

Dying of Atrophy.

Mr. Russell, in a recent letter to the London Times, thinks that the South must yield or die of atrophy...

We attach very little importance to Mr. Russell's opinions or vaticinations, merely as Mr. Russell's opinions...

Our word for it, that 'er the South sinks by atrophy the Northern cities will sink in ashes before the flames...

The Norfolk Day Book expresses the opinion that Norfolk is shortly to be attacked. This opinion is founded upon information derived from a lady who has lately returned to that city from the North...

We are not of those who are apt to regard every natural occurrence as a "special interposition," yet we must confess that there have been circumstances connected with the existing struggle upon this continent that might well justify the least visionary in attributing them to supernatural guidance...

It appears that by a comparatively modern, we might say recently introduced process, large quantities of sulphur are used in the refining of sugar, and of course, as sugar is a great interest in Louisiana, and is also an element of some importance in other Gulf States...

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Wilmington & Manchester Rail Road Company. As will be seen by the notice of the Treasurer, in another column, the Directors of the above Company have declared a dividend of nine per cent. upon its capital stock...

We may well congratulate the holders of this stock upon their prosperity, especially as this dividend is, to our knowledge, truly and fairly made out of the actual earnings of the road, after providing for all liabilities and laying aside a sum to be applied to the sinking fund.

Had the war not occurred it is more than likely that the business of the road would have increased in a much greater degree than it has. Indeed last year the net earnings of the road fully justified a dividend, but it was deemed best to defer it for the purpose of extinguishing a sufficient amount of debt to place the credit of the Company beyond the reach of contingencies.

We think that length has been reached in the history of the W. & M. R. R., proves more conclusively than any thing else that Southern railroads will in the end pay better than those of any other section, and that their stockholders are willing to postpone their immediate dividends to sustain intact their credit and resources longer than the stockholders of any other railroads.

The President, Directors, Superintendent, and other officers of the Road receive no higher encomium than this result of their labors under the trying circumstances of these war times.

How long the present war will last is a question that admits of only a conjectural solution; still, as it is a question that is often asked, we may attempt to give such a solution as may seem to us most probable...

We have not got a copy of Zepo, and after the rather queer mistakes made by General Taylor and Hon. Abraham Rencher, in their attempts to quote that ancient fabulist from memory, we approach the subject with due diffidence...

Without something wholly unforeseen occurs, this war will not close in much if any less than twelve months, nor will it in our humble opinion last much over a year from this date. What a day or an hour may bring forth is impossible to say.

LIGHT READING.—The Richmond Enquirer is engaged in publishing in extenso, the proceedings of the Virginia State Convention in secret session. It fills six long columns of its Thursday's issue with the conclusion of the doings and sayings of the first day...

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