THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, N. C.,

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Reconstruction—The Representative Strength of the South.

It cannot be doubted but that the day of political unrest is rapidly drawing to a close, and that a final settlement of the vexed question of reconstruction is near at hand. Although that settlement can hardly be in accordance with the first desires of the South, yet it will lay the old question at rest, and will transpose the present anxiety into a positive certainty. Many and radical changes of opinion have been forced upon the people of the South since the close of the war. Less than two years ago the advocates of even qualified negro suffrage were hooted at and jeered. Now the prospect is for universal equality at the ballot-box, and the Southern mind, looking to such an end as to a certainty, resigns itself as calmly as may be to the inevitable. Yet negro suffrage will imply the right of negro representation, and this subject in connection with the political strength of the South, is ably handled in the leader of the New York *Herald* of the 9th inst. Its remarks are sensible and pertinent, and teem with interest to the Southern readers. We quote from the *Herald*:

"But the most remarkable feature in the progressive work of reconstruction is the harmony and affiliation between the late slaveholders and their emancipated slaves. They assemble together in public meetings on a footing of political equality and address each other as friends and fellow-citizens. Nor is there any false pride, affectation or hypocrisy in such language and bearing one toward the other. The late masters of the negroes have sense enough to see that the interests of the two races are inseparably interwoven, that restoration and the consequent prosperity of the South will be a benefit to both, and that exclusion from political privileges, from representation in Congress, would be followed by injury to both. Besides, as a general thing, there is a kindly feeling on the part of the whites for the weaker and less cultivated blacks. Generally, too, the negroes are conscious of this, and look up with confidence for advice and guidance from their late masters. This is evident from the addresses of the more intelligent to the rest. The speeches delivered by some of them lately, and their conduct, as described by our correspondents, show this to be the case. We see, also, that there is a determination on the part of both races to cultivate these kindly, friendly and confiding relations.

"Now, this is a state of things deserving particular notice, and which was certainly not expected by the old radical abolitionists of the North.—These radicals had erroneously supposed the negroes hated the white master race and would take the earliest opportunity to turn against them. The teachings of the war, in which the negroes voluntarily fought side by side with their masters, did not eradicate this error. The radicals have been expecting, since the war closed and the slaves were emancipated, that these people would vote and act in opposition to their old masters. They begin to see their mistake, however, and are in a terrible state of anxiety about the consequences. No tide of Northern emigration, however great, nor any amount of radical speechmaking and preaching, can turn the political current in which the blacks and the whites of the South are united and combined for action. They both see their interests are the same and irrevocably fixed in the same section of country.

"We cannot yet see fully where this surprising political and social revolution will end. It will certainly produce an extraordinary influence upon political parties and upon the destinies of the republic. The radical press is dumbfounded and knows not which way to shape its course. The fruit of years of agitation is likely to turn to ashes in its mouth. The Southern States, with their eighty or ninety Representatives and twenty Senators in Congress, will hold a large balance of power, and the probability is that both races will remain united in the interests of their own section and in support of the same political party.

"The Southern whites, and particularly the leading men among them, possess a power they may not have yet realized. Such men as Wade Hampton, Henry A. Wise and others like them, while they have not the suffrage and cannot hold office, are able to exercise great influence over the negroes and political affairs. There are from fifty to a hundred thousand of these ostracised old leaders, who are still powerful through their intelligence and position and on the stump. We advise them, then, to carry the revolution which the Northern radicals have inaugurated to its end—to its utmost limit. In doing this they should advocate sending negroes to Congress.—In every State and district intelligent blacks can be found. Let them be sent to Congress in the proportion of the negro vote. Supposing the Southern States are entitled to ninety members in the House of Representatives under the increased vote, thirty negroes should be sent, as that would be about a fair proportion to the numbers of the two races, and out of the twenty Senators six should be black by the same rule.

"Henry A. Wise has a fine, intelligent and faithful servant, who should be sent from the Old Dominion to sit by the side of Mr. Sumner in the Senate; and that negro of whom Wade Hampton spoke so pathetically, a noble fellow, evidently, might be seated by Wilson, Chandler, Sprague or Trumbull, and be called to the chair occasionally by Ben Wade, the President of the Senate. This is practicable, reasonable and fair, and would only be carrying out the theories already established. True, the smell of the negroes might be unpleasant to the dainty Northern Senators and members; but the Southerners would not find it so; they could have no objection to black colleagues on that score; for, as Yancey once said, the smell was perfume to Southerners. By all means let the South carry out the theories of the radicals to their logical results by sending both negro Representatives and Senators to Congress. It would create an extraordinary fermentation and reaction in the North, undoubtedly; but what of that? The principle is the thing. Perish everything rather than sacrifice principle. In whatever point of view we look at the movements now going on in the South, and at the position of parties with regard to the issues that have been raised, we foresee that remarkable changes must take place. We advise the Southerners to use the power the radicals have placed in their hands and bring the revolution to its logical end."

