THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

WILMINGTON, N. C.,

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1868.

FOR PRESIDENT:

HORATIO SEYMOUR,

OF NEW YORK.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:

GEN. FRANK P. BLAIR,

OF MISSOURI.

Our Condition.

We learn that the expression of our opinion a few days ago that a collision between the Radicals and the Conservatives would be a fatal collision to us, is considered to have been imprudent by some of our friends. The correctness of the assertion has been called into question as well as the propriety of giving public utterance thereto. It is feared that what we have said will be construed into a confession of weakness and fear that will serve only to embolden and encourage our enemies. We apprehend no such result. What we said, we said deliberately and advisedly, and we have no hesitation in repeating, that a collision between us, unorganized and unarmed, and the Radicals, organized and to a great extent armed, must be a collision fatal to us. Our purpose was, and still is, to bring this fact home to our people. We desire to make them feel and know that themselves and families were really in danger. Satisfied that the present was the best time to avert that danger, we desired to awaken our people to its existence in order that they might maturely and deliberately consider the remedy therefor. We have no fear that our article will have the effect of encouraging our enemies, for the reason that they already know how thoroughly prepared they were, and how little ready we were. Their insolence and impertenance arose from their confidence in their own strength and contempt for our weakness. Nothing that we could say could add to their assurance. We have no fear of aggravating their hate towards us. It is already implacable, and their purpose to crush us to the earth unchangeable.

We would be unfaithful to our trust were we to fail to declare to our people the result to be apprehended from the course of supineness and inactivity heretofore pursued. It would be cruel kindness in us to refrain from declaring the truth for fear it might disturb the equanimity of some of our friends. So long as the Radical party boasts of its seventy thousand enrolled men; so long as they call for their volunteer companies to appear in their processions, even without arms; so long as "Gov." Holden persists in organizing his military forces in open violation and wanton disregard of the plain provisions of both letter and spirit of the act of Congress and the orders of the Secretary of War and the President of the United States; so long as they teach their paupers and rogues that to steal corn, hogs and cattle is a matter of minor importance, it seems to us sheer folly either to ignore the existence of the danger or to delay any longer the consideration of the proper means to avert it. We firmly believe that the danger can be peacefully and successfully met in one way and one way only. That way, as we declared in our issue of the 30th, was to "meet organization with organization," and by a show of strength through the strong arm of the Federal government guiding and directing our own efforts, to compel the respect of our enemies. Just as soon as this is done, the danger will pass away.

We are glad to know that our article has attracted attention, and are happy in believing that it is working out the very purpose for which it was written. If we have aroused the attention, even if we have thereby excited the fears of our people, and have caused them to set about taking the proper precautionary measures for their own protection, our object has been accomplished. We cannot, however, allow this opportunity to pass without once more advising the utmost caution, prudence and an implicit obedience to the law of the land, and a rigid adherence to our determination to avoid all disturbances. This course is perfectly compatible with, indeed a necessary part of, our determination to form ourselves into such unions as may be deemed best fitted to aid and assist the United States authorities in such measures as they may take for our protection.

Our Courts as Affected by the Condition of the Country.

His Honor, Judge Reade, is probably more perfectly adapted to the times in which we live than any of his illustrious confreres. We all well remember with what indignation the distinguished Associate Justice, when a member of the Bar, resented even a playful hit at the profession by Dr. Hooper; how he took the trouble to write and print a pamphlet on the subject, so tender and careful was he of professional probity and judicial purity. We remember with what a sanctified air he always reprobated political action by judicial officers. It is even said that not a dozen years ago he declined to allow his preference in a gubernatorial contest to be known, because, forsooth, he was on the bench—but all that is now changed. Mr. Associate Justice sees nothing improper in presiding over a Convention that was making laws under his advice and by his assistance in one room of the State House, upon the validity and constitutionality of which he, as a Judge, had to decide in another room, and it is not doubted, drawing pay for each duty. He saw nothing improper in making a political harangue as the mouth-piece and spokesman of the judicial branch of the government. He sees nothing improper in presiding over a grand mass meeting, so-called, of Radicals and negroes. All this, however, is under the new *regime*, and the facility which Mr. Associate Justice adapts himself to every new phase of surrounding circumstances, proves, to use his own language on a late occasion, that amid all these shifting scenes he is indeed "at home."

