THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, N. C.,

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1867.

The Colored Man and the Ballot.

We have always endeavored to state the positions of persons correctly, and are unwilling to base an argument or make a point against parties or individuals by misrepresenting their views. Mr. Harris complains to us that we have done him injustice in our article yesterday, in relation to his address at the Theatre on Monday night, more from the inference which we drew, than from the words used. He did advise the unity of the colored people, not, however, as against the whites, but for protection against designing politicians who desired only to use them as a ladder to mount into power and the emoluments of office. He assures us that he is as much opposed to an enmity between the races as we are, and has taken every occasion in which he has addressed his people, to advise them against this evil.

We are glad to be able to make this correction, and we can assure him if he will devote himself to the elevation of his people and keep them out of the hands of designing men, who expect to use them as tools for their own elevation, he will deserve and receive the thanks of both races. Much can be done in this respect, and the field is an inviting one for a man of his intelligence. No thoughtful black man can fail to see the object of the present adulation of their race; numbers of them are wise enough to understand the purpose of their newly acquired powers. If they had been armed with the ballot merely for their good; if this fact alone was to redound to the welfare of the colored people, and the men who had conferred it were to be regarded as pious missionaries, devoting their time and the nation's money for the benefit of the ignorant blacks, it would be natural to suppose that Northern States, where the Radicals already have controlling majorities, would elevate the negro in the same way. If these men were honest in their love of the black man, if their only object was that of a truthful desire to elevate the race, we would suppose their orators would first "pluck the mote out of their own eyes." No. Party success is assured there, and they care very little whether the blacks have any rights. There are but few of this race in those States, and from want of encouragement and sympathy, and by persecutions, riots and "all uncharitableness," their numbers are daily diminishing.

The great fear we have for the colored man is that the present tendency is to convert the race into a mere voting machine, and these people who have always been contented laborers will be rendered worthless, either to themselves or to the whites. In the present condition of affairs the South cannot afford to retain upon her soil drones, be they white or black. If the present political situation is seized upon by men who can use the blacks, and divert them from their habits of industry, and destroy the mutual confidence existing between them and their former owners, the disastrous results may easily be predicted. The evil effects upon the blacks of the addresses of the Northern emissaries are already apparent, and stupid, ambitious persons among them, who hope to realize something from the present excitement, are instilling into their minds sentiments which, if indulged in, must rapidly dry up every kindly feeling the whites have for them.

If the negro was urged with the same zeal to labor, to be honest, to seek education, to elevate himself and his race, as he is to vote the Radical ticket and to despise the "rebel," we might hope for the welfare and prosperity of these people. A desire to secure their votes will give abundant reason for efforts which will lead to their corruption. Raymond, the able editor of the New York *Times*, a Radical himself, and by his speeches and votes in Congress responsible for the present political condition of affairs, in deprecating the evil influences of the Radical campaign in the South, upon the negro, says most truly and forcibly that "any sort of political enterprise which aims to use the freedmen as a voting class, will begin in their corruption and end in their political and social destruction."

To prevent this result do we labor, and shall continue to do so as long as there remains a hope of saving them from the devouring jaws of demagogues and worthless adventurers. The prosperity of the country, the welfare of the whites, and the salvation of the blacks rest upon the ability of the good men of all colors and races to save these people from the political sharks who seek to devour them.

We are glad, therefore, that Mr. Harris, who seems to be the principal and the ablest of their orators, will labor for the real welfare of his people. He must, however, separate the wheat from the chaff.—As much as he may desire the unity of the colored people for their own protection,—for in unity there is strength,—it may be purchased at too great a sacrifice, even in the corruption and the political and social ruin of the very people whom he would save. If ignorant and impudent fellows, black or white, set themselves up as teachers of these people to lead them by false and unsafe steps to antagonism with the whites, let him denounce them as their conduct deserves, and not affiliate with them in seeming approbation of their views. Let a platform of a high standard be adopted, if the negro is to be benefited by his enlarged powers, and those who could not or would not stand upon it be disregarded as dangerous tricksters and malcontents. By such a course he, and those who act with him, will yet receive the blessings of their people, who will soon learn their true from their false friends.

Evil Tendencies of Radical Politics.

We have more than once expressed a fear that the effect of Radical legislation and Radical speeches would be the demoralization and injury of the colored people. While we have had little or no cause for complaint here, we are grieved to see elsewhere that the black population are disorderly and riotous. We thought that the perfect freedom allowed to Conway, Hunnicutt, and other political vagabonds and bankrupts, to disseminate their peculiar views, and the restraint imposed upon the Virginia press and orators in exposing these fellows, followed by the disgraceful and libelous charge of Judge Underwood, would have a tendency to incite the ignorant blacks to violent and illegal conduct in that State.

The serious and alarming riot which occurred in Richmond on Thursday is most assuredly the legitimate offspring of this unnatural state of affairs. We have deplored the efforts of the Radicals to unite the blacks by leagues and other political and religious societies, as the ultimate and certain result must be organized opposition to the whites and to the law, when executed against one of their number. We see in the Richmond riot, the early and sad illustration of this very fact, and the excitement and *animus* of the mob may well be imagined, when the appeals and orders of General SCHOFIELD, in person, were unheeded, and the rioters were only driven back at the point of the bayonet. This riot began in an attempt to rescue an offender from the officers of the law, and but for the interposition of Federal soldiers, would have ended probably in deluging the streets of Richmond in blood.

The frequent occurrence of similar affairs throughout the South are subjects of most serious reflections. Before the passage of the Reconstruction acts; in fact, before the Northern elections, riots were inaugurated at the South, expressly to manufacture political capital for the purpose of securing the success of Radical candidates, and to excuse the extreme measures already determined upon as the means of building up their party in the South. Possibly the success of the Conservatives in Connecticut and Kentucky, as well as in the many municipal elections in the Northwest, prompted resort to their old successful scheme—of one fact we have long been satisfied, that the Southern blacks are to be the instruments of securing Radical success, and whether it is done by their ballots or their blood is a matter of little concern to those who direct the fortunes of the party.

In this growing estrangement between the whites and blacks we fear the worst consequences, and we regret to see men of high character occupying distinguished official positions under the government, traversing the length and breadth of our section, giving their assistance, whatever may be their professions to the contrary, to its development, when they see, day by day, the evil consequences, and know that the result will be most detrimental to the whole country, disastrous especially to the South, and utterly ruinous to the poor ignorant people whose welfare they pretend to have under their peculiar charge.

In most of the larger places of the South the intercourse between the races has been disturbed by disorders and riots of greater or less degree. With us, we are happy to state, nothing unpleasant has occurred, and we trust the good sense which has heretofore controlled the conduct of all classes will continue. With but few exceptions, we have heard of nothing from their speakers or meetings of a character to incite the colored people against the whites, but must deprecate the growing tendency of their secret political, and even religious organization, of laying the foundation of troubles similar to those we have recorded as happening in other places. We would hail with pleasure organizations purely for the social and intellectual elevation of the race, but when these associations extend to the protection of disorderly and lawless, even criminal members, from the officers of the law, or to endorse the conduct of persons because they are members, which should rather secure their expulsion, we fear that the legitimate object of all virtuous and honest associations will rapidly degenerate into revolutionary meetings which will ultimately lead their members into error and trouble.

Against this we would warn our colored people. If we felt no sympathy for them, which is not the case, the wish for the prosperity of our community would be sufficient proof of the truthfulness and earnestness with which we utter it. Many of these people have as much interest as we in the welfare of this city; we are glad to know many of them are acquiring by their honest labors a home, and are endeavoring to rear their children to become useful and intelligent citizens; and have and deserve the best wishes of every honorable man in our midst. They, as much as any of our people, wish and require a continuance of the good feelings between the races, and the peace and tranquility of the city. To do this, they must aid, not only by their conduct, but by their sympathy, in the rigid enforcement of the law against all offenders, whatever may be their politics or race, and must not be led, by party leagues or religious associations, into unlawful protection of, or sympathy with, bad people because they are of their own color. They know that their rights will be fully protected by the civil officers of the State, from the highest to the lowest, and that good citizens, white or black, have nothing to fear. Our municipal affairs are, especially, well administered, and a judicious and just Post Commander will see that all grievances and proper complaints are attended to. So in no event can there be any excuse to resort to violence or disorder.

The Farmer.

We have received the May number of the Farmer, published at Richmond, Virginia, by Elliott & Shields. This magazine continues to contain valuable hints to farmers, for which it has always been characterized, besides many well selected and written articles of a literary character, which should not fail to commend it to the farmers generally. It contains valuable information of a practical benefit to the farmer in the field, and affords much amusement and real benefit as a fireside monthly.

An omnibus company in Cincinnati is required to pay $2,000 for the loss of a lady's trunk.

Ex-President Davis.

It seems to be believed now that Chief Justice Chase will, as soon as the Supreme Court adjourns, repair to Richmond, and preside at the trial of ex-President Davis, at the District Court now in session there. It is certain that the distinguished prisoner will pass from the hands of the military into those of the civil officers of the Government. If there is no trial, it is thought he will be bailed, Horace Greely becoming one of his sureties. A few days will decide the vexed question.

The Shenandoah and Mr. Cornelius E. Hunt.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The subjoined article from the Mobile *Tribune* was written by a mess-mate of the late Commander of the Shenandoah, and reflects honor on its author, who thus defends that gallant gentleman—now an exile in a foreign land—from the cowardly libel of Mr. Cornelius E. Hunt. The fact of publishing his book under such circumstances ought to be sufficient to condemn him in the eyes of all honorable men; but when it is known that Mr. Hunt's announcement of himself on the title page as "one of her officers" is a *falsehood*, and that his motive for publishing this libel was to revenge himself on one whose discipline he experienced at sea, Mr. Hunt and his book will at once receive the contempt they merit. According to his own statement, Mr. Hunt deserted his comrades and sneaked ashore in disguise, leaving them to their fate, and now he comes to the United States, falsely alleges himself to have been an officer of the ship, and libels his commander, who, he knows, is prohibited from returning to this country, and cannot, therefore, until after the injury to him is accomplished, meet and denounce the libel. The idea of a master's mate knowing the plans and orders of a commanding officer was so absurd, that Mr. Hunt took particular pains to conceal his true rank, and calls himself "one of her officers." This sailing under false colors comes nearer the crime of *piracy* than anything done by any "officer" of the Shenandoah. Yours, respectfully, A.

THE "SHENANDOAH;" OR THE LAST CONFEDERATE CRUISER, BY CORNELIUS E. HUNT, ONE OF HER OFFICERS.

From the Mobile Tribune.

Some eight months ago there appeared here in Mobile a young man who told everybody he met, in the strictest confidence, that he was lately an officer of the celebrated Shenandoah. Alarmed at the treatment that Jeff. Davis had received, he was very uneasy lest the authorities might detect him through the thin disguise of a threadbare citizen suit, and make him pay penalty of a conspicuous leader in a defeated cause. He had not been here long, however, before he assumed a bolder tone, whether because he found that the authorities were inclined to treat him with disrespectful indifference, or whether because the several hundred people to whom he had confided the secret of his identity had broken faith with him, it has not been fully ascertained. At any rate, he began to circulate in society as a late Confederate naval officer; gave his card, on several occasions, to young ladies, with the understanding (on this part) that they should cherish it as a memento of one who had seen the last of the Confederate flag; bored people to death with accounts of impossible adventures, of which Hunt was invariably the hero; and finally imparted, in wretched English, his intention of writing a book. He has written it; and it is such a book as might have been expected from the combined efforts of Dogberry and Iago.

The book is a history of the cruise of the Shenandoah, or it is nothing.

The value of an historical work, after due consideration has been given to the importance of the subject treated, is to be estimated by the accuracy of the statements it contains. We form our opinion in regard to the last by our knowledge of the author, and of his opportunities for acquiring the necessary information concerning his subject. In the present case we have a very good knowledge of both the author and his opportunities. No intelligent person could converse long with Mr. Hunt without recognizing in him a man capable of writing "temporal" for "temporary;" "complicated" for "implicated;" and of saying, "I done it." But this gross ignorance of his mother tongue might be forgiven our author if facts and sound practical reflections on them were expressed, however rudely, in his work. As it is, the reader is made to stand by and see his language murdered, only to learn that Mr. Hunt likes to see the sun rise at sea, has given a Confederate button to a young lady in Australia, or has learned to talk like a tar—a choice of subjects which would be quite sufficient to convince us, even if we had not known it by personal observation, that the author is just about as much a sailor as a tadpole is a frog. Very ambitious of passing for a frog, however, this tadpole makes continual and ridiculous efforts to croak. "Aye, aye, my hearty," "shiver your timbers," etc., are favorite expressions with six months' midshipmen and newly fledged master's mates.

The title of master's mate was that borne by our author during the latter part of his connection with the Shenandoah; fact he forgets to mention in his book. The master's mate in a ship of war is entrusted with the responsible duties of superintending the scrubbing of the lower deck, commanding the water tanks and beef barrels in the hold, and serving out grog to the sailors. He is the connecting link between officers and men, as the bat is between beast and bird.

The late officers of the Shenandoah will probably object, then, to the assumption by our author of the distinction of being "one of her officers." Such an assumption conveys the impression that the statements made in the work have the stamp of authority, whereas the advantages possessed by a master's mate for ascertaining the plans and instructions of the commander, the difficulties in his way, and the condition and destination of the ship, are even more meagre than those enjoyed by the cabin boy.

If Mr. Hunt had confined himself to the task of showing what a proficient he had become in the use of "sea slang," he might be pardoned for attempting to make money by making a fool of himself, as so many better men do every day; but when he carries the joke so far as to malign the fair name of his former commander, now an exile in a foreign land, and ignorant of the charges made against him, he must be noticed.

We happen to have in our possession notes of the Shenandoah's cruise, furnished by Captain Waddell himself. We have already published in these columns a brief narrative compiled from those notes. It is needless to say that they contain statements differing very materially from some made in the book before us—statements of facts that would hardly come to the knowledge of a master's mate.

On the 2d of August, 1865, the Shenandoah, while off the coast of California, received from an English vessel the news of the downfall of the Confederacy. Her commander gives the following account of what he did under the circumstances, and his reason for so doing.

"Having ordered the ship disarmed, attention was given to what had best be done in regard to her destination, and it was deemed prudent to run the ship as quickly as possible to the Atlantic side, for a search after her would certainly be made in the North Pacific and along the coast of California; and as she was sufficiently in advance of any news that could affect her, by the whale ships which were ransomed, she would probably be in advance of any preparations the navy of the United States might make for her in the North Atlantic. An application was made by some of the officers, that the ship should be run to a New Zealand or Australian port, and there done *anything with*, but the request was not complied with. It was due to the course of the Shenandoah that she should pursue her liquid way, to the haven where she might repose *in honor*, and shirk no danger for fear of consequences, which, after all, were imaginary."

Now hear the master's mate:

"I speak from my own personal knowledge when I say that he (Waddell) promised his crew to run the Shenandoah into Sydney, and then without their cognizance steered for another port, thus subjecting them to unnecessary peril, for the *sake of securing a considerable sum of money which he* KNEW *to be lodged* in the hands of one of *our secret agents at Liverpool.*"

The italics and capitals are ours, used to show plainly what Mr. Hunt *knew* of what Waddell knew. Hear him again:

"A short time prior to the final collapse several thousand pounds of the public fund had been placed in the hands of an agent, which he laid aside, not knowing how else to dispose of it, to provide for the immediate necessities of such naval officers of the Confederacy as the close of the war should leave homeless and proscribed in England. Two hundred pounds from this fund was appropriated to each of the officers of the Shenandoah." The author goes on to state that one at a time these officers were admitted to the Captain's presence, "and as the humor actuated him, he presented them from fifty to one hundred pounds apiece out of the two hundred that was justly theirs. A few of his favorites, I believe, received their full bounty."

It was to get the money mentioned above as falling into the hands of a secret agent in England just before "the collapse," that Hunt, in the Pacific Ocean at the time, knew that Waddell was taking measures.

That is what *he knew*. The charge against the Captain of paying different sums to different officers according to their rank is made from what he *believed*, so he says; for, according to his own graphic account, he deserted his shipmates while they were confined on board her Majesty's ship, the Donegal, ignorant as to the fate that awaited them.

Well, we have said more on this subject than we intended, but we felt called upon to defend, in his absence, against a malicious attack upon his character a gallant officer who has borne the Confederate flag around the circuit of the globe. We feel especially called upon, as the man stabbed in the back is our old mess-mate, whom we had learned to honor and esteem before the whole world began talking about him.

From the Raleigh Sentinel.

The Board of Claims.

We publish below the information alluded to in our issue of yesterday as necessary to a proper understanding of the powers of the Commissioners of Claims, the nature of the claims that may be submitted for their adjudication and the rules by which the Board will be governed:

ORDINANCE OF CONVENTION.

AN ORDINANCE RECOGNIZING THE JUST DEBTS OF NORTH CAROLINA AND PROHIBITING THE PAYMENT OF ALL PUBLIC DEBTS CREATED OR INCURRED IN AID OF THE LATE REBELLION.

1. *Be it declared and ordained by the delegates of the people of the State of North Carolina in Convention assembled, and it is hereby declared and ordained*, That it shall be the duty of the General Assembly of the State, so soon as is practicable, to provide for the payment of all debts and obligations created or incurred by the State, otherwise than in aid of the late rebellion.

2. *Be it further declared and ordained*, That all debts and obligations created or incurred by the State, in aid of the late rebellion, directly or indirectly, are void, and no General Assembly of this State shall have power to assume, or provide for the payment of the same, or any portion thereof; nor shall any General Assembly of this State have power to assume, or provide for the payment of any portion of the debts or obligations created or incurred, directly or indirectly, by the late so-called Confederate States, or by its agents, or under its authority.

[*Ratified in Convention, this 19th of October*, 1865.]

EDWIN G. READE,
President.

JAMES H. MOORE, Secretary of the Convention.

R. C. BADGER, Assistant Secretary.

AN ACT RELATING TO DEBTS CONTRACTED DURING THE WAR.

Whereas, The Convention of the State of North Carolina, by an Ordinance ratified the 19th day of October, 1865, declared and ordained that all debts and obligations created by the State in aid of the late rebellion are void, and that no General Assembly shall have power to assume or provide for their payment: *And whereas* it is made the duty of the General Assembly to provide for the payment of debts created otherwise than in aid of the rebellion: *And whereas* it is necessary to ascertain what debts are void and what are not void under the said ordinance; Therefore,

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same*, That it shall be the duty of the Governor to appoint three discreet persons Commissioners, whose duty it shall be to investigate all claims against the State on account of any debt or obligation created during the late war, with power to take testimony, administer oaths, send for persons and papers, and to adopt such rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary to enable them to distinguish between debts created for war purposes, and whose duty it shall be to report all such claims to the next session of this General Assembly.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That the said Commissioners shall take an oath for the faithful discharge of their duties, and shall be paid, not exceeding the sum of five dollars each day, per day, while engaged under this Act; which, with any other expenses that may be incurred in carrying into effect this Act, shall be paid out of moneys not otherwise appropriated, on the warrant of the Governor.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That this Act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified March 4, 1867.

A true copy of the original on file in this office.

R. W. BEST,
Secretary of State.

They do up rampant females in Memphis by sacking them—tied in a bag and carried on the back of a huge negro to the station house.

The accounts relative to the crops and fruit, from all sections of the country, continue to be highly favored.

During the month of April there were 2,012 white and 8,687 colored men registered as voters in New Orleans.

Mr. Peabody's visit cost him over millions of dollars. A liberal expenditure and well applied.

Correspondence of the Journal of Commerce.

Studies in the Shenandoah Valley.

WINCHESTER, VA., April 30, 1867.

Over the thirty-two miles of valley from Harper's Ferry to this place little has been done, except by the kindly hand of Nature, to repair the ravages of war. Piles of brick, apparently lying just where they fell, mark the sites of the Armory and workshops at the Ferry. On the hill above the village are the skeletons of two stone churches. From the valley you can see through their burned-out windows to the blue sky beyond—a weird and picturesque effect. There are curious things here, which are sure to be pointed out to you.—One is the profile of Washington which a powerful imagination descries among the angular rocks, near the top of the Maryland heights. I looked anxiously for it, and to oblige my cicerone, confessed that I thought I saw it. Another standing object of interest is the ricketty old engine house, the *point d'appui* of John Brown's raid. At the Ferry, and at Charlestown, some miles up the valley, where he was executed, you hear quite as much of John Brown as of Sheridan. Time has softened his memory, and the people speak of him more kindly than of some of the later raiders. There is not much at Harper's Ferry now to tempt a traveler to stay, unless he has leisure for a trip to the frowning heights across the Potomac, and the Shenandoah, and back of the town. The game of long taw played between the batteries on Maryland and Loudon heights must have been noisy and exciting. The chill of the April wind, like the echoing rattle of the cars, seems to be multiplied a hundred fold in these gorges. In summer, when the sombre crags are covered with foliage, I should like to climb them; but now let me button up my overcoat, and catch the train for Winchester.

As we ascend the valley and reach the open country, we get into warmer air.—The peach and apple trees are in full bloom; the wheat is up three or four inches; the trees (except the sycamore) are in leaf.—But through this mask of greenery and flowers we see always the unhealed gashes of war. The stone mills which once dotted this beautiful valley are burned down, and the people have not the heart to rebuild them. Nothing fits more gracefully into a landscape than a mill, with its great wheel in slow motion. The foam and sparkle of the waters, and the sleepy hum of the burr-stones are delightful to the senses. But a mill in ruins is the saddest of objects, because it is a type of war in its most ferocious aspect. Forts, stockades, or temporary earthworks, the contour of which is still undisturbed, are to be seen at prominent points on both sides of the railroad. For miles the fences are all destroyed, the rails having been removed and burned by one army or the other, as the tide of victory and defeat oscillated up and down the valley. Even the stone walls are partly down, the upper row of boulders having been knocked off, it is said, by cavalry charging over them; though that story smacks of the incredible. From Opequon Creek to Winchester, where one of the most obstinate and decisive battles of the war was fought, there is a clean strip of country as far as the eye can see, north and south. It looks like the rolling unfenced prairie of Illinois. Waterloo or Sadowa might have been fought here. It is the traditional battle field of which we have often read, comprising within its limits some small orchards and a few lonely farmhouses, and traversed by three or four roads, which were the general lines of advance and retreat for both sides. The roofs and spires of Winchester in the far background fill up the picture. For a distance of six miles from the Opequon to this quaint old town, the battle of the 19th of September, 1864, raged with fluctuating fortunes from daylight until dark.

It was a fair stand up, give-and-take fight, worthy of veterans of the 6th Corps on one side and of Jackson's old force on the other, and ended, as the whole world knows, in one of the most complete and important victories achieved by the Federal troops in that year. For deeds of personal daring, especially on the part of the contending cavalry, led by such gallant fellows as Torbert, Averill and Custer on one side, and Fitz Lee and Lomax on the other, this battle is unmatched in our annals. But I do not propose to fight it over again for your readers, though, if space permitted, I could tell some things about the battle which would be new and possibly interesting. Sheridan's report of the affair, I believe, has never been published.

This natural battle-field is for the most part covered with grass. There are occasional patches of wheat, which is uncommonly fine this year. Several pieces of ground were shown me which have been rented by Northern soldiers at a low figure, and promise goodly crops. There is no better and surer wheat ground in the world than this in the Shenandoah Valley, from twenty to forty bushels an acre being a common yield. But at present the people lack the money, and what is of more importance, *the confidence in the future disposition of our government*, necessary to carry on any enterprise successfully. Of this more further on. The only signs of vitality, or rather of life-in-death that I discovered in this magnificent battle-tract, were going on at the Union cemetery, just outside of Winchester. Here the burial corps were re-interring the remains of soldiers who fell in the terrible battles of the Valley. Tall white boards at present mark their resting places, soon to be replaced by iron head pieces dipped in zinc, and practically indestructible.

Winchester is especially interesting to the Northern tourist, because it is one of the oldest and was one of the most aristocratic towns in Virginia. Nowhere else, not even at Richmond, did the proud blood of the genuine Virginia stock assert itself more loftily. When the war broke out all the wealth, fashion and intellect of Winchester sided with the South. Twenty-one of her young men were killed at the first battle of Bull Run, and nearly every other battle in the State made mourning in her homes. She was at once the shield and the target of the contending forces in all the great struggles for the possession of the valley. Seventy-six times Winchester was taken and retaken. In the morning the rebels and in the evening the federals would be in tranquil possession. While gray cavaliers were galloping at one end of the long street which runs through the town, horsemen in blue would be scampering out of the other, and *vice versa*. The register at Taylor's Hotel shows alternate pages filled with the names of noted officers, Federal and Confederate, who happened for the time being to command the beds and rations of that hosterly. If constancy is a thing to praise in war as in love, the people of Winchester have some justification in claiming that they were true to their unlucky flag. They sacrificed everything to the cause of secession, and have become from the richest and most prosperous population of the same size in the State, to the poorest and neediest. One example was mentioned to me where a wealthy gentleman as late as the fall of 1864, when the most sanguine Southerners were beginning to despair, sold his last real estate, and invested the proceeds in Confederate bonds, which six months later were worthless.

A more quiet, subdued and patient people, under their sufferings, I have never seen. One of the most remarkable things—it would be *ominous* under other circumstances—is their taciturn demeanor. One evening, in the office of Taylor's Hotel, I carefully observed the bearing and conversation of the scores of old men and young men in gray (the remains, carefully preserved, of their Confederate uniforms,) There was little said upon any subject, and that in a low voice, but politics, past, present, or to come, was not hinted at. Most of the loungers stood or sat and smoked their pipes and stared into vacancy. Yet they were ready to be drawn into conversation, and, if asked, expressed themselves freely and courteously upon all subjects. Nothing surprises a Northern man more than the entire freedom of these people from malice towards the government. In this respect, as in the reports of their feelings towards the freedman, they are grossly misrepresented and generally misunderstood. They accept the situation with a degree of resignation which I could not have expected among a race of men so sensitive and high strung. But under this surface of composure there is an apparent anxiety, such as one observes among the inhabitants of regions which are often devastated by earthquakes. They are afraid that the *worst shock has not yet come*. If the people of this valley could but receive from some authoritative source an assurance that the Radical party will not devise some new punishment for them beyond the Reconstruction Bill, I think they would approve that measure cordially, and get to work under it in good faith. Till then the industry of the Shenandoah Valley is under a blight more deadly and paralyzing than all that the weevil could inflict on its wheat fields.

But I find that this subject grows under my pen, and I close with an anecdote clipped from one of the local papers, which may not have fallen under your observation. Any comment of mine would spoil its perfect beauty:

A NOBLE ACT.—An act, touchingly beautiful in its nature, came to our knowledge last week. A few days previous, after the family of Major B. B. Washington had dined, that gentleman remarked to his little daughter, an interesting child of three years, "Nannie, you have had a nice dinner, whilst some of your little sisters in the far South are perishing for the want of food." "Pa," said the little cherub, "I have $15, and I'll buy something for them to eat." The child was brought to town next day, and at her request was taken to a commission house. There she purchased a barrel of flour, and had it marked:

"From NANNIE BIRD WASHINGTON,
(Aged Three Years,)
To My Little Sisters in the South."

Gen. Sickles Issues Another Order.

CHARLESTON, May 9—P. M.

General Sickles has issued the following:

HEADQUARTERS, SECOND MILITARY DISTRICT,
CHARLESTON, S. C., May 8.

GENERAL ORDERS
No. 18.

First. On the third Monday of July next, in obedience to the requirements of the act of Congress passed March 23d, 1867, the Commanding General will proceed and cause to be made a registration of the male citizens of the United States twenty-one years of age and upwards, residents of North and South Carolina, not disfranchised for participation in the rebellion, or for felony at common law.

Second. One or more boards of registration consisting of three discreet and qualified persons, to be appointed by the Commanding General, will be organized in each county or city, to make and complete the registration and superintend the election to be held thereafter for delegates to a convention to frame a constitution, and make returns to him of the votes, list of the voters and of the persons elected as delegates by a plurality of the votes cast at such election.

Third. The counties in North Carolina and the geographical districts in South Carolina, will be for the purposes of registration, divided into convenient registration precincts; in each registration precinct, a board of registers will, if practicable, be organized. Several places will be designated in each registration precinct where the board will meet, and citizens eligible to registration may go and be registered. The board of registration will remain in session two days, from sunrise to sunset at each place of meeting. On the adjournment of the board, a copy of the list of persons registered will be deposited in a suitable place within the precinct. Seven days from public information and thereafter, the board will again visit every precinct and revise the list of voters, hear objections from citizens as to any adjudication made and register any person who may have been unable, by reason of illness or other good and sufficient cause, to attend the first session of the board.

Fourth. All persons appointed to make the said registration of voters and to conduct said election will be required, before entering upon their duties, to take and subscribe the oath prescribed by the act approved July 2d, 1862, entitled "an act to prescribe an oath of office," and if any person shall falsely take and subscribe such oath or affirmation, such person so offending and being duly convicted thereof, shall be subject to the pains, penalties and disabilities which, by law, are provided for the punishment of the crime of wilful and corrupt perjury. The form of the oath is herewith published, as follows: "I, A. B., do solemnly swear or affirm that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof. That I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, council or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever under any authority or pretended authority in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power or constitution within the United States hostile or inimical thereto; and I do further swear or affirm that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign or domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. *So help me God.*"

Fifth. Members of the board of registration will be allowed, as compensation, four dollars a day for each day actually and necessarily employed in the performance of their duties, and ten cents a mile for each mile traveled on duty. Officers of the army, detailed for such duty, will be paid the per diem and mileage allowed for attendance on court martials.

Sixth. Any citizen desiring to serve as a member of a board of registration, may forward his application to these headquarters, addressed to Capt. Alexander Moore, A. D. C. No application will be considered, unless accompanied by a written recommendation, signed by either the Provisional Governor of the State, a Judge of the Circuit or District Court of the United States, a Collector or other principal officer of Customs or of Internal Revenue, the Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, or the commanding officer of the military post within which the applicant resides, certifying the applicant to be a fit and proper person to receive the appointment.

Seventh. It is essential that every board of registration should be composed of persons of recognized consideration and worth, fairly representing the population, and in whose impartiality and capacity the body of voters in the vicinage may have just reliance.

Eighth. The boundaries of precincts for registration in the several places within each precinct where the board of registration will meet, the day or days on which the board will meet in each precinct, and also such regulations as may be necessary for the government of registers and of inspectors of election in the discharge of their duties, and to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the registration, will be duly published for general information.

Ninth. Post Commanders will report without delay upon the most expedient division of the territory within their commands into registration precincts, having reference, when practicable, to exercising laws and customs establishing the usual voting places, and keeping in view the importance of affording ample facilities for registration with the least interruption of the ordinary avocations of the people.

By Command of Maj. Gen. D. E. SICKLES.

J. W. CLOUS,
Capt. 38th Infantry,
A. D. C. & A. A. G.

STATE NEWS.

MEETING OF RENTERS.—A large and enthusiastic concourse of the citizens of Raleigh assembled at the court house, on Monday evening, the 6th inst., to consider the exorbitant prices of rent.

Mr. Jas. C. Marcom was called to the chair, who, in a few appropriate remarks, explained the object of the meeting, and Mr. J. Bagwell was requested to act as Secretary.

On motion, a committee of five, three whites and two colored, consisting of J. Bryant Jordan, J. B. Franklin and F. G. King, on the part of the whites, and Wm. H. High and George Fields, on the part of the colored, were appointed to adopt resolutions for the consideration of the meeting.

The committee retired and after a short absence returned and reported the following preamble and resolutions:

WHEREAS, The condition of the country, the scarcity of money and provisions, and the general paralysis of our industrial resources, demand mutual forbearance, encouragement, and assistance between all classes of society, and the practice of the principle of "live and let live;" therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, a portion of the rent-payers of Raleigh, in public meeting assembled, would respectfully represent that the existing rates of rents are entirely disproportionate to our means, and for the reasons set forth in the foregoing preamble, entirely in excess of our ability to pay, and of all the requirements of "the situation."

Resolved, That, recognizing the necessity of retrenchment in our expenditures, and feeling that the interests of all classes in the community are intimately associated, we appeal to landlords and property owners to effect such a reduction in the rates of rents as will be more in accordance with the demands of the times, which, while increasing our ability to pay, will, at the same time, the better secure *them* against loss.

Resolved, That we are actuated in this movement by no captious motives, but by a simple sense of duty to ourselves and families.

Resolved, That a committee of nine, five whites and four colored, be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting to take such steps and make such public representations, as will conduce to the accomplishment of the ends we have in view.

The Chairman appointed the following gentlemen as the committee:

R. K. Ferrell, J. B. Jordan, Jno. B. Neathery, S. D. Harrison, and O. Holt on the part of the whites.

Wm. High, Jno. C. Caswell, Austin Curtis and Steward Elison, on the part of the colored.

The meeting was addressed by several persons, white and colored.

Raleigh *Papers.*

MISSTATEMENTS FROM ABROAD.—In another column of the News of to-day will be found an extract from the N. Y. Herald, representing that in consequence of "repeated evidences of disloyalty," it has been found necessary by Gen. Sickles to garrison Fayetteville with a small body of troops. This announcement will doubtless occasion considerable surprise to our citizens, for it contains a mention of a state of feeling of the existence of which we were all ignorant. Our community has been accustomed to make the tranquil and law-abiding feeling which pervades it, a matter of congratulation; and there are but few of us who will not be at a loss to conjecture in what our disloyalty consists. It is true that we are not "loyal" in the sense of approving, endorsing, or imitating the course of the military speaker who delivered a discourse on the 29th ult., and whose peculiar business in our midst would appear to be to incite ill-feeling between the two races in the South, which must be productive of injury to both, and to foment political strife and animosity, which will of necessity work ill to the general government.

But withal, we can offer some substantial evidence of our fidelity to the oath of allegiance, and our claims to good citizenship. Our county has paid thousands of dollars in taxes into the Federal Treasury, and while there is no credit due us for doing whatever we are obliged to do, there might be a little accorded to us by magnanimous minds for performing what is required of us, heartily, faithfully, and without attempt at evasion. We obey the laws with exactness and alacrity, and so far from attempting to hinder, we strive to further the administration of justice to all classes. We have a good many Northern men doing business among us, and while we do not indulge in the hypocrisy of professing friendship and brotherly love for them, we treat them with ordinary civility and fairness in all business transactions, which is as much as they should expect or desire. We hope that some of the officers or soldiers of this garrison will take the trouble to acquaint themselves with the real state of feeling here, and, as a matter of justice, correct the misrepresentations going the rounds of the Northern press.—Fayetteville *News.*

THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO RALEIGH.—The President has decided to compromise between not going South at all and going upon a general tour, by going direct to Raleigh, and remaining one day and night there, and then returning to Washington. He will consequently be gone but three or four days.

NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES.—A Norfolk cotemporary says that from all sources come the most grateful accounts of the North Carolina fisheries. The shad season was unusually fine, and the herring season in some portions of the State is the best for fifteen years. One fishery on the Tar river has yielded as many as sixty thousand herrings a day, while others have even exceeded that amount. The sturgeon fisheries have been unusually productive also, and, altogether, the fish season in the old North State has been exceedingly profitable.

THE WEATHER AND CROPS.—The weather here is now quite cool. Fires are comfortable. We had a heavy storm of wind and rain on Tuesday night. The present rains have interfered somewhat with planting.

From what we can learn a larger breadth will be planted in cotton in this State than in any for years. Cotton will pay well at fifteen cents. This State will most probably produce this year two hundred thousand bales. The tobacco planters, too, are hopeful. The present fine prices will doubtless lead to the putting in of a large crop.—Raleigh *Standard.*

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT.—The Spring Term of Mecklenburg Superior Court was in session last week, Judge Gilliam presiding. Dave Blackwood and —— Peoples, both colored, were found guilty of larceny. The Western Democrat appropriately says:

"If our judicial authorities were allowed to inflict punishment according to the laws in force in this State for many years past, we should hear of less stealing and have fewer depredations of all sorts. In these latter days, however, a criminal must either be hanged, or kept in jail, as a punishment, at county expense, while his wife and children are suffering or starving.

"Which is the most barbarous practice; whipping a rogue when convicted, and then turn him loose to work for the support of his family, or keeping him confined in jail whilst his family is suffering for food?—The law givers of the present day may answer."

MEMORIAL CEREMONIES.—Generally throughout the State, the 10th of May will be observed as a memorial day for our gallant dead.

THEATRICAL.—The Bailey troupe are giving entertainments in Salisbury.

A prominent citizen of Cincinnati has been "black-mailed" to the amount of $20,000.