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Letter from New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 13, 1864.

FRIEND CALEDONIAN: Returning the other day upon the U. S. Military Railroad.

of St. Mary, Terrebonne and Lafourcade parishes, I fell in with two clergymen.

One was the chaplain of the celebrated Illinois Normal Regiment, which is now guarding this railroad from raids—the old duty of our 8th Vt.—and which, by the way, has considerably lost its normal character by the demands of other regiments, especially some of the late Corps d'Afrique, for its school-masters as officers.

The other was a Southern Methodist, who owns a handsome plantation near Brushear, and is one of the few whose keenness of observation and candor of judgment render them as good secular as religious guides.

Our discourse soon found itself under the text—What and how many things seeth a Yankee here now—a days which he counteth as "so'thin' mazin' queer."

Don't you turn pale now that I propose to have your readers "talked to by the ministers." For I promise them the key-note shall materially vary from the pulpit monotone, and the "exercise" shall be no more "extended" than the conclusion of a few I wot of, when they have arrived at the—But one word more, beloved, and I am done.

Of course, the "Firstly" of the queer things was the weather and climate.

"It superinduces in me," said the chaplain, "a peculiar languor, whereby I find it impossible to bring my reflections to a focus; and, furthermore, I think it has the same effect upon all of you residents here who have come under my observation." "You just try to swap horses with some of us," replied the preacher, "and you'll find we can bring our ideas to a focus; and, furthermore, if you make a trade, it won't be many days afterwards, before you'll find your own thoughts coming together in a hurry." I agreed with the latter, that, in any clime or race, the mental operations derive their inspiration and activity very much from the nature of the subject-matter; and added that these seem to me to be the capabilities of the Southern mind when fraud particularly and devilry generally are under consideration.

The preacher, who is a Union man, "in his way," thereby responded quietly—"By their fruits ye shall know them." "Is me unto honor, others, dishonor."

This brought us to our "secondly" of queer things. For we were whizzing along an immense cotton plantation in bloom.

For I had noticed the white blossoms over-spread an area of several arpents; then, an adjacent space had nearly half its blossoms in beautiful red, while the final arpent contained scarcely a white blossom. I had heard that "cotton's cotton," that the Sea Island is a distinction of quality rather than of species, that the flowers are white, and accordingly I enquiringly propounded to the Rev. planter, the theory that the difference of color might depend on the difference in floral sex, and was about to speak of male and female pumpkins, etc., (i. e., "talk some pumpkins") when he good naturefully informed me of a fact, which, though I had seen a similar phenomenon in my Vermont garden had entirely escaped me, namely, that the cotton plant bursts from bud to bloom in pure red (nearly a Sulferino), and 26 hours afterwards, changes to a milk white color, remaining until the petals fall. I had

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WHOLE NO. 1417.

nothing to do but to haul in my wisdom-horns and wait for the chaplain to protrude from his "shell." Which he soon did, amid a veritable shower of light on plants and upon the moonshine influences so well discussed by Solon Robinson and others in the *Tribune* and agricultural club.

This brought us to our "thirdly" of queer things,—the superstitions so rife among the Creoles, and the "charms" so universally cherished by the negroes. Nine-tenths of their dwellings are made proof against evil spirits by an old horse-shoe nailed to the vestibule. It recalled to me an occurrence of an early morning, when, picking my way across the open area near Poydras market among Creole hucksters who seemed to wrangle the passers-by into purchases of fruit, and half nude squabs squatted upon the pavement among their palmetto baskets, wild tea, and ratania scrubs. I had almost set foot upon a little mulatto boy's whole stock in trade, consisting of a few small piles of figs, May-apples, and pomegranates,—doubtless "cornficated."

The great Rebellion, which for more than three years has wrapped the nation in the flames of civil war, draws near its crisis. Its armies have been beaten, its territory has been conquered, the forts and posts which it treacherously seized have been occupied and held by the soldiers of the Republic, foreign allies have been detached from its support, and its hostile arm, paralyzed by exhaustion and discouraged by defeat, is upheld solely by the hope of political victories to be achieved by its allies in the Presidential election of November next.