Gravity and agility, however, do not often unite in the same action, and we very much fear that the recent displays of agility by the learned Judge, will detract from his character and reputation for gravity.—Such quick motions as the necessities of the times compel him to resort to, must necessarily force him to withdraw from the field as a competitor of Capt. Shandy's bull. But the learned Judge, it seems, is now appearing in an entirely new character. He now looms before the public as a wit, and indeed, if brevity be the soul of wit, he is a wit of the first water. Our Supreme Court Reports may hereafter be looked for with interest by others than lawyers. Chief Justice Pearson will furnish the slang, Mr. Justice Dick will supply the poetry, Mr. Justice Reade the wit, Mr. Justice Settle the anecdotes, and Mr. Justice Rodman the morals. It will be an unique production.

In all seriousness, however, if the opinions of the Court are based upon the reasons assigned by Mr. Justice Reade, we will search them in vain for the enunciation of any legal principles. In proof of this we have only to refer the reader to Gibson *vs.* Groner, tried at June Term, 1868. The plaintiff had borrowed $150 in United States currency from the defendant, and as security therefor had deposited with him $360 in gold. In a few days the plaintiff tendered the one hundred and fifty dollars in currency and demanded his gold from the defendant, who refused to give it up. Whereupon the suit was brought. The only question was as to the measure of damages. Now it will be seen at a glance that this case presented some of the most important questions that the Courts have ever been called upon to decide. Instead, however, of rising to the dignity of the occasion and presenting to the profession and the public a clear and lucid exposition of the rules of law applicable to the case and the reasons therefor, Mr. Justice Reade devotes just four lines thereto, and delivers the opinion of the Court as follows: "In the present condition of the Government and as the process of the Courts is controlled, a plaintiff in execution can only collect currency, i. e., United States Treasury Notes. In assessing damages, therefore, in any given case, justice requires that the jury should consider the fact and that their verdict should be for the value of the demand in currency."

As there is no statement of the evidence upon which "the present condition of the Government" was ascertained, we presume it is one of those facts which the Court knows judicially, and of which no proof is required. It is to be presumed, also, that any change in the condition of the Government is also a matter of judicial self-knowledge. This renders it necessary that every case should stand upon its own merits, i. e., what the Court declares to be the then condition of the country, and that the rule for measure of damages should vary in each case. In other words, the Court solemnly and judicially declare that "circumstances alter cases." The only legal maxim that occurs to us at present, as a justification for the action and opinion of the Judge, either in a legal or moral point of view, is the well known axiom: *Cessante ratione cessat et ipsa lex.*

In old times, purity, probity, high character and great legal learning were deemed absolutely necessary in a Judge, and hence, when not possessed in reality, they were counterfeited. Now, no such qualifications are deemed essential, and a decent regard for the opinions of men "in the present condition of the government" does not require the tribute which in old times even vice itself paid to virtue, i. e., hypocrisy. In old times the Court would have declared what the law required the jury to consider, and not what Judge Reade's notion of "justice" required. Justice requires the punishment of the guilty, but the Law says it is better for ninety-nine guilty men to escape, than for one innocent man to be punished. If Justice Reade's ideas and opinions of right and justice change as often and as thoroughly as his ideas about other matters, the rule of action for juries to decide upon the measure of damages will, indeed, be an uncertain one. We do not wish, however, to speak uncharitably of his Honor. It may be, after all, that he had a good motive in inaugurating this new style of judicial decision, and was kindly preparing the way for his youthful and diffident brothers, Dick and Settle. For these gentlemen, if not for himself, a royal road to learning had to be discovered. To them all other approaches to the Pierian Spring are closed. That, however, is a matter of small importance so long as Reade's Royal Road is in order. All that is necessary now and henceforth, is to declare that "in the present condition of the government, justice requires," &c. This lets in Tourgee, Watts, Jones and all the rest of the feathered tribe. Though not stated, it is to be presumed that this opinion was ordered to be filed in "de archives of gravity." It certainly deserves a conspicuous place there. The rule is short, simple and easy, apparently. If, however, the reason of the rule be that the measure of damages be greater in proportion to the worthlessness of the thing collected by the plaintiff in execution, what would be the measure of damages in case the condition of the government was such, and the process of her Courts so controlled as to prevent the collection of anything.

