all hazards and at every cost, gives assurance of a successful resistance to the vandal invader.

The Augusta (Georgia) Constitutionalist of Tuesday, the 22d instant, in an article on "the situation," says: "The only reliable information of the position and movements of the enemy up the Georgia road is that the bridge over the Ocmulgee has been burned by them. Their infantry is still on the Atlanta side of that stream. This bridge is seven miles above Greensboro'. Up the river from it fourteen miles is the Flat Shoals Crossing, and below nine miles is another bridge. Greensboro' is eight miles from Augusta."

In urging the people of Georgia to place all obstructions possible in Sherman's line of advance, the Constitutionalist says: "It is the duty of the officers in command to see that his road is made difficult, and forage and provisions removed and destroyed. Bands of men, by destroying the country in front of his advance, with orders to urge the people first to remove forage and dismantle and scatter mill stores and machinery, and if they fall through unwillingness to do it, then burn and destroy what cannot be removed. The Russians destroyed the grand army of Napoleon, and placed the great leader a prisoner on the island of St. Helena. Let Georgians imitate their usefulness and love of country for a few weeks, and the army of Sherman will have the fate of Napoleon."

The Constitutionalist contains the following in the shape of a late news article. It will be observed that the news is as recent as November 21:

"Passengers who came down on this road last night report that a raiding party of the enemy tapped this road at Orisvoldville, ten miles this side of Macon, at three o'clock on Sunday afternoon. They confirm the report of the captured and destroyed lumber train. Two freight trains, going hence to Macon, approached very

near to the wreck before discovering the approach of the enemy. The lumber train captured was set on fire, the engine reversed, and the train started down the track. The freight trains were reversed and put back as speedily as possible.

"A short distance this side of Gordon heavy cannoning and rapid discharges of small arms were heard. If it were for that united, chaotic, and unmanageable band of desperadoes, who were holding that position, they would have been crushed. Every report that the firing was at Macon. The discharge of artillery were very rapid. The regular mail train to Macon turned back at Tenille.

"It is supposed to be in the hands of the enemy. It had been entirely evacuated by our forces. Every thing of value had been brought off.

"Governor Brown is at Macon, so are Generals Beauregard and Dick Taylor. Every body about Macon are in the trenches. The members of the Legislature passing through the city, were ordered to put on their hats, but all efforts failed, and they managed to get off.

"The track of the enemy is illuminated by burning homesteads.

"The up-train on the Georgia road yesterday did not go further than Crawfordville, six-and-a-half miles from Augusta, from which point an engine was sent up to Union Point, ten miles further. The engineer reports that the enemy were three miles above the latter place, in what is not known, but believed to be a small portion of cavalry. It is rumored that the enemy crossed the Ocmulgee below the railroad bridge. The enemy was at Greensboro' on Sunday afternoon. There was no train from Athens yesterday."

The Constitutionalist says: "It is high time that our citizens looked the stern emergency in the face, and prepare themselves accordingly to ward off the danger. The worst feature prevalent in our mind is a general apathy. A frightened multitude may react to deeds and sentiments of heroism, but apathy is like the mist that broods over the Dead Sea."

The Macon Telegraph of Monday, the 21st, informs us that there was an increased feeling of confidence in that city, and adds: "The whole available force of the community is under arms and ready, at a moment's notice, for the trenches. The enemy are believed to be east of the city, about thirty miles distant. The direction of their march is uncertain. They are reported to have a wagon train eight miles long. Many are of opinion that the enemy are now encamped, fearing to attack the large force gathered here and the splendid fortifications which surround the city. One thing is certain, Macon is to be defended to the last, and those best informed believe it can be held against any force Sherman can bring against it. There are no Yankees on the railroad between this point and Griffin. Rumors are abundant, but we forbear giving publicity to sensational reports and confounded speculation."

## FROM RICHMOND PAPERS.

From the Richmond Dispatch of November 21st.

From Sherman's army we have the intelligence that it is moving in two columns, as the report says, one upon Augusta and the other upon Macon. It is not likely that he is about to separate his columns for any length of time, and his line of march will probably be as follows: The column marching on the Georgia State road for Augusta will go as far as Madison, sixty miles, and then turning to the right, march on Milledgeville, the capital of Georgia. The column marching on Macon will probably go to Crawfordville, within fifteen miles of the town, and then turn off to Milledgeville and form a junction with the other body. By this movement Macon falls, and the enemy are at liberty to move on Augusta by following the Georgia Central railroad to Brinsenville, and then marching north, or on Savannah, by following the railroad to its termination there. We shall soon hear of their cavalry around Macon, and very near, possibly, to Augusta. Sherman is moving rapidly, and he is not much troubled with transportation. He has burned several stations at the depots he has passed, and is devastating the country generally in foraging.

From the Richmond Enquirer of November 21st.

The Senate has passed a bill suspending for sixty days the section of the law which requires the State reserve forces not to go beyond their respective States. This bill is eminently proper, since it enables the temporary concentration of an available force upon lines important not to one State, but to all the States of the Confederacy. We hope it may be the pleasure of the House to act promptly upon this measure. In view of the threatened movement of Sherman and his army, it becomes a matter of vital importance that the reserve of South Carolina, Florida, Georgia, and Alabama be concentrated in his front. The bill just passed by the Senate will enable the authorities to concentrate an auxiliary force in front of Sherman, and bring up reinforcements to the army that will disperse his march to the coast.

The people of Georgia have now the opportunity of rivalling the people of Old Virginia. The enemy is in earnest marching through their State. If they will oppose him in front, harass his flanks, hang upon his rear, retard his advance, capture and destroy his foragers, burn all stores in the line of his march that cannot be removed, the disgrace of the march through the Confederacy to the Gulf of Atlantic will be saved our country, and Georgia and secure their national independence. Sherman has slighted the overture he makes war; he has given them to understand that what he leaves behind him will be of very little use to them; and these are the marks of the site of Atlanta, and he exiled people are wandering among their friends. The same fate awaits every other city and the inhabitants who do not rise to the occasion. Sherman has no prospect of regaining more than the ruins he may pass over, what reason would forbid making a ruin of every town that could not be defended against him? Sherman will burn it, why should not the people anticipate him, and deprive him of the supplies he will be certain to find in every town he captures.

We know that it is thinkless advice to counsel a man to destroy his property, but when every assurance is given that the enemy will first seize the supplies of the family and then burn the house, may we not advise to the policy, that the owner make war; he has given them to understand that what he leaves behind him will be of very little use to them; and these are the marks of the site of Atlanta, and he exiled people are wandering among their friends. The same fate awaits every other city and the inhabitants who do not rise to the occasion. Sherman has no prospect of regaining more than the ruins he may pass over, what reason would forbid making a ruin of every town that could not be defended against him? Sherman will burn it, why should not the people anticipate him, and deprive him of the supplies he will be certain to find in every town he captures.

It is not the duty of the military authorities to take this matter of destroying provisions into their own hands, and not trust to frail man a duty so necessary to the country. What means the better now, lying before us from a gallant Congress will promptly act in this matter. Unless we deprive Sherman of supplies he will march to the coast, and return again in the spring to continue further his march of ruin and devastation.

From the Richmond Sentinel of November 21st.

A principal cause of uneasiness with many citizens in this portion of the Confederacy, in connection with the campaign of the enemy in Georgia and the parts adjacent, is the apprehension that the people there will not exhibit a spirit and devotion suitable to the occasion. It is a matter of equal pain and surprise to Virginians when told, as they sometimes are, that their confederates in some quarters do not display the self-sacrifice and courage demanded by the necessity that is upon us all. In the name of all that is manly and just and honorable this should not be the case.

Virginia was reluctant, slow to draw the sword—some said she could only do so; but are those who were swifter to battle fighting better than she? We do not require or expect that. Are they behaving as well? We ask no more. We are slow to believe they are not. We are slow to believe that Georgia, which set the example of secession to Virginia and led the way, will not also refer to her soldiers in the field, for none are braver; but to the people at home.

But what means the reports that sometimes reach us that our allies there do not know how to suffer as well as we? What means the letter now lying before us from a gallant Louisianaian, with large opportunities for observation, laments the want of steadiness in many citizens of Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi? We implore our brethren there and elsewhere not to forget the faith and honor that they pledged Virginia and each other when we took our joint stand for liberty and independence. We call upon the leaders of public opinion, we call upon the rulers and Governors, to

awaken the people to a full sense of their duty, and of what their honor requires.

It is with Georgia that we are at this moment most interested; for it is Georgia that now has chiefly to bear the shock. Alas! for Georgia, she has been distracted by bad politicians. The letter before us says: "The course pursued by Gov. Brown and others is doing a great deal of mischief. For what sin of our people was it that in a time like this we should be afflicted, and distracted, and weakened by such mad, inconsiderate, and fatal rulers? Gov. Brown, in the government of his State, pays little regard to law. He seizes the salt of the citizens, he seizes the distilleries, without a particle of authority in law, but merely because he judges it expedient. The Confederate authorities, however, he impudently at every step of their legitimate duty. He weakens the public defence by an ill-timed and unfounded clamor about State rights. He assails the Confederate Administration at all points, and diligently sows the seeds of dissension and distrust. Did it need a prophet to tell that such a course would do 'a great deal of mischief'? Does it need a seer to tell that it would do a great deal more?"

As a consequence of such proceedings Georgia is not ready, we fear, for the shock that is upon her. Instead of that united, chaotic, and unmanageable band of desperadoes who we might expect of her people, they are divided about State rights and Peace Conventions and the like. Heaven forgive Gov. Brown and Mr. Stephens, and such as they, for the mischief they have done. Heaven put it into their minds to restrain their steps even now. Georgia will suffer, and the common cause will suffer, we fear, from the course they have pursued, but surely they will suspend their copious clamors at least till the present trial is over and past.

We really invite the authorities and people of the adjacent States of South Carolina and Alabama to more especially—to see in Georgia's cause their own, and to reinforce her with their utmost assistance. If all will do their duty, as they ought, Sherman will be utterly destroyed. If, from any timorous, jealous, or selfish calculation, they neglect it, retribution, swift and sure, cannot but overtake them.

From the Richmond Sentinel of November 22d.

We were unable to obtain any later intelligence from Georgia this forenoon, except a report, seemingly reliable, that Sherman was only eighteen miles from Macon yesterday. We did not receive any exchanges to-day from Greensboro'—the mail having failed to connect at that point.

If the rains which have been descending so copiously here for several days extend to Georgia Sherman will have heavy travelling. The popular tradition in the country through which his route has been projected is that in such seasons the bottom of the roads fall out. If Sherman shall find himself thus hemmed it must operate greatly to his disadvantage and to our benefit. It will retard his movements and make foraging extremely difficult. Our concentration of troops to operate against him being by railroad will be less active for their motto. Let them harass him with attacks and with alarms. Harass him by day and harass him by night. Let them destroy supplies before him, and let them block his roads, and resist his march at every practicable point. All this may be done independent of heavier operations which we do not doubt he will be able to direct against him. Break in upon his army, and in which we hope everybody will join. There is no confirmation of the report of the burning of Milledgeville.

From the Richmond Dispatch of November 25th.

We are still without any official information concerning Sherman's movements in Georgia, but we are not entirely without some authentic advices on the subject. Sherman was yesterday still west of the Ocmulgee river, in the tributaries of the Alabama, which runs south through the eastern centre of the State of Georgia. Milledgeville is situated on the east bank of this stream. It is believed that the enemy has been to Milledgeville, though we are pretty well assured that the formation of the camp has been received at the War Department. In the only brush we hear of our troops having with the enemy, they have been entirely successful. This affair occurred near Jonesboro, where the Central Georgia railroad, running from Macon to Savannah, crosses the Ocmulgee river. A considerable body of the enemy's cavalry attempted to cross to the east bank of the Ocmulgee on Wednesday morning, but were met by our troops and driven back. The situation in Georgia is regarded in official circles as decidedly encouraging. The progress of the campaign which we think should give much ground for hope; that is the slow progress made by Sherman. He is now in his fifth day from Atlanta, and has not yet reached one point of strategic importance. Even if he should do so, when he started out on the expedition, he himself pursued a very different route. We shall hear more from him in the next day or two.

The Richmond papers of Saturday contain no military news from Georgia. The intelligence thence is, according to the Sentinel, "of the most hopeful character," but "it is important that the Southern papers should preserve strict silence in regard to military movements in that State." The Dispatch says: "Seeing that Sherman is now out of all communication with his own country, and that the military authorities of his nation can only obtain information in the medium of the Southern press, did we publish the intelligence concerning him and his movements that reaches us, we should be guilty of the offence known as 'giving information to the enemy,' and would in no respect, except in motive, differ from the man who would collect information here and there, committing it to writing, and if directed to Grant's headquarters; therefore, we have concluded, until such time as reliance shall certainly be no longer necessary, to ignore the Georgia campaign. So far as we are concerned, the Yankees shall be thrown upon their own resources to obtain intelligence. Our advertisements of a general. When he shall, as it was boasted he would do, 'exchange signals with Commodore Porter on the Atlantic coast,' or when his attempt to reach that coast shall have proved the grandest failure of the war, it will be time enough for us to advert to his operations."

FREE NEGRO LABOR AT THE SOUTH.

In reading (says the Buffalo Courier) the recent report of the Auditor of Louisiana, a strong anti-slavery document, we were struck with the fact that an official entertaining his views should lay so little stress on the value of free negro labor as an agency of agricultural production in that State, and in the further development of its natural resources. He asks if something cannot be done to attract to that State a "large population of skillful and industrious cultivators," and advises that the Legislature shall establish a bureau of emigration to "assist and encourage the immigration to this State of skillful and industrious agricultural laborers, farmers, and mechanics from European countries, from the Northern States, and from Canada."

The New York Times has a New Orleans correspondent whose representations present a rather discouraging picture of the working of the free negro system there. He says: "The crying evil which may be heard on every plantation down the Mississippi is the incorrigible indolence of the negroes, and with it the lack of power to make the negroes work. The 'freedmen' will work only as they feel disposed. The planter has no means to compel him to labor, and consequently the negroes on the plantations are under a poor condition of discipline. Not one in fifty will raise a finger to help themselves so long as they can get enough to eat by stealing and passing a rag to cover their nakedness. Independent of the ravages of the army, and the crops of the majority of the plantations would have resulted in small returns the present season. I have heard a dozen planters assert this fact, and they attribute it to no other cause than the universal indolence of the negroes to do the necessary work, and the inability of the superintendents to compel them to do it. They steal the sugar, and either eat it or sell it. They steal the cotton under cover of the night, and dispose of it to the numerous petty speculators, many of whom put them up to it. They steal the corn and feed their pigs with it, and save the rest for the market. They feign sickness and will lie in the hospital for weeks when nothing on earth is the matter with them. The negro idea of freedom is that of unrestrained license to do as they please and go where they choose."

From the Richmond Enquirer of November 21st.

A repetition of the rumors concerning the occupation of Milledgeville by Sherman occurred on yesterday, and, as the rumor, whether immediately correct or not, was accepted as a matter of course, we may suppose, for the sake of a definite hypothesis, as to the situation in Georgia, that that city has fallen. Of course there could have been no determined resistance. This supposition gives color to the rumor that a strong force of the enemy has made a demonstration upon Augusta, within twenty miles of which place, it is reported, they were encountered by our troops; that their left was driven back in confusion and a result, by their right repulsed with severe loss. Savannah being their supposed first objective point, this movement could be scarcely more than a feint, or, more

From the Richmond Enquirer of November 21st.

The Fourth Auditor during the past week adjusted the claims of the United States steamers Tyler, Signal, General Lyon, Blackhawk, Dahila, Lilly, Pansy, Fern, Conestoga, Marmora, Curlew, Forest Rose, New Era, and General Pillow, for cotton captured from the rebels; also, of the United States steamer Perry, for the capture of the Savannah; Proteus, for the capture of the Jupiter; W. G. Anderson, for the capture of the Royal Yacht; Grand Gulf, for the capture of the Banchee, and the Meta Comet, for the capture of the Donagel.