The *Herald* talks sensibly in the foregoing extract. It is a great wonder the Northern radicals have not come to similar conclusions long since.

The Baltimore Presentation Concert.

Several arrests have been made in Baltimore of parties connected with this affair, charged with obtaining money under false pretences from funds belonging to the Association. Those arrested are L. T. Palmer, Principal Manager; J. H. Schiers, Recording Secretary; Mrs. J. L. Hammond, President; Mrs. E. A. F. Meares, Treasurer; Patrick Curtis, a Clerk, and Mr. E. A. F. Meares. A full investigation has not yet been had, but the parties have been bound over for appearance before the Grand Jury.

It is much to be regretted that such an occurrence should have happened, or that, having happened, it should be made public, for we cannot but believe that the defection is only in a part, and cannot be taken as an evidence of corruption in the whole body. There are, we doubt not, many honorable and benevolent gentlemen associated in the management of the enterprise, on whom no shadow of reproach can fall, and who should not be held strictly accountable themselves for the default of their officers.—The great regret is the evil effect it will have upon a truly benevolent object, and the distrust which the public must feel hereafter in all charitable enterprises of the kind. In the end, the South, for the benefit of which the scheme was first inaugurated, will be the only sufferer. Yet the facts, as they have been thus far developed, should not so materially affect the pocket nerve of thinking persons, as, from the evidence thus far adduced, the defalcation has not only not been with the association as a body, but was first exposed by its more upright officers, and the prosecution against the parties will be conducted by the body as a whole. We are confident that the results of the investigation, when had, will fully sustain this opinion, and will serve, not only to restore, but to increase the confidence previously felt by the public in the purity and honesty of the enterprise.

European Troubles.

The broils and disputes which have from time immemorial been convulsing Europe seem almost interminable. Hardly has one question been set at rest, by an appeal to arms, ere another springs up, and for a time threatens to revolutionize the whole continent. At present the aspect of affairs is very threatening, and the close of the present year may witness a terrible war between Prussia and France. The present object of dispute between those two great powers is the possession of the Fortress of Luxemburg. The Grand Duchy or province of the same name is a part of Holland, and the Fortress is now garrisoned by Prussian troops. This post is considered as an open gate to the frontiers of France, and Napoleon naturally desires to gain possession of it. To this end negotiations were opened with Holland, and that power, wishing to preserve the most amicable relations with France, and probably from a desire to check as much as might be, the growing usurpations of Prussia, agreed to the transfer. Matters were at this state, when the King of Holland was formally notified that one little article was yet wanting to complete the compact, and that was the approval of the Prussian Government; and rather than Holland should part with Luxemburg, arms would be resorted to to force her to retain it.—Upon this all negotiations for the transfer of the disputed province have ceased.—Holland, intimidated by the threatening aspect of Prussia, has refused to fulfill her part of the agreement.

As a consequence much excitement now exists in France, and an anti-Prussian feeling is said to prevail throughout the entire empire. The public pride of France has been deeply wounded, and, judging by the present state, both of the governmental and the private mind, either Bismarck must recede from the position which he has assumed, and allow the transfer of the Duchy to France, or else war will be the result. To this end vast preparations are being made in both countries, and immense quantities of arms and ammunitions are under manufacture.

Yet, at the present time, France can hardly be considered as upon a sufficient war footing to cope successfully with Prussia. The late military operations of the latter power have not only raised it again to the former proud position attained by Frederic William, but the success of those operations has established for it a prestige founded upon the actual reality, that is one of the greatest elements of success in a campaign. Prussia is now feared, as well as hated by the second great Napoleon, and that astute leader will hardly venture upon war, even backed as he is by the full tide of the public opinion in France, until he is fully prepared to meet Bismarck in the field. The former power is, at this time, most certainly the stronger of the two. The vast resources of men and material developed by the late war, were not only not allowed to dwindle away, but they have been increased and improved, and Prussia stands, at this day, in a position second to that of no power on the continent of Europe.

On the contrary, the great question of military re-organization in France still remains unsettled, and vast efforts must be made before the first standard can be reached. That these efforts will be made, and that a complete and thorough organization of the French army will be the result, the known character and energy of Napoleon give us every reason to believe. Yet there is much to be done, and an immense armament to be provided. In the event of a war, the initiatory step must be taken by France, and the possession of the fortress of Luxemburg will probably be the first object for contention. France, therefore, acting as the aggressive power, will most undoubtedly need every energy which she can bring into the field.

At all events, war will hardly occur this summer. The vast preparations needed cannot be completed before the close of this, or the commencement of the ensuing year, and in the meantime all good men should hope that an amicable adjustment may be arrived at.

Baltimore Election.

An election was held in Baltimore on Wednesday, on the propriety of calling a State and Constitutional Convention. The ballot was classed as a fair but not a full vote. The entire vote cast in the city on the issue was 20,136, of which 11,013 were for, and 9,123 against, which gives a majority of 1,890 for the holding of a Convention.—This vote was polled, and is to be taken, as a deliberate expression of the opinions of the people of Baltimore on this subject, yet it falls far short of the number of names recorded on the poll registry, which shows a total of 29,380 names. The deficiency of the vote, as compared with the record of the registry, is an evidence of a great and almost criminal apathy on the part of the citizens of Baltimore, that in such a crisis of public affairs as is the present, and upon such a vital point as is the one before them, is truly deplorable.

Yet the city majority may be totally annulled by returns from different portions of the State which have not yet been received. The result is said to be doubtful, and the next mail or telegraph will, perhaps, bring us in full the decision.

At the same time as the above an election was held on the local question of permitting the Baltimore City Passenger Railway Company to run their cars on Sunday. The whole vote cast in favor of this movement was 20,095, of which 11,039 were in favor of, and 9,056 in opposition to, their running on that day, the majority for, being 1,983.

Hotels in Wilmington.

Many and numerous have been the complaints of inadequate Hotel accommodations in Wilmington. These complaints have existed for a number of years, but it affords us great pleasure, at this time, in being able, and, as we think, justly, to say that, at present, and for the prospects for the future, at least for some time to come, the Hotel accommodations of this city are equal to those of any other city in the South, when we take into consideration the location, patronage, &c. Recently Messrs. Frederick & Powell have refitted and thoroughly renovated the City Hotel on Market Street, and the improvement in the management and comfort extended to their guests seem to be evidenced by the number of passengers stopping at their house.

We are pleased to see, in connection with the Hotel business, that the building lately occupied by Mr. Jas. H. Bailey, and known by various names heretofore, on Front Street, opposite the Cape Fear Bank, is now being thoroughly renovated, and that the present occupant, Mr. Humphrey Parker, will, in the course of a few days, open the same for the reception of travelers and others wishing Hotel accommodation. We know Mr. Parker to be affable and polite, and learn that he has some experience in the business. His house will no doubt be a pleasant resort for the traveler. The bed rooms have been put in thorough order, and, so far as the renovation of the building is concerned, and politeness of the proprietor is an item, we have no doubt the traveler will find the house all that can be desired. We presume Mr. P. will give due notice when he will be ready to receive customers. We will then be prepared to speak more unreservedly of his ability as a Hotel keeper.

In the meantime, it may not be amiss to say that that popular gentleman, "Harry Brock," retains his position near the last above named Hotel, where he is at all times prepared to receive his friends and feed them well. "Brock" is a trump in his line. This cannot be blotted out. He "eats a fellow well"—at least his guests say so, and we are not disposed to dispute about that matter.

And near the Railroad there is the American House, which we learn is well kept by Mr. Shoemaker.

Now, with the above Hotels and various restaurants and private boarding houses in the place, if this community cannot afford sufficient accommodation for all, we are at a loss to know where the fault lies.

We think we can assure the traveling public that there will, in future, be no cause of complaint on the score of the want of Hotel accommodation in Wilmington. It rests with others now to make this city a place of pleasure rather than a *bore* to the wayfaring and business traveler.—The merchant and citizen can do much towards maintaining Wilmington as it is—*the city of the State—the commercial emporium of North Carolina.*

War in Europe.

The following statement of war-like preparations now being made by the different nations of Europe, is from a statement made by the Belgian Minister of War, and will at this time prove of some interest to the reader:

"France is having 480,000 muskets made on the Chassepot system, not only in France, but in Belgium and England, and the greater part of them are to be ready by the 1st of March, 1868. In Prussia the arsenals are busily occupied in the manufacture of arms and 1,100 steel cannon, loading at the breech, have been ordered. Austria is transforming 600,000 muskets into Wanzl's system—half of them to be ready by the end of the year. Baden, Bavaria, Wurtemburg and Hesse-Darmstadt are adopting the Prussian musket, and are casting a considerable quantity of cannon on the Prussian model.

"England has already transformed 150,000 Enfield muskets on Snider's plan, and will have 250,000 ready by the end of the year—she will also by that time have 426 rifled cannon. Russia is transforming 600,000 muskets on Carle's system, and half of them will be ready by the beginning of 1868; she is also making 900 cannon. In Denmark the Chambers have voted funds for changing muskets into breech-loaders. Holland is transforming hers on Snider's system. Switzerland has got 50,000 muskets on Ampler-Milbank's system; has ordered 30,000 on Winchester's, and has made, or is having made, 200 breech-loading cannon. Italy, Spain, Portugal and Greece are transforming their muskets, and Spain and Greece have commanded cannon of M. Krupp, the celebrated cannon founder of Prussia. Lastly, Belgium has got rifled cannon on the Prussian plan, and is about to adopt the Prussian musket.

For the Journal.

Horse Stealing—Recovery of Animals—Escape of Thief.

LUMBERTON, N. C., April 12, 1867.

Messrs. Editors:—Horse stealing has become so prevalent of late, it behooves every good citizen to assist in every possible way to abate the evil. Our Postmaster received an advertisement on Wednesday, describing a horse thief, and two mules he had stolen in Union county, from Mrs. Stewart. It was soon astertained, that a person suiting the description had passed through town about an hour before. A party of our townsmen, under the leadership of Sylvester Albin, Esq., immediately saddled up and hastened in pursuit, and after an exciting race of five miles, overtook the thief, and ordered him to halt, but knowing the heavy penalty imposed upon his offense by a recent law, he refused, and leaped off and escaped through the woods. The mules were recovered and brought back to town, where they await the claim of their rightful owners.

The citizens were on the lookout for the fugitive, but as yet no information has been received of his movements, except that he was last seen making his way towards Whiteville. The advertisement describes him as follows: "A white man, medium size, ruddy face, dark moustache, dark hair, and aged apparently about 25 years. He was wearing dark clothes, shoes and black felt hat, low crown.

If the community generally would display like promptness and energy of Mr. Albin, the offence of horse stealing would be less frequent in North Carolina.

LUMBERTON.

THE EXECUTION OF CAPTAIN WIRZ.

STATEMENT BY HIS COUNSEL.

The Unfairness of the Trial—Proofs of Captain Wirz's Innocence—His Dying Declarations—Effort to Bribe him to Implicate Mr. Davis—Who were the Real Torturers of the Prisoners at Andersonville—Proposal of the Confederate Authorities to Surrender them without Equivalent, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 7, 1867.

To the Editors of the Whig:

Please publish the enclosed advance proof in your valuable paper.

With the highest regards,
Your most ob'l serv't,
LOUIS SCHADE,
Attorney at Law.

To the American People:

Intending to leave the United States for some time, I feel it my duty, before I start, to fulfill in part a promise which, a few hours before his death, I gave to my unfortunate client, Captain Wirz, who was executed at Washington, on the 10th day of November, 1865. Protesting up to the last moment his innocence of those monstrous crimes with which he was charged, he received my word, that, having failed to save him from a felon's doom, I would, as long as I lived, do everything in my power to clear his memory. I did that the more readily, as I was then already perfectly convinced that he suffered wrongfully. Since that time his unfortunate children, both here and in Europe, have constantly implored me to wipe out the terrible stains which now cover the name of their father. Though times do not seem propitious for obtaining full justice, yet, considering that man is mortal, I will, before entering upon a perilous voyage, perform my duty to those innocent orphans and also to myself.

I will now give a brief statement of the causes which led to the arrest and execution of Captain Wirz. In April, 1865, President Johnson issued a proclamation stating that, from evidence in the possession of the "Bureau of Military Justice" it appeared that Jefferson Davis was implicated in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and for that reason the President offered a reward of $100,000 on the capture of the then fugitive ex-President of the Southern Confederacy. That testimony has since been found to be entirely false and a mere fabrication, and the suborner Conover is now under sentence in the jail of this city, the two perjurers, whom he suborned, having turned State's evidence against him, whilst the individual, by whom Conover was suborned, has not yet been brought to justice.

Certain high and influential enemies of Jefferson Davis, either then already aware of the character of the testimony of those witnesses, or not thinking their testimony quite sufficient to hang Jefferson Davis, expected to find the wanting material in the terrible mortality of Union prisoners, at Andersonville. Orders were issued accordingly to arrest a subaltern officer, Captain Wirz, a poor, friendless, and wounded prisoner of war, (he being included in the surrender of General Johnston,) and besides a foreigner by birth. On the 7th of May he was placed in the Old Capitol Prison at Washington, and from that time the greater part of the Northern press was busily engaged in forming the unfortunate man in the eyes of the Northern people into such a monster that it became almost impossible for him to obtain counsel.—Even his countryman, the Swiss Consul General, publicly refused to accept money to defray the expenses of the trial! He was doomed before he was heard—and even the permission to be heard according to law was denied him. To increase the excitement and give eclat to the proceeding, and to inflame still more the public mind, the trial took place under the very dome of the Capitol of the nation. A military commission, presided over by one of the most arbitrary and despotic generals in the country, was formed, and the paroled prisoner of war, his wounds still open, and so feeble that he had to recline during the trial on a sofa, carried before the same.—How that trial was conducted, the whole world knows. The enemies of generosity and humanity believed it then to be a sure thing to get at Jeff. Davis.

Therefore, the first charge was that of conspiracy between Wirz, Jefferson Davis, Seddon, Howell Cobb, R. B. Winder, and a number of others, to kill the Union prisoners. The trial lasted for three months, but unfortunately for the blood-thirsty instigators not a particle of evidence was produced showing the existence of such a conspiracy; yet Captain Wirz was found guilty of that charge! Having thus failed another effort was made. On the night before the execution of the prisoner a telegram was sent to the Northern press from this city, stating that Wirz had made important disclosures to General L. C. Baker, the well-known detective, implicating Jefferson Davis, and that the confession would probably be given to the public. On the same evening some parties came to the confessor of Wirz, Rev. Father Boyle, and also to me, one of them informing me that a high Cabinet officer wished to assure Wirz that if he would implicate Jefferson Davis with the atrocities committed at Andersonville, his sentence would be commuted. He, the messenger, or who ever he was, requested me to inform Wirz of this. In presence of Father Boyle I told Wirz, next morning, what had happened. The Captain simply and quietly replied: "Mr. Schade, you know that I have always told you that I do not know anything about Jefferson Davis. He had no connection with me as to what was done at Andersonville. If I knew anything of him I would not become a traitor against him or any body else, even to save my life." He likewise denied that he had made any statement whatever to General Baker. Thus ended the attempt to suborn Captain Wirz against Jefferson Davis. That alone shows what a man he was. How many of his defamers would have done the same? With his wounded arm in a sling the poor paroled prisoner mounted, two hours later, the scaffold. His last words were that he died innocent—and so he did. The 10th day of November, 1865, will indeed be a black stain on the pages of American history.

To weaken the effect of his declaration of innocence, and of the noble manner in which Wirz died, a telegram was manufactured here and sent North, stating that on the 27th day of October, Mrs. Wirz, (who actually was 900 miles on that day away from Washington), had been prevented by that Stantonian *deus ex machina*, General L. C. Baker, *from poisoning her husband!* Thus, on the same day, when the unfortunate family lost their husband and father, a cowardly and atrocious attempt was made to blacken their character also. On the next day I branded the whole as an infamous lie, and since then I never have heard of it again, though it emanated from a Brigadier General of the United States army.

All those who were charged with having conspired with Captain Wirz have since been released, except Jefferson Davis, the prisoner of the American "Castle Chillon."—Captain Winder was left off without trial, and if any of the others have been tried, which I do not know, certainly none of them have been hung. As captain Wirz could not conspire alone, nobody will now, in view of that important fact, consider him guilty of that charge. So much, then, for charge No. 1.

As to charge No. II, to wit: Murder, in violation of the laws and customs of war, I do not hesitate to declare what about 145, out of 160, witnesses on both sides declared that during the trial—that Captain Wirz never murdered or killed any Union prisoners with his own hands or otherwise. All those witnesses (about twelve to fifteen) who testified that they saw Captain Wirz kill a prisoner, have sworn falsely, abundant proofs of that assertion being in existence. The hands of Captain Wirz are clear of the blood of prisoners of war. He would certainly have at least intimated to me a knowledge of the alleged murders with which he was charged. In most all cases no names of the alleged murdered men could be given, and where it was done, no such persons could be identified. The terrible scene in court, when he was confronted with one of the witnesses, and the latter insisting that Wirz was the man who killed a certain Union prisoner, which irritated the prisoner so much that he almost fainted, will still be remembered.—That man (Grey) swore falsely, and God alone knows what the poor innocent prisoner must have suffered at that moment! That scene was depicted and illustrated in the Northern papers as if Wirz had broken down on account of his guilt. Seldom has a mortal suffered more than that friendless and forsaken man.

Fearing lest this communication will be too long, I will merely speak of the principal and most intelligent of those false witnesses, who testified to individual murder on the part of Captain Wirz. Upon his testimony the Judge Advocate in his final argument laid particular stress on account of his intelligence. This witness prepared also pictures of the alleged cruelties of Wirz, which were handed to the commission, and are now on record, copies of which appeared at the time in Northern illustrated papers. He swore that his name was Felix de la Baume, and represented himself as a Frenchman and a grand-nephew of Marquis de Lafayette. After having so well testified and shown so much zeal, he received a recommendation signed by the Commission. On the 11th day of October, before the taking of the testimony was concluded, he was appointed to a clerkship in the Department of the Interior. This occurred whilst one of the witnesses for the defense (Duncan) was arrested in open Court, and placed in prison before he had testified. After the execution of Captain Wirz some of the Germans of Washington recognized in de la Baume a deserter from the 7th New York (Stuben) Regiment, whose name was not de la Baume, but Felix Oeser, a native of Saxony. They went to Secretary Harland, and he dismised the imposter and important witness in the Wirz trial on the 21st of November, eleven days after the execution. Nobody who is acquainted with the Conover testimony, in consequence of which the President of the United States was falsely induced to place a reward of $100,000 upon the head of an innocent man, will be astonished at the above disclosures of the character of testimony before Military Commissions. So much for charge No. II.

If from twelve to fifteen witnesses could be found who were willing to testify to so many acts of murder on the part of Wirz, there must certainly have been no lack of such who were willing to swear to minor offenses. Such was the unnatural state of the public mind against the prisoner at that time, that such men regarded themselves and were regarded, as heroes, after having testified in the manner we have described; whilst, on the other hand, the witnesses for the defense were intimidated, particularly after one of them had been arrested.