Militia.

The carpet-bagger sawyer of Bladen, one A. W. Fisher, who, by the grace of "Commander-in-Chief" Holden, now "writes himself" Adjutant General of North Carolina, publishes in the *Standard* of a recent date, a long list of appointments by the "Governor." They have exclusive reference to the militia organization of the State. A Colonel for each county is appointed, among which we note those for the following named counties. A beautiful set of Colonels, verily!

Anson, Wm. McFarland; Bladen, J. E. Eldridge; Brunswick, Edwin Legg; Chatham, J. A. McDonald; Columbus, J. A. Maultsby; Cumberland, W. A. Mann; Duplin, Wm. E. Hill; Edgecombe, Geo. P. Peck; Greene, Joseph Dixon; Halifax, L. F. Larkins; Johnson, E. R. Mosher; Jones, O. R. Colgrove; Lenoir, Wallace Ames; Moore, David S. Barrett; Nash, Chas. E. Sears; New Hanover, J. W. Schenck, Jr.; Northampton, A. J. Allen; Onslow, M. C. Hoyt; Richmond, E. T. Long; Sampson, Carlton Sessoms; Wayne, C. H. Brogden; Wilson, G. W. Stanton.

In a circular from the same source the following paragraph appears:

"If it is desired that a company of detailed militia should be organized in the respective counties, such a request, signed by five Magistrates, should be at once forwarded to the Governor for his consideration."

A Card.

The following card was crowded out yesterday. Mr. JOHNSON has tried Radicalism and was elected to office. His inside view into its corruptions and falsehoods has had the effect upon him, as it will upon all honest men, of severing his connection with that party:

LUMBERTON, N. C., Sept. 2, 1868.

Messrs. Editors:—Having at the last election voted with the Radical party, I deem it proper to publish the fact that I no longer act with that party, and will, at the ensuing election, vote for Seymour and Blair for President and Vice-President of the United States.

Very respectfully,

ELIAS D. JOHNSON.

Daily Journal, 4th.

Religious Demoralization.

RETALIATION.

Christianity condemns retaliation. * * * The ground of human punishment is justice. In the individual aggrieved, this sense of justice takes the form of revenge; in the public mind it takes the form of indignation. * * * Personal revenge is transmuted into a religious virtue and public indignation not only justifies but approves the act. * * * It is enirely incorrect to suppose that the object of punishment is to reform the criminal, or to make an example of him to deter others from crime. These are only the incidents. * * * The idea of punishment, then, is the idea of retaliation. It is just and right to retaliate; it is more, it is often expedient, not unfrequently necessary.—*Standard*