If the people in that election sustain the government, if they re-assert its just authority and re-affirm their purpose to maintain it by war so long as war assails it, the rebellion will speedily end. If they falter in this determination or leave any room for doubt on this vital point, the rebels will take fresh courage and prolong the contest. Every utterance of their organs and their agents affirms and confirms this position. Every rebel in arms and every rebel in office—every rebel organ in the rebel States or in foreign lands—every later of democratic freedom and the rights of man, longs and labors for the overthrow of the administration and the expulsion of Abraham Lincoln from the Presidential chair.

In the Northern and Western States this hostility has been emboldened and organized in the acts and declarations of the Chicago Convention. That Convention gives a silent approval of the rebellion itself and an open condemnation of the war waged for its suppression.

Without a word of censure for the conspirators who plotted the nation's death, it brands with unsparring denunciation the patriots and heroes who defend its life. While it passes in utter silence the gigantic usurpations of Jefferson Davis and his confederate traitors—while it overlooks entirely, and thusly just and necessary inference, approves their abrogation of political rights and personal liberties over all that portion of the United States in which they have been able thus far to sustain their usurped authority, it pours out its wrath, without stint or measure, upon every act by which the Constitutional President of the United States has sought to defend and protect the life and liberties of the nation, whose executive power is placed in his hands.

That Convention had no words of exultation for our victories; no thanks and honors for the soldiers and sailors who have shed their blood to achieve them. While it denounces our government for neglect of duty toward our fellow citizens, who are now and long have been, prisoners of war in a suffering condition, it has not even a syllable of censure for those rebel authorities who, with more than savage cruelty, and in utter disregard of every dictate of humanity, as well as of every usage of civilized warfare, have deliberately and with systematic purpose inflicted upon those prisoners all the tortures of exposure, of neglect and starvation, and have offered premiums for their murder to the brutal guards to whose grim custody they have been consigned. And, on the very eve of the most glorious victories that have ever crowned our armies—after three years of bloody costly and successful war, when three-fourths of the territory originally held by the rebels has passed into our hands; at the very moment when the rebellion itself is tottering to its fall, and the flag of our country is rapidly advancing to its old supremacy the party represented at Chicago demands that "immediate efforts be made for a cessation of hostilities"—a step which would instantly arrest our conquering armies and snatch from them the glories of a final triumph, repeal the blockade and throw the rebel front open to the supplies they so sorely need, secure the recognition of foreign powers, and either accomplish their independence or give them the ability to fight for it four years longer.

We appeal to the people of the United States—lovers of the Union and friends of Freedom—against the consummation of the foul crime against both which the acts and declarations of the Chicago Convention included. We invoke them not to sanction these principles and sentiments by electing the candidates put forward to represent them. We implore them, as they love their country, as they seek the renewed integrity of its territory, as they desire the peaceful protection of its flag, and the blessing of its free institutions and its equal laws for themselves and their posterity, not to arrest the blow which is just ready to descend upon the rebellion now tottering to its fall; not to give the rebels time to renew their strength for fresh conflicts; not to aid those who would aid them in overthrowing our government, in destroying our Union, in plunging into a chaos of anarchy the great communities of which the Constitution makes one great and

glorious Nation, and in thus extinguishing, finally and forever, the hopes of all who have Faith in Freedom and the Rights of Man.

We call upon the People to bear in mind that, by whatever sophistries they may cloak their purposes, the Chicago Convention neither condemns the action of the Richmond Rebels, nor proposes to expel them against their will, or by any exercise of force, from the seats of power they have usurped. In all essential respects the action that Convention took accords with the results the Rebels seek. Both desire a cessation of hostilities. Both denounce, with unsparring bitterness, the Government of the United States, and both alike seek its overthrow. Both demand that the attempt to conquer armed Rebellion by force of arms shall be abandoned. And both demand that, when the Government of the United States shall have passed into the hands of men opposed to an armed defence of the Government against rebellion, the war shall end by peaceful conference of these allied powers. More than this could the Rebels ask or need for the consummation of all their plans? We call upon the People to bear in mind that, if they elect the candidates of the Chicago Convention, they arrest the Government in the execution of its plans and purposes on the very eve of their fulfillment, and one-third of a year before any new administration can take its place. The interval will be one of hope and confidence for the Rebels, and of exultation for their allies in the loyal States. In the Western States armed preparations have already been made by the disciples and advocates of secession, to follow the example of the South, and sever the West from the Federal Union. The success of the Chicago programme in November will be the signal for carrying these designs into execution; and the fourth of March will dawn upon a new Western confederacy, aiming at independence, defying the power of the national arms, and co-operating with the slave power of the Southern States in blotting from existence the free Republic of the Western world.

## THE CHICAGO CONVENTION.

### Appeal of the National Union Committee to the people of the United States.

HEADQUARTERS NATIONAL UNION COMMITTEE, New York, Sept. 9.

The great Rebellion, which for more than three years has wrapped the nation in the flames of civil war, draws near its crisis. Its armies have been beaten, its territory has been conquered, the forts and posts which it treacherously seized have been occupied and held by the soldiers of the Republic, foreign allies have been detached from its support, and its hostile arm, paralyzed by exhaustion and discouraged by defeat, is upheld solely by the hope of political victories to be achieved by its allies in the Presidential election of November next.

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## Petitions for the Exchange of Prisoners.

A gentleman at Pittsburg, Pa., sends us a copy of a petition to the President, which is circulating in Pennsylvania, asking for a renewal of exchanges of prisoners. The gentleman writes:

"I have lost two sons, killed in battle, and one, if living, is an inmate of that horrible place at Andersonville. Of course I am very much in earnest, and hail with joy every influence calculated to bring about a change of policy. I send you copies of a petition in behalf of those suffering men. When it was written and printed, the late correspondence between Gen. Butler, Judge Ould and others had not been published. It was then supposed that some formidable difficulties lay in the way; but we now know that the white prisoners might be exchanged without compromising the honor of the government, or in the slightest degree injuring the cause of our 'contraband' soldiers, or the principle of human freedom. Gen. Butler has damaged his popularity in this community, and a pressure is likely to be made upon Mr. Lincoln to appoint another commissioner of exchange."

This letter expresses the feeling that prevails everywhere among reasonable men, and is quite as earnest among republicans as democrats. We do not sympathize with the disappointment expressed at Gen. Butler's management of the business of exchanges. We felt from the start that he would be more likely to complicate the matter and make further exchanges impossible than to bring the confederates to terms. Gen. Butler's reputation or pride of consistency should be held of small account. It is a matter of life and death to thousands of our brave soldiers. The business should be placed at once in more suitable hands, and the offer of the rebels to exchange man for man, without reference to pending matters of controversy, should be accepted without delay. The petition to which we have alluded closes with this earnest appeal to the President:

"People, in these calamitous times, think intensely and profoundly; and they reason and discriminate logically and severely. They are not blind to the fact that men in high places sometimes mistake pride and obstinacy for honor and firmness; and the conclusion to which many of them have arrived, that some such mistake has been made in the matter of the exchange of prisoners, is not calculated to strengthen the government in this terrible hour of trial. They think, too, of the awful cry of agony which is perpetually ascending to heaven from that slaughter-pen at Andersonville—whether uttered in prayer, the language of faith and hope, or in groanings which cannot be uttered, or in curses and blasphemy, the outbursting of desperation and despair—and ask themselves whether that cry is calculated to bring down upon our government the favor or wrath of God? Now, honored sir, with all deference to your exalted station, with all proper regard for your terrible responsibilities and trials—yet, not forgetting that we are responsible for your acts, for our suffrages made you what you are—we beseech you to use all your wisdom and power for the speedy deliverance of those suffering, dying men. Fear not to make concessions, and to submit even to some degree of wrong, that you may achieve the God-like work of giving 'deliverance to the captives, and opening the prison-door to those who are bound.' And so may the blessing of those who were ready to perish rest upon you forever."

## The New England Agricultural Fair.

The first exhibition of the New England Agricultural Society, held last week at Springfield, Mass., was a complete success. The attendance was very large, it being stated at no less than 3000 on Tuesday, 12,000 on Wednesday, 20,000 on Thursday and owing to threatening clouds dropping to 12,000 again on the closing day, Friday. On Tuesday, Dr. Loring, the president of the Society, formally opened the Fair, and on Friday Gov. Andrew of Massachusetts made the closing address, an eloquent and scholarly production. A congratulatory dinner was also eaten on Friday, at which speeches were made by Dr. Loring, Prof. Agassiz, Gen. Burdise, Rev. A. L. Stone of Boston, and others. The number of entries of animals exhibited was about 700. There were 200 entries of horses. The show of horses was pronounced something wonderful. The fastest time made in trotting was by the "Gen. Knox" and the "Empress"—2:31 and 2:33 respectively. Mr. Lang, of Maine, the owner of the "Gen. Knox" refused an offer of \$25,000 for him and he is pronounced the best horse in all the northern states. The show in cattle was not large but good in quality. The exhibition of sheep was also good. Vermont, judging from the premium list, was not behind her sister states of New England in successful effort at the Fair. While she took a fair share of the premiums on cattle and horses, she of course swept in almost the entire list of premiums on Merino sheep. It is noticeable also that the premiums on poultry were almost entirely monopolized by Mr. E. N. Bissell of Shoreham and Messrs. W. S. & S. Allen of Vergennes, while Mr. A. D. Smith of Danby came in for the first premium on cheese and maple sugar.

The interest of the Fair was enhanced by the farmers' discussions in the evenings and by the presence of many distinguished gentlemen. Altogether, notwithstanding the fact that we are in the third year of a gigantic and exhausting civil war, this is pronounced by the Springfield papers the largest and finest Agricultural Exhibition ever held in New England and fifty inaugurations

of the new enterprise of the New England States.

## Major C. W. Dwinell.

In the list of wounded at the battle near Charleston, Va., 21 August, appeared the name of Maj. C. W. Dwinell, of the 5th Vt. Regiment. His wound was not at first supposed to be dangerous, being merely a flesh wound below the knee, but unfavorable symptoms soon appeared, and he died on Wednesday, August 24. His remains were conveyed to Glover, where his funeral services were attended, August 30, by a very large assembly.

Carlos William Dwinell was a son of Ira and Dorcas (Ford) Dwinell, and was born in Calais, September 8, 1838. In his boyhood his parents removed to Glover, and that was his residence till he entered the army. Both at Calais and Glover his father was an inn-keeper, and thus being brought into constant contact with men, he acquired an affability and knowledge of human nature which were of good service to him when he became a soldier. His academic studies were pursued at the Orleans Liberal Institute, where he had a respectable standing as a scholar.

He entered the service of the country in October 1861 as a member of Co. D in the 6th regiment, recruited at Barton. Upon the organization of the company he was elected 2d Lieutenant January 11, 1862, became Adjutant November 1, 1862, was promoted Captain of Co. C, January 12, 1863, and Major a few days before his death. In all these positions he acquitted himself a worthy son of Vermont. He was a soldier without fear and without reproach. He had a good deal of manly beauty by which he made a favorable impression at first sight, and this prepossession was confirmed by his easy address and the real kindness of his heart. To an unusual degree he was careful of his soldiers never exposing them to any dangers which he was not ready to share. They were ardently attached to him. They admired him for his bravery, and loved him for his kindness and promptly went wherever he bade, or followed him wherever he led.

He shared all the hard fortunes of the 6th regiment, and participated in nearly every battle in which it was engaged, but escaped without a scratch till the battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864, when he received a severe wound near the spine, which disabled him for six or eight weeks. The bullet was not extracted from this wound, and it is probable that the enfeebling effects of that prevented him from rallying against his final wound as he might otherwise have done.

## The Late Fatal Accident at Isle of Shoals.

The Portsmouth Chronicle has a detailed account of the manner in which two young ladies—Miss Eveline Caswell, of Gosport and Miss Lydia Varrell of Rye—lost their lives at the Isle of Shoals on Saturday evening by being washed from the high rocks by the waves, and drowned. We copy a few paragraphs:

"Everybody who has spent much time at Gosport, Star Island, has been shown, and doubtless sat in 'Miss Underhill's chair,' a fatal rocky seat, whence a young lady was washed and engulfed by the treacherous sea, just sixteen years ago on Sunday last. She was teaching school there, and was in company with her lover, seated just below the high brook of the cliff, admiring the dashing and frothing of the breakers far below her, when one of those huge 'accidental' waves, which are known and feared at all such places, and especially at the Shoals—and which, in some unaccountable manner, rise several yards higher than any preceding or following wave—took her in its resistless grasp and bore her to a hopeless watery grave below, in full view of her half-erazed but utterly helpless companion.

Ever since the loss of Miss Underhill, care has been taken to warn all strangers of the danger of approaching, in times of heavy sea, the grand old rocky cliff, which seems absolutely inaccessible to old ocean, usually so far below; and even the ladies resident on the island are not usually allowed to visit the fatal spot unattended by gentlemen. But on Saturday afternoon, as owing to the continued easterly winds, there was a heavy sea running, a party of about a dozen young ladies went to the bluff to view the magnificent display. Miss Caswell, aged 11 years, and Miss Lydia C. Varrell of Rye, aged 17 years, were seated in Miss Underhill's chair, a smooth granite seat with a back some yards in height, and without any object near by on which to hold when the waters surge over any unfortunate victim—and they were swept away by a mighty wave in plain sight of their agonized companions. One of them was seen no more. The other, Miss Varrell, was for a brief and terrible moment left on a lower ledge or shelf rock by the receding wave; and a boy who bravely attempted to give her his hand to help her up barely escaped sharing her own sad fate, when she went down forever with the next rise and fall of the mighty waves. Several others of the ladies were in great peril, and escaped only by hurying back from the seething flood in time.

The latest "mode" in regard to dessert at fashionable tables of Paris is to serve the fruit, still growing in pots. Pears, cherries, peaches, grapes, plums, figs, nectarines, &c., are placed on the table growing on dwarfed espaliers, the pots standing on silver sockets, or on trays. Strawberries thus growing are easily obtained. A pot containing a strawberry plant in full bearing is placed before

the President of the next Presidency, choosing that far rather than the disunion and a quarter of a century of wars, or the Union and political servitude which our opponents would give us. Let the country shake off its apathy; let it realize what is the price of defeat—a price neither we nor the world can afford; let it be understood how near we are to the end of the Rebellion, and that no choice is left us now but the instrument put into our hands, and that with that we can and must finish it. We grant, from our own convictions, much that can be said in criticism of the present Administration; for the sake of argument, we will grant anything that any honest and loyal man can say. And then this is our rejoinder—Mr. Lincoln has done seven-eighths of the work after his fashion; there must be vigor and virtue enough left in him to do the other fraction. The work it is in his hands; if it passes out of them, it will be, as there is no better, but far worse, to receive it, to our utter ruin.—We MUST re-elect him, and God helping us, we WILL.—N. F. Tridand.

signed by the Committee.

H. J. RAYMOND, Chairman N. Y.

## President Lincoln's Views.

Judge John T. Mills of Mich., gives an interesting interview with President Lincoln, a portion of which we copy:

"I don't think it is personal vanity or ambition, though I am not free from these infirmities, but I cannot but feel that the weal or woe of this great nation will be decided in November. There is no programme offered by any wing of the Democratic party but that must result in the permanent destruction of the Union."

"But, Mr. President, General McClellan is in favor of crushing out the rebellion by force. He will be the Chicago candidate."

"Sir," said the President, "the slightest knowledge of arithmetic will prove to any man that the rebel armies cannot be destroyed with Democratic strategy. It would sacrifice all the white men of the North to do it. There are now in the service of the United States near 200,000 able-bodied colored men, most of them under arms, defending and acquiring Union territory. The Democratic strategy demands that these forces be disbanded, and that the masters be conciliated by restoring them to slavery. The black men who now assist Union prisoners to escape, they are to be converted into our enemies in the vain hope of gaining the good will of their masters. We shall have to fight two nations instead of one."

"You cannot conciliate the South if you guaranty to them ultimate success; and the experience of the present war proves their success is inevitable if you fling the compulsory labor of millions of black men into their side of the scale. Will you give our enemies such military advantages as insure success, and then depend on coaxing, flattery and concession to get them back into the Union? Abandon all the posts now garrisoned by black men, take 200,000 men from our side and put them in the battle-field or corn-field against us, and we would be compelled to abandon the war in three weeks."

"We have to hold territory in inclement and sickly places; where are the Democrats to do this? It was a free fight, and the field was open to the War Democrats to put down this rebellion by fighting against both master and slave long before the present policy was inaugurated."

"There have been men brave enough to propose to me to return to slavery the black warriors of Port Hudson and Olustee, and thus win the respect of the masters they fought. Should I do so, I should deserve to be damned in time and eternity. Come what will I will keep my faith with friend and foe. My enemies pretend I am now carrying on this war for the sole purpose of abolition. So long as I am President it shall be carried on for the sole purpose of restoring the Union. But no human power can subdue this rebellion without the use of the emancipation policy, and every other policy calculated to weaken the moral and physical forces of the rebellion."

"Freedom has given us 200,000 men raised on Southern soil. It will give us more yet. Just so much it has subtracted from the enemy, and instead of alienating the South, there are now evidences of a fraternal feeling growing up between our men and the rank and file of the rebel soldiers. Let my enemies prove to the country that the destruction of slavery is not necessary to a restoration of the Union. I will abide the issue."

## The Crops.

The bi-monthly report of the Agricultural Department at Washington, just issued, says the rains which have recently fallen have dispelled the fears which were entertained for the fall crops. The following is a synopsis of the report:

"In regard to the corn crop, the returns show that on the first day of August, in Illinois, the great corn-producing State of the country, its condition was an average one; in Iowa, two-tenths above such average; in Indiana, three and one-third tenths below; in Ohio, one and one-half tenths below; in Wisconsin, one-half tenth below. But, taking into consideration the effects of the rains which have recently fallen, there is nothing to justify apprehensions of scarcity in any of the great cereal products. It is believed that the loyal States will have produced enough for abundant home consumption, and to supply the usual foreign demand for our cereals. There will be a considerable increase of the sorghum crop; a decrease of tobacco; flax and beans largely increased. The hay crop has been unusually well secured, and a ton of it this year is estimated as equal to a ton and a half of last year's product. The wheat crop is excellent in quality, and thus far reduces its loss to between 13 and 14 per cent. below the crop of 1863—one of the largest ever grown in this country. These accounts are made up from returns from every part of every State. The October report will show exactly what the crops of the year have been. The only crop about which there is any doubt is that of potatoes. The weather is now favorable to their growth."

Henceforth, we fly the banner of ABRAHAM LINCOLN for the next Presidency, choosing that far rather than the disunion and a quarter of a century of wars, or the Union and political servitude which our opponents would give us. Let the country shake off its apathy; let it realize what is the price of defeat—a price neither we nor the world can afford; let it be understood how near we are to the end of the Rebellion, and that no choice is left us now but the instrument put into our hands, and that with that we can and must finish it. We grant, from our own convictions, much that can be said in criticism of the present Administration; for the sake of argument, we will grant anything that any honest and loyal man can say. And then this is our rejoinder—Mr. Lincoln has done seven-eighths of the work after his fashion; there must be vigor and virtue enough left in him to do the other fraction. The work it is in his hands; if it passes out of them, it will be, as there is no better, but far worse, to receive it, to our utter ruin.—We MUST re-elect him, and God helping us, we WILL.—N. F. Tridand.