But who is responsible for the many lives that were lost at Andersonville, and in the Southern prisons? That question has not fully been settled, but history will tell on whose heads the guilt for those sacrificed hecatombs of human beings is to be placed. It was certainly not the fault of poor Capt. Wirz, when, in consequence of medicines having been declared contraband of war by the North the Union prisoners died for want of the same. How often have we read during the war that ladies, going South, had been arrested and placed in the Old Capitol Prison by the Union authorities, because some quinine or other medicines had been found concealed in their petticoats! Our navy prevented the ingress of medical stores from the seaside, and our troops repeatedly destroyed drugstores, and even the supplies of private physicians in the South. Thus the scarcity of medicines became general all over the South. Surgeon J. C. Pilot writes, September 6, 1864, from Andersonville, (this letter was produced by the Judge Advocate in the Wirz trial): "We have but little more than the indigenous bark and roots with which to treat the numerous forms of disease to which our attention is daily called. For the treatment of wounds, ulcers, etc., we have literally nothing, except water. Our wards, some of them, are wild with gangrene, and we are compelled to fold our arms and look quietly upon its ravages, not even having stimulants to support the system under its depressing influence: the article being so limited in supply that it can only be issued for cases under the knife."

That provisions in the South were scarce will astonish nobody, when it is remembered how the war was carried on. General Sheridan boasted in his official report, that, in the Shenandoah valley alone, he burnt two thousand barns filled with wheat and corn, and all the mills in the whole tract of country; that he destroyed all factories of cloth, and killed, or drove off, every animal, even to the poultry, that could contribute to human sustenance. And those desolations were repeated in different parts of the South, and that so thoroughly that last month, two years after the end of the war, Congress had to appropriate a million of dollars, to save the people of those regions from actual starvation. The destruction of railroads and other means of transportation, by which food could be supplied by abundant districts to those without it, increased the difficulties in giving sufficient food to our prisoners.

The Confederate authorities, aware of their inability to sustain their prisoners, informed the Northern agents of the great mortality, and urgently requested that the prisoners should be exchanged, even without regard to the surplus which the Confederates had on the exchange rolls from former exchanges, that is, man for man.—But our War Department did not consent to an exchange. They did not want to "exchange skeletons for healthy men."—Finally, when all hopes of exchange were gone, Colonel Ould, the Confederate Commissioner, offered, early in August, 1864, to deliver up all the Federal sick and wounded, without requiring an equivalent in return, and pledged that the number would amount to ten or fifteen thousand, and, if it did not, he would make up that number with well men. Although this offer was made in August, the transportation was not sent for them (to Savannah) until December, although he urged and implored (to use his own words) that haste should be made. During that very period the most of the deaths at Andersonville occurred.—Congressman Covode, who lost two sons in Southern prisons, will do well, if he inquires *whose* those "skeletons" were, which the Hon. Secretary of War did not want to exchange for healthy men. If he does, he will hereafter be perhaps bitter against the people of the South.

But has the North treated her Southern prisoners so well that she should lift up her hands, and cry "anathema" over the South? Mr. Stanton reports to Congress, July 19, 1866, that of Southern prisoners there died in the North 26,436, and of Northern prisoners in the South 22,576. What a fearful record! Over 26,000 of prisoners dying in the midst of plenty! Mr. Stanton gives the total number of prisoners in the North at 220,000, and in the South at 126,940.—Suppose this to be correct, though this statement comes certainly from no impartial source, there died of prisoners in the South, without medicines, the fifth part, and in the North, with medicines and provisions, the eighth part. But in the number of Southern prisoners in the North are probably included the paroled prisoners of Lee's, Johnston's, and Smith's armies, who never entered a Northern prison. If that be so, the mortality of Southern prisoners in the North will be even greater than that of the Federal prisoners in the South!

We used justly to proclaim in former times that ours was "the land of the free and the home of the brave." But, when one half of the county is shrouded in a despotism, which now only finds a parallel in Russian Poland; and when our Generals and soldiers quietly permit that their former adversaries in arms shall be treated worse than the Helots of old, brave soldiers though they may be, who, when the forces and resources of both sections were more equal, have not seldom seen the backs of our best Generals, not to speak of such as Butler and his consorts, then we may well question, whether the "star spangled banner still waves over the land of the free or the home of the brave." A noble and brave soldier permits his antagonist to be calumniated and trampled upon after an honorable surrender. Besides, notwithstanding the decision of the highest legal tribunal in the land that military commissions are unconstitutional; the earnest and able protestations of President Johnson, and the said results of military commissions, yet such military commissions are again established by recent legislation of Congress all over the suffering and starving South.

History is just, and as Mr. Lincoln used to say, we cannot escape history. Puritanical hypocrisy, self-adulation, and self-glorification will not save those enemies of liberty from that just punishment.

Not even a Christian burial of the remains of Captain Wirz has been allowed by Secretary Stanton. They still lie, side by side with those of another and acknowledged victim of military Commissions, the unfortunate Mrs. Surratt, in the yard of the former jail in this city.