It has been said, and truly said, that the times are out of joint. From whatever standpoint we may take, we can see nothing before us but confusion, disorder and corruption. Our country is still suffering the throes of a mighty revolution, political, financial and religious. The effects of the condition of the political and financial worlds press themselves upon us so urgently, so sorely and so importunately, that we have, perhaps, lost sight somewhat of the radical changes going on in religious matters. The continuance of our present political State Government is fraught with so many ills for us and our children, and the pecuniary embarrassments that surround us all are so pressing that it is not unnatural for us to overlook, in some degree, the tendency of modern Radical civilization (so-called) to demoralize and debauch public sentiment upon everything pure and holy, and sacred Religion is despised and scoffed at, and Christianity contemned and mocked at.—The inspired Apostles and followers of Christ himself are called carpet-baggers. It is blasphemously suggested that the petitions of that sacred prayer, vouchsafed to mortal men by the Son of God, be "sandwiched." In a word, everything that men have hitherto regarded as worthy of reverence, respect and veneration, is held up to ridicule. Nothing is too holy or too pure to escape the sneers and jeers of this corrupt age. The Bible, with its teachings, is regarded as one of the fossil remains of a former and ignorant age. The doctrine of the present day is, that man is a progressive animal, capable of attaining perfection by his own exertion; that Divine mediation, if not a myth, is at least entirely unnecessary. Under such teachings, all notions of honor and virtue become obliterated.—Murder and larceny, and perjury, and all the other crimes forbidden by the Decalogue, cease to be crimes and become "matters of minor importance," and ere long it will be openly avowed in North Carolina, as elsewhere, that the gallows of John Brown shines out more glorious than the Cross of Christ. We seem to be fast approaching the condition of that people who solemnly decreed that there was no God.

The extract which heads this article is a mild specimen of the contempt with which Christianity and its precepts are treated by the Radicals of this day. "Christianity condemns retaliation," and still "it is just and right to retaliate." We cannot believe that our people are willing to accept a civilization that teaches men shamelessly and publicly to disavow the binding obligations of the Christian Religion.

For the Journal.

Bladen County.

CARVER'S CREEK PRECINCT, BLADEN CO., N. C., Sept. 2, 1868.

According to previous appointment, the citizens met at Carver's Creek Precinct on Wednesday, the 2d inst., when Mr. John King was requested to take the chair, and J. F. Oliver act as Secretary. The Chairman then explained the object of the meeting to be for the purpose of organizing a Seymour and Blair Club.

On motion, the Chairman appointed a committee of five to nominate permanent officers for the Club, and also to draft resolutions for the action of the meeting.—The committee retired to deliberate, when D. C. Allen and A. Munroe, Esqrs., were called on, and delivered sound and stirring Conservative speeches. The committee then returned, and reported for permanent President, D. A. Lamont; Vice-Presidents, D. F. Flowers and Jno. B. Brown; Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Jas. F. Oliver; Treasurer, A. S. Miller; which report was unanimously adopted, together with the following set of resolutions:

Resolved 1st, That the platform of principles enunciated by the Convention of the Democratic Party on the 4th of July last, in New York, meets our unqualified approbation.

Resolved 2d, That the nomination of Hon. Horatio Seymour and Gen. Frank P. Blair, for President and Vice-President of the United States, challenges the approval of the Country, and that we will do our utmost to secure their election.

Resolved 3d, That we regard ourselves as auxiliary to our County organization.

Resolved 4th, That the Chairman of this meeting be requested to appoint six delegates to represent us in the Conservative Convention to be held in Fayetteville, on the 9th inst., and that any other members of this Club, who may see proper to attend, shall be considered delegates.

The following delegates were then appointed: Jno. B. Brown, A. S. Miller, J. J. Bright, D. F. Flowers, I. D. Gillespie and N. T. Harris. On motion, the Secretary, J. F. Oliver, was added to the list.

On motion, the Chairman appointed a committee of three, Messrs. N. T. Harris, T. O. Brown and John King, to prepare a constitution and by-laws for the government of this Club, and report the same to the next meeting of the Club.

On motion, the Treasurer was requested to call on the members for a small contribution each, to raise a fund to furnish badges, &c., and bear other incidental expenses of the Club.

On motion, the colored voters of this District are cordially invited to join us in this Club, and work with us in this election, and if they shall do so, and a sufficient number desire it, that a committee shall be appointed and steps taken to organize them into a Conservative Club of their own.

Resolved, That this Club will meet at this place again on Saturday the 12th inst., at 3 o'clock, P. M., and on each Saturday evening two weeks thereafter, at the same hour.

Twenty-seven voters' names were enrolled as members of this Club for a beginning.

On motion, it was ordered that the Secretary send the proceedings of this meeting to the Wilmington JOURNAL and STAR, with a request that they publish the same.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

JAS. F. OLIVER, Secretary.

OUR ASHEVILLE CORRESPONDENCE.

Seventh District Convention—Plato Durham unanimously nominated for Congress—Col. McAfee for Elector—Grand Mass Meeting to be held in Asheville on the 1st of October—Hons. T. R. Nelson and John Baxter, of Tennessee, and B. H. Hill, of Georgia, to attend and Speak—Mount Mitchell—Prof. Mitchell's Grave—Scenery, &c., &c., &c.

ASHEVILLE, Aug. 31st, 1868.

Messrs. Editors: In my former communications I have endeavored to give a description of my surroundings, viz: the climate, products, manufactures, &c., of this section, and to relieve the monotony, a word about the political issues of the day. "Variety is the spice of life that gives it all its flavor." The caravan traveling over the burning sands of Sahara is gladdened by the oases that meet its view, and so I think your readers will welcome any green spot in the fields of thought, or information in the varied current events of the day. I cannot contribute original ideas, clothed in fascinating verbiage, or enlivened by "*bon mots*," to please the fastidious, yet I trust my contributions may prove of interest to the general reader, and relieve the tedium of a passing hour; therefore I ask your types to print my words.

Politics seem to be first, last, and uppermost, indeed, of paramount consideration, and the *patriot* cannot but be interested, and chronicle the events that are constantly transpiring.

A Convention was held here last week to nominate a representative for the Seventh Congressional District in the next Congress of the United States. Our streets were full, and activity ruled the day. In the Convention it was moved that each county, when called, should express its preference. Buncombe was first on the list, and announced the name of the talented and gallant gentleman from Cleaveland. First and last, to the end of the list, the only response made was PLATO DURHAM, and he was unanimously nominated by a rising vote. Three cheers were then given with a hearty good will for the Pride of the State, PLATO DURHAM. Col. McAfee was then nominated for Presidential Elector, who, with the sub-Electors, were all *unanimously* chosen, and I tell you, Messrs. Editors, from appearances, they will be elected with as great unanimity as they were chosen. It has been remarked that the people East of the ridge are jealous of those West, and to show that no such feeling exists, the Congressman and Electors were chosen from the same county. The organization in Buncombe and Haywood is complete.—Seymour and Blair Clubs are numerous, and Barbecues are frequent. So also in other counties. On the first of October a tremendous ingathering and outpouring of the *Clans* is to be held in this place. The Western delegation, over *five hundred* strong on horseback, will be here, with *Stars and Stripes* at the head of the column, prepared to stay several days. Thos. R. Nelson and John Baxter, of Tennessee, and Hon. B. H. Hill, of Georgia, and other noble sons of the South have been invited, and are expected to address the assemblage. It will be a great occasion—"a feast of reason and flow of soul." I hope our beloved Cape Fear will be represented, that many will be present, and that the voice of some of her gifted sons, Davis, Person, Cowan, Strange, Hall, Meares, Devane and others) may be heard, commingling their voices with their Western brethren in advocacy of the Constitution, the Union and the South.

I find that the number of visitors here have increased. It is no wonder—Asheville is the place of resort for health, pleasure and refined society. So soon as the antiquated stage gives way to the comfortable coach, and the quadruped to the steam horse, making transit easy, these mountains and valleys will be crowded with our seashore people, and I should not wonder if, *vice versa*, our fashionable sea-bathing resorts were crowded with mountaineers.

The *pleasures* here consist in part in fishing, hunting and walking mountain parties; fