

DAILY DISPATCH.

VOLUME XXVIII.

RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1865.

NUMBER 52.

BUSINESS NOTICES.

FREEMAN & CO., AUCTIONEERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
CORNER OF MAIN AND NINTH STREETS.
Having decided one of the best houses in the city for the business, both in regard to its situation and capacity, we are prepared to receive and sell, to the best advantage, either at AUCTION or PRIVATELY, CONSIGNMENTS of
TOBACCO,
COUNTRY PRODUCE,
LIQUORS,
DRY GOODS,
HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN FURNITURE,
AND
MERCHANDISE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Our auction sales will take place at our store every WEDNESDAY, commencing at 11 o'clock A. M. Consignments will be received up to five o'clock P. M. of the day previous to the day of sale. HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE at the houses of parties wishing it, upon reasonable terms as they can be made.
From our experience in the business, being of the firm of Williamson & Co., and pledging a strict attention to the interests of consignors, with quick and prompt returns, we solicit the patronage of the public.
FREEMAN & CO.,
Auctioneers and Commission Merchants,
No. 2-11 corner of Main and Ninth streets.

NEW AUCTION AND COMMISSION HOUSE, 102 Main street.—The undersigned have formed a co-partnership, under the name and style of REGNAULT & CO., for the purpose of conducting a GENERAL AUCTION AND COMMISSION BUSINESS, and respectfully offer their services, and solicit the patronage of their friends and the public generally.
On the 1st March they will be prepared to receive, on assignment, all kinds of country produce and merchandise of every description, to be sold by auction or private sale.
By a strict attention to business, with quick sales and prompt returns, they hope to share a portion of the public patronage.
They will attend day sales at stores and private sales on reasonable terms.
JOHN F. REGNAULT,
WILLIAM L. MAULE,
W. J. BEVILLE.

A. A. FARLEY & CO., COMMISSION MERCHANTS AND MERCHANDISE BROKERS,
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA,
CORNER OF ELEVENTH AND CARY STREETS,
respectfully offer their services to the public in the above capacity. Our acquaintance with the trade is peculiarly advantageous to those having PRODUCE of all kinds for disposal.
Strict attention will be given to purchase STOCKS, COLLECTION OF ACCOUNTS, &c.
D. T. Williams & Co., Richmond.
D. T. Williams & Co., Richmond.
A. F. & J. D. Harvey, Richmond.
J. M. Conrad, Chester, Virginia.
W. T. Anderson & Co., Lynchburg, Virginia.
T. D. Neal, Danville, Virginia.
Harris & Howell, Wilmington, North Carolina.
George Allen, Camden, South Carolina.
James Purdy, Camden, South Carolina.
E. A. Williams, Clarksville, Virginia.
Samuel B. Bagland, Richmond. fe 4-1m

JOHN W. GENTRY & CO., COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
No. 75 MAIN STREET, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA,
wholesale and retail dealers in
BLOCKADE GOODS, SUNDRIES, STORES,
FANCY ARTICLES, &c., &c.
The finest assortment of
Smoking and Chewing Tobacco,
Foster and Domestic Cigars,
Toilet Soaps, Writing Materials,
Braziers, Fancy Articles, &c., constantly on hand.
Just received,
100 dozen genuine Briar-root Pipes, of a very superior quality,
A large lot of Bleaching Brushes, &c.
An examination of our stock is respectfully solicited.
Also for sale, two splendid China Tea Sets (complete). fe 3-1m

PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT, APPOINTING A DAY OF FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER, WITH THANKSGIVING.—The Congress of the Confederate States have, by a joint resolution, invited me to appoint a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, with thanksgiving to Almighty God.
It is our solemn duty, at all times, and more especially in season of public trial and adversity, to acknowledge our dependence on His mercy, and to bow in humble submission before His footstool, confessing our manifold sins, supplicating His gracious pardon, imploring His Divine help, and devoutly rendering thanks for the many and great blessings which He has vouchsafed to us.
Let the hearts of our people turn continually and trustfully unto God; let us recognize in His chastening hand the correction of a Father, and submit meekly to the trials and sufferings which have so long been heaped upon us; may be turned away by His merciful love; that His sustaining grace be given to our people, and His divine wisdom imparted to our rulers; that the Lord of Hosts will be with our armies, and fight for us against our enemies; and that He will graciously take our cause into His own hand and mercifully establish for us a lasting, just and honorable peace and independence.
And let us not forget to render unto His holy name the thanks and praise which are so justly due for His great goodness, and for the many mercies which He has extended to us amid the trials and sufferings of protracted and bloody war.
Now, therefore, I, JEFFERSON DAVIS, President of the Confederate States of America, do issue this my proclamation, appointing FRIDAY, the 17th day of March next, as a day of public fasting, humiliation and prayer, (with thanksgiving,) for "making the favor and guidance of Almighty God," and I do earnestly invite all soldiers and citizens to observe the same in a spirit of reverence and piety.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Confederate States, at Richmond, this twenty-fifth day of January, in the sixth year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five.
JEFFERSON DAVIS.
By the President:
J. P. DENFARIS, Secretary of State. ja 26-3tawid

NOTICE.—In consequence of the increased rates of one hundred per cent. upon the taxes of the year 1864 by the Confederate Government, we hereby give notice that, from this date, charges for commission and taxes on all sales of NEGROES will be ten per cent.
N. M. LEE,
S. N. DAVIS & CO.

FOR SALE, a first class FAMILY HORSE, well known in this city, full size, fast and handsome, and stands without tiring. Also, a handsome TOP-BUGGY and HARNESS, in perfect order. Apply at Stall Stables, on Eighth street, near St. Paul's Church. fe 28-21

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Just received, three thousand yards of BLEACHED ENGLISH LONG CLOTH, which we will sell lower than any other house in the city.
W. GLAND & PAYNE,
No. 1-31 corner of Broad and Fourth streets.

MULES FOR SALE.—A pair of the finest in the State. Address C. Dispatch to 29-36

Richmond Dispatch.

BY J. A. COWARDIN & CO.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:
Daily Paper.—For one year, ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS; six months, FIFTY DOLLARS; three months, TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS; one month, TEN DOLLARS.
Agents and News Dealers will be furnished at THIRTY DOLLARS per hundred copies.
All orders must be accompanied with the money, to insure attention; and all remittances by mail will be at the risk of those who make them.
Advertising.—Advertisements will be inserted at the rate of THREE DOLLARS per square for each insertion. Eight lines (or less) constitute a square. Larger advertisements in exact proportion.
Advertisements published till forbid will be charged THREE DOLLARS per square for every insertion.

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 2, 1865.

The jubilation of the enemy over the fall of the little city of Charleston (a place which would scarcely make a good-size ward of the city of New York), after a siege of four years, and an overwhelming preponderance of land and naval forces, is equal to that of the French when Napoleon, with thirty five thousand ragamuffins, whipped the whole of Europe. As the little Confederate bantam lies in the pit, "its back to the earth and its face to the sky," the great, big, unconquerable roosters, gobblers, eagles, vultures, and birds of every race, who have at last brought down the game little chicken, rend the air with their triumphant cries. They crowd round the diminutive carcass, turn it over and rip it open to see what it has got in its crop, and generally agree that such a terrifically sublime achievement as the subjugation of that small bird was unparalleled in war. After this, let the Czar look to Cronstadt and England to Gibraltar. If it requires only four years to take Charleston, how long could any stronghold of Europe resist the great and invincible fleets and armies of the all-conquering American nation?

A Northern journal, somewhat envious of the glory which the diminutive seaport of Charleston has obtained, endeavors to detract from its merits by saying that the fortifications which have enabled it to hold out so long were originally constructed by the United States Government. If that were true, it does not much help the matter, for the strongest of those fortifications (Fort Sumter) was taken by General Beauregard in a few hours, whereas the United States required four years to retake it; and could not have taken it then, and never could have taken it, but for the evacuation of the city, in consequence of the unobstructed march of General Sherman through Georgia.

And, after all, the Yankees taking Charleston, or taking Savannah, or taking any other city or section of the Southern Confederacy, is only doing, with a great amount of fuss and bloodshed, what they had done quietly and more effectually before the war by the peaceful methods of trade and commerce. Not only Charleston, but the whole South, was taken a good many years ago, and to some purpose, when tariffs, coasting laws and bounties rendered every slaveholding State tributary to Northern manufacture and commerce; when Northern industry supplied every article of clothing, of household furniture, every agricultural implement in the South; when Northern books, Northern literature and Northern theology wielded the sceptre over our minds and souls.—Whether it is a good bargain to exchange such an occupation as that for the dominion of brute force, we leave it to Northern ingenuity to calculate when its passions have cooled down sufficiently to allow it to work out the sum. We are inclined to think that, even if successful in arms, it could never compel from a subjugated people, the returns which are chiefly yielded by a contented and hopeful population.

All history has shown that the nation with most slaves in ancient times was, *ceteris paribus*, the most powerful in war, and it is the remark of one of the best American students of antiquity that if there had been a State in Greece without slaves, the probability is, it would quickly have been overthrown by the neighboring slave States. We find, in the Jewish system, slavery formally established by a Divine decree. Long before the foundation of that system, we find the patriarch Abraham going to

battle with a force of slaves, which the Scriptures inform us were "born in his house and bought with his money."

The Egyptians held slaves, as their monuments prove, and many of these slaves were negroes, as is clear from the representations on the royal sepulchres. The Greeks held vast numbers at the time of their greatest strength, and each nation in proportion to its powers in war. Sparta had eight slaves to one freeman, and Athens nearly as many. The slaves of these nations greatly aided in their splendid conquests. At Plataea five thousand Spartans were attended by thirty-five thousand Helots as light troops.

Slavery increased *pari passu* in Rome with the greatness of that country until the number of slaves in and around Rome exceeded the freemen in the proportion of twelve and fifteen to one. Industrial pursuits were almost entirely intrusted to slaves and freedmen, and as the country advanced these were enrolled as soldiers and trained as gladiators. It was only with the disappearance of slavery that domination of Rome over the rest of the world passed away; that her manners became corrupt, and she fell an easy prey to northern barbarians.

The question of Ocean Telegraphy, which has been for some time in abeyance, is undergoing at this time another attempt at solution by British enterprise. Of the principles and manner on which this new effort is being made, we have little information in this blockaded region. It may not be uninteresting, in this connection, to give a brief sketch of ocean telegraphy.

In 1850, an unsuccessful attempt was made to connect England and France by a submarine telegraph. A vessel bearing a copper wire inclosed in gutta percha, intended for this purpose, started from Dover and succeeded in paying out the wire and conveying the other end to the French coast. The printing instrument was attached, and several communications exchanged between England and France; but the next morning communications ceased, and it was evident that the insulation was destroyed. It was found that the wire had been snapped asunder, constructed, as it was, without any power of resistance to the action of the waves. The next year a more substantial cable was laid successfully.—This cable contained four copper wires, each covered with gutta percha, so as to afford four separate conductors. These were twisted into a four-strand rope, served round with tarred hemp and covered with strong galvanized iron wire. In the course of repairs afterwards, it appeared that the outer wires were in places corroded, especially where the cable lay on rocks, and was subject to attrition and exposed to the action of the water. The extent of corrosion in different parts varied very much; for instance, the cable came up for a short length very good where it had lain in sand or mud, and also where it had got covered with shells, which, in some cases, made a coating of a couple of inches thick upon it—in places, on the other hand, where it was exposed to the water, it was almost entirely eaten away. Where the iron wires were loose and untwisted, so that the water could wash through them to the hemp, the yarn was rotten. In other parts, where the hempen case was closely surrounded by the wire, and fully saturated with the tar, it was still in good order. The gutta percha covering the copper wires was in perfect condition.

This line, of not quite twenty-six miles in length, was followed by other and more important enterprises. Between 1851 and 1853, lines were laid between England and Ireland, and England and Belgium. In 1853, the Electric and International Telegraph Company laid a submarine telegraph, one hundred and fifty-five miles in length, from Oxfordford to Schevening, in Holland. These lines were all comparatively short and in shallow water, but, in 1855, the requirements of the war in the Crimea led to the construction of a line between Balaklava and Varna, from which may be dated a new era in Ocean Telegraphy. This line was three hundred and ten miles long, and served, to some extent, as a basis for ascertaining the law which governs the retardation of the electric current in long lines of submarine telegraph. Three hundred miles of

the cable consisted of a copper wire, covered with gutta percha, entirely unprotected, and ten miles from shore ends had a protecting covering of iron wire. The paying out was effected with great ease, and it remained in working order for some months till the end of the war, when it was broken.

But a greater undertaking had been already in contemplation. The leading facts of this most remarkable enterprise are set forth in evidence taken by the Submarine Telegraph Committee. In 1851, a Mr. Tippet, of New York, and a Mr. Gosborne, an English engineer, devised the plan of shortening the communication between America and Europe by making St. John's, Newfoundland, a port of call for Atlantic steamers, and constructing a telegraph from thence to join the American lines. These gentlemen obtained in 1851 an act of the Legislature of Newfoundland for this purpose, which act also conferred certain exclusive privileges; but having got into difficulties without fulfilling the terms of the act, they induced some American gentlemen to form a new company, called the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company. The act of incorporation of this company was passed in 1854, and gave them, amongst other privileges, the exclusive right for fifty years of landing cables on the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador, without any conditions as to the time within which this right was to be exercised. This exclusive right of landing cables on the coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador was transferred in 1856 to the projectors of the Atlantic Telegraph Company upon the condition that it should be exercised before 1862. The Company obtained from the British Government in 1856, as well as from the American Government, a grant of £14,000, conditional upon success, and pledged themselves that the first attempt to lay the cable should be made in 1857. It is believed that the disasters of the company are traceable to this pledge. The cable was hastily constructed in order to be ready in time, and without the aid of carefully-devised experiments. The break machinery was novel and cumbersome. The whole thing was done in a hurry. The United States ship Niagara and the British ship Agamemnon started together with the cable from Valentia on the 7th of August, 1857, with the intention of laying it across to Newfoundland, in accordance with a plan which necessitated the junction of the two sections of the cable in mid-ocean as soon as one vessel had paid out its cargo, whatever the weather might be. After paying out about three hundred and thirty-five miles, the cable broke on the 11th of August in two thousand fathoms of water. The expedition then returned to Plymouth.

The vessels started again from Cork on the 17th of July, 1858, and accomplished the laying of the cable between Newfoundland and Valentia on the 5th of August, 1858, with apparently complete success. From the landing of the cable till five days thereafter, mere indications of signals were received, although signals were being regularly sent. On the fifth day, strong induction coils having been applied at Newfoundland, the signals were easily read. The first words were, "Please repeat power." The Queen's message to the President occupied sixteen hours in transmitting, which is explained by its having been stopped in the middle during some operations in the harbor of Valentia and by the necessity of repeating parts over and over again. The signals continued to be received—sometimes better, sometimes worse. They would suddenly show satisfactory indications for a time, then fall again; but they gradually became weaker. The variations in the strength of the signals appeared to be due to the effect produced by the oxidation of the copper by means of the positive current at the place or places where the faults were situated, which oxidation gives an insulating covering to the wire, and to the clearing off of this covering from the copper when the negative currents were sent. On the 20th of October, a message was entered in the Valentia signal diary as being read thus: "Two hundred and forty tk— (? two) Daniell's now in circuit." That was the reading as entered in the Valentia diary. The message really sent

was: "Two hundred and forty trays, and seventy-two Daniell's now in circuit." So that the word that could not be made out was "trays"; that was the last effort of the cable. Attempts have subsequently been made to repair it, but the decay, from rust, of the outer covering, which consists of strands of very fine wires, has prevented the possibility of raising the cable without breaking it.

The failure was believed to be, in a great measure, owing to the absence of a proper preliminary experimental inquiry into the conditions required in the construction of such a cable. But the more immediate causes of failure alleged are: first, the absence of sufficient care in the manufacture of the cable from the limited time allowed for its completion; second, the injury that the cable received by repeated handling between the time when it was constructed and the time it was laid; third, the insufficient protection of the outer covering against corrosion; fourth, the insufficient size of the conductor, and of its insulating covering in proportion to the length of the cable—a want which necessitated the use of high battery power.

With the lights thrown upon it by former experiments, the present British enterprise bids fair to be more successful. If so, it will be the crowning triumph of the wonderful mechanical genius of England, which has, within the last eighty years, changed the whole face of society; which perfected the steam engine, and gave to man a motive force that has traversed the waters against winds and tides; hurried him over the land at sixty miles an hour, drawn up the treasures of the deepest mine, and helped the power loom and the spinning jenny to clothe the world. How much more glorious these productive triumphs of peace than all the blood-stained laurels which Great Britain has achieved in war!

"Oh, a dainty plant is the ivy green,
Creeping over dead men's graves."

The "ivy green" of this war is the speculators and extortioners. If they have a short life, it is a merry one. The ugliest feature in this whole struggle has been the development of a spirit of money-making so insatiable that neither patriotism, conscience nor religion can restrain its excesses, nor even teach it to blush. It is a horrid sight, after a great battle, to see dogs and swine devouring the dead; and every one feels disposed to kill the brutes on the spot. Yet, except that they go on four legs, and have no fastidiousness upon the subject of fattening themselves on human flesh, we see no difference between them and the two-legged animals who grow rich and pampered upon the heart's blood of their country. If the doctrine of transmigration of souls were true, we can easily imagine that speculators and extortioners pass after this life into the bodies of those animals which feed upon the carcasses of fallen heroes. In a book of Judge Johnson, of South Carolina, a story is told, intended to illustrate the bargaining and avaricious traits of New England money-lovers, which, with some modifications, we may apply with equal justice to our own extortioners and speculators. Henry Trevor, the hero of the book in question, had signed a bond with the Devil, some thirty years before, bartering away his soul for a certain period of uninterrupted pleasure and prosperity. At the appointed hour, the Devil appears, but upon his urgent entreaties, gives him a respite of four days, and even makes him this liberal proposition: "Provided that you will deliver to me at the close of the war the souls of twenty-five other persons, I will take them as a substitute for yours, and agree to cancel your bond." We shall now let Trevor tell his own story:

I instantly set to work and published the following advertisement:
"Wanted to Purchase, immediately, twenty-five souls. Being very anxious to obtain them, and having abundance of money, the subscriber is willing to allow a high price, and to pay the cash down."
"Expecting, of course, great difficulty in finding out persons willing to sell, I employed most of the day in circulating this notice as widely as possible. Upon returning to my house, however, I found several hundred persons already assembled to treat with me. They were all speculators, and some of them had made large fortunes in flour, others in salt, others in beef and bacon, others in wood and other necessaries of life."
"Well, my friend," said I, "accepting one of them."
"What will you take for your soul?"
"What are you going to do with it?" inquired he.
"I want it to go to the Old Boy in my place," I replied.
"Oh, is that all?" said he; "I didn't know but you wanted to melt it up in charity. Well, seeing I have no use for it, you may have it cheap. I will take four hundred dollars in Confederate notes, or ten dollars in specie, for my soul."

"Very well," said I, "I will give it to you, though I am by no means certain that I am not paying more for it than ten times its value."

"The above may serve as a specimen of my purchases. I soon bought the twenty-five at prices ranging from two to ten dollars, as the fear or lust of the seller predominated. Towards the last, as the company perished, the price was nearly made up, great competition was excited, and prices fell exceedingly. I could then have bought as many as I pleased for next to nothing. Those who had not sold, went away bitterly howling."
"After paying to each man his money, I locked up my new purchases in a safe room, telling them that in a few days the Devil would visit them for inspection, in order to identify them upon the conclusion of the war for the consummation of their purchase. They remained in their prison very busily engaged in speculating and trading with each other, and I was informed that by night there was not a single one of them who had not made a small fortune by his speculations." Upon the Devil's re-appearance, I met him without fear, and producing my twenty-five substitutes, demanded a receipt in full.

"Mr. Trevor," said he, looking scornfully and offended, "I have a better opinion of you than to suppose that you would attempt to cheat me in this shameful manner. Do you think to pay your debts to me in that which is my own property already?—This is the same as if you owed your neighbor twenty-five dollars, and went into his field and took a beast with his brand on them, and offered them to him as payment. These men all have my mark on them. There is a fellow who has made the widow and children of soldiers starve by his operations in flour, and not one of them but has the blood of innocents whom his extortion has murdered—the only blood he has seen during the war—upon his head. The tears of misery, the dying groans they have uttered, have dilted all hell with raptures. And besides, to put the matter on another ground, this is no compliance with my offer, for these creatures have no souls, I will show you."

"The Devil, it is to be understood, is a wonderfully skilful chemist, and knows how to analyze all substances, whether material or spiritual. In a few moments he erected a furnace, seized one of the speculators, and disengaged from the body that which in these animals supplies the place of a soul. It stood up before me a thing utterly strange and indescribable. He put it into a large crucible, reduced it to a fluid mass, and then separated the component parts. It consisted of

Parts in a thousand:
Cunning.....125.
Dishonesty.....125.
Sneakiness.....125.
Avarice.....150.
Nauseous and numbing odors.....140.
Bacon and Cabbage, Apple Brandy and Rum, &c., &c.....335.
"There," said the Devil, holding it up, "do you call that thing a soul?"

A Southern contemporary remarks that commentators have been divided as to the question of flesh for the food of man, and some have even supposed that man was not originally made to eat or need flesh. Our contemporary thinks, however, that the question is settled by the following verse in Ninth Genesis: "Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb, have I given you all things."

We regard this decision as conclusive; but it does not seem to be concurred in at the markets of the Confederacy. Neither flesh nor green herb are permissible to the majority of the community, under their practice. There can be no question about either meat or turnip-tops, provided you can get them. If our contemporary will put the people in the way of making the experiment, they will discuss the question of what was originally intended for food—after dinner.

A LITTLE LESSON FOR WELL-DISPOSED WIVES.—"Why is it," asked a lady, "that so many men are anxious to get rid of their wives?" "Because," was the reply, "so few women exert themselves after marriage to make their presence indispensable to the happiness of their husbands!" When husband and wife have become thoroughly accustomed to each other—when all the little battery of charms which both played off so skillfully before the wedding day had been exhausted—too many seem to think that nothing remains but the clanking of the legal chains which bind them to each other. The wife seeks to develop in her affections no new attraction for her husband; and the latter, perceiving the *lapsus*, begins to brood over an uncongeniality which does not exist, and to magnify the ills that do exist into unsurpassable obstacles in the way of his earthly felicity. This is the true secret. The woman who charmed before marriage can charm afterward, if she will, though not, of course, by the same means. There are a thousand ways, if she will only study them out, in which she can make them so attractive that her husband will unconsciously dislike to absent himself from it, and so she can readily make herself the particular deity of the domestic paradise. This done, she may quietly laugh at all attempts to alienate her husband's inclinations; and with those inclinations will always go, in such cases, his active judgment.

STOCKS FOR SALE PRIVATELY.—\$10,000 Virginia State Registered, new issue; 20,000 North Carolina State 6 per cent. Coupon Bonds, new issue; 10,000 Confederate Cotton Loan Bonds; 10,000 Confederate 15-million Coupon Bonds; 5,000 Confederate 15-million Registered Bonds; 20,000 Confederate 500-million Coupon Bonds; 50,000 Confederate 6, 7 and 8 per cent. Bonds; 20,000 Confederate 4 per cent. Bonds and Certificates.
50 shares Bank of Virginia Stock;
100 shares Bank of Commonwealth Stock;
50 shares Traders' Bank Stock;
24 shares Exchange Bank Stock;
6 shares Bank of Commerce Stock (Fredericksburg);
50 shares Bank Danville;
50 shares Richmond Fire Association Stock;
150 shares Merchants' Insurance Company Stock;
100 shares Old Dominion Insurance Company Stock;
100 shares Virginia Central Railroad Stock;
20 Cotton Loan Bonds.
LANCASTER & CO.,
fe 29-31