If anybody should desire to reply to this, I politely beg that it may be done before the 1st of May next, as then I shall leave the country to return in the fall. After that day letters will reach me in care of the American Legation, or Mr. Benedetto Bolzani, Leipzig street No. 38, Berlin, Prussia.

LOUIS SCHADE,
Attorney at Law.
Washington, April 4, 1867.

Recommendation and Nomination of Registers in Bankruptcy.

By direction of the Chief Justice the following statement is published for information:

1. Under the act of Congress the power of appointing "registers in bankruptcy" is vested in the district courts of the United States, the supreme courts of the Territories, and the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia; but no person can be appointed who is not a counsellor-at-law.

2. The duty of recommending and nominating to the district courts and other courts mentioned in the act suitable persons for appointment is imposed on the Chief Justice of the United States; and Congress having now adjourned without acting upon the bill introduced into the Senate to repeal this provision, he will proceed to carry it into effect.

3. To insure, as far as practicable, the selection of fit men for registers, the Chief Justice will require, in every case where his recommendation and nomination is desired, first, a certificate from the clerk or judge of the proper district or territorial court, or of some State court of record, under seal of the court, that the gentleman named therein is a counsellor of said court; and, secondly, a statement in what Congressional district or Territory the gentleman proposed resides, and for what district or Territory, and for what judicial district, the recommendation and nomination is desired; and, thirdly, letters from business and professional men of the district, State, or Territory who have the confidence of their fellow-citizens, each of which letters must vouch distinctly and fully for the gentleman named (1) in respect to his professional knowledge and ability, (2,) in respect to his personal integrity, and (3) in respect to his general business capacity.

4. In addition to these, when the State is represented in Congress, similar letters, if they can be had, are desired from the representative of the district, and from the Senators of the State, or, in the case of a Territory, from the delegate.

5. No memorials or petitions, or recommendations signed by others than the writer, are required.

6. All letters upon which any recommendation and nomination may be made will be filed by the Chief Justice in the office of the clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States.

7. Nominations and recommendations founded upon *testimony* furnished as above required will be made as early as practicable after the same shall have been received. If more than one gentleman in any district or Territory is thus commended to him, the Chief Justice will exercise his discretion in making the selection.

8. Only one person will be recommended and nominated in any one Congressional district except (1) in the case that the courts having the appointing power shall decline to appoint the persons first recommended and nominated; or (2) in the case that after the act shall have gone fully into operation the appointing court shall certify to the Chief Justice that the business of the district cannot be properly done by one register; or, (3) in some cases, where a Congressional district may be partly in one judicial district and partly in another.

D. W. MIDDLETON,
Clerk of the Supreme Court U. S.
WASHINGTON CITY, April 5, 1867.

Ratification of the Russian-American Treaty.

The telegraph informs us of the ratification by the Senate yesterday, by an almost unanimous vote, of the treaty lately concluded by our government with Russia for the cession to the United States of all the possessions of that power on this continent, known as Russian-America. The specific sum to be paid is $7,200,000, the $2,000,000 being added in consideration of a guarantee by Russia to relieve us of any obligation arising out of the privilege which she had allowed others of fishing and hunting in the territory. The treaty is based, it is said, upon a proposition originally made by this government in the Pierce administration.

The present acquisition will most probably prepare the negotiations for the acquisition of British Columbia, when we will have gained the entire shore of the Pacific, from 54:40 up to the Polar Sea, with its islands, fisheries, &c., which in the future are expected to become essential interests to the Pacific States, and a convenience altogether to our great mercantile and military marine. To the sixty thousand inhabitants of Russian America, five-sixths of whom are Esquimaux, the change of mastery will be beneficial.—*Baltimore Sun.*

The members of the Louisiana Legislature held a meeting the day after adjournment, and appointed a committee of thirteen, who where given authority to appoint a State Executive Committee for the National Reconstruction Party of Louisiana.

CRIMINAL COURT.—At the opening of its session on Friday, the Court was engaged in hearing the motion of the counsel for the prisoner to arrest judgment in the rape case. The motion was overruled by the Court. The counsel then moved for a new trial, which motion was also overruled. The Court then proceeded to pass judgment upon the prisoner. He was sentenced to be remanded to prison until the 10th day of May next, at which time he is to be taken to the place of common execution by the Sheriff, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 4 P. M., and there to be hung by the neck until he is dead.

From this judgment the counsel for the defence prayed an appeal to the Supreme Court of the State, which was granted. The appeal is based upon a point of fact.

WEIGHT OF GRAIN.—The motives which prompted the action of the Chamber of Commerce of this city in the passage of the resolutions given below at their regular monthly meeting on Thursday evening, cannot fail to meet the approval of the citizens generally and particularly the business community. A standard is required, and it is most fitting that it should be established by the Chamber of Commerce. Composed of merchants that body is enabled to understand and appreciate the wants of the business community and know what is required.

The standard established for corn differs, however, from that declared by act of Assembly at the session of 1856-57. The following are the weights established for the various descriptions of grain by the Legislature during the above session, and we are under the impression that the act has not since been subjected to amendment. We quote from the act:

"A bushel of wheat shall be sixty pounds; of rice forty-four pounds; of rye fifty-six pounds; of indian corn fifty-four pounds; of buckwheat fifty pounds; of barley forty-eight pounds; of oats thirty pounds; of flax seed fifty-five pounds; of clover seed sixty-four pounds; of peas fifty pounds; of corn meal forty-six pounds."

The resolutions of the Chamber are as follows:

WHEREAS, Frequent and just complaints have been made throughout our entire community in relation to the deficiency in measurement of grain, more especially that of corn, be it

Resolved, That from and after the first day of May next, no corn or other grain shall be bought or sold in this market, except by weight, and when no weight is specified, fifty-six (56) pounds to the bushel shall be considered the standard for corn.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report at the next regular meeting the standard weight of other grain.

Punch gives the following substitute for profane swearing, adapted to various sorts and conditions of men:

Lawyer: Tax my bill.
Doctor: Dash my draughts.
Soldier: Snap my stock.
Bricklayer: I'll be plastered.
Bricklayer's Laborer: Chop my hod.
Carpenter: Saw me.
Plumber and Glazier: Solder my pipes. Smash my panes.
Painter: I'm daubed.
Engineer: Burst my boiler.
Dramatic Author: Steal my French dictionary.
Actor: I'll be hissed.
Tailor: Cut me out. Cook my goose.
Linen Draper: Soil my silks. Sell me off.
Grocer: Squash my figs. Sand my Sugar. Seize my scales.
Baker; Knead my dough. Scorch my muffins.
Auctioneer: Knock me down.

General Pope announces in general orders that although he expects to allow the civil officers in his district to remain in their offices until their terms of office expire, yet it is to be clearly understood that the civil officers thus retained in office shall confine themselves strictly to the performance of their official duties, and whilst holding their offices they shall not use any influence whatever to deter or dissuade the people from taking an active part in reconstructing their State governments under act of Congress to provide for the more efficient government of the rebel States, and the act supplementary thereto.

National Cemeteries.

A National Cemetery has been erected near Yorktown, which contains the remains of two thousand one hundred and eighty-one Union soldiers, who fell during McClellan's memorable struggle on the peninsula. The Cemetery stands on the Yorktown and Williamsburg road, about a quarter of a mile outside the old Confederate entrenchments, and is tastefully laid out in four equal sections of ground, with grass plats, trees and shrubbery intermingling with happy effect.

Delaware United States Senatorship.

WILMINGTON, DEL., April 9.—Hon. Jas. A. Bayard, of Wilmington, who has been appointed United States Senator, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Senator Riddle, will take his seat at once. Senator Sausbury passed through the city last night on his way home. If he resigns, he will probably be succeeded by his brother, who is now Governor of this State.

Numerous expedients are reported from Massachusetts to get round the prohibitory law, which is now being enforced with rigor in that State. The latest expedient is the sale of mince pies with a large quantity of brandy in them, or, as a Boston paper expresses it, "about one drunk to each mince pie." These are known as "anti-prohibition pies," and are chiefly sold in the highly exemplary and moral town of Boston.

Mr. B. M. Brown, eighty-four years old, and a resident of Dayton, Ohio, for the last thirty years, is undergoing the process of voluntary starvation. According to the Journal, of that city, he and his family assert that he has taken no food since the 28th of February. He feels no pain from his long fast, and asserts that he has no appetite. He is reduced to a skeleton, expects death, and is satisfied with the expectation; but believes that "guardian angels" have, by some spiritual essence, protracted his life.

Some liquor seized by the State authorities in Middlesex county, Mass., was analyzed a few days since. On a bottle which was lettered in guilt "D. Brandy," thirty cents per glass, the chemist put the following label: "Unable to decide what the manufacturer of this intended to imitate; it contains more or less camphene." He also added, as a private mark, a skull and cross bones.

They have a patriarch in Taunton, Mass., who says that he once raised a flock of wild ducks from a pond when he took aim at them with his gun and fired. They flew away with much clamor, and surprised to find that none of them dropped, he examined the field of battle. He picked up four bushels of legs. There is a touch of pathos in the old man's voice as he adds—"I fired too low."

Miss Salina Eller, of Beck's Station, Hamilton county, Indiana, was bitten on the finger by a rabid dog some two months ago. Last week symptoms of hydrophobia appeared, and the disease was rapidly approaching the crisis when one of the doctors in attendance determined to try bromide of potassium, lately recommended by a European physician. Continuing this remedy until nearly two ounces had been given, the horrible symptoms began to abate on the 1st inst., and at last accounts it was hoped she might recover.

Philip Tompertt, Independent Democrat, was re-elected Mayor of Louisville, Kentucky, Saturday by 2,018 majority.—The total vote polled is about 9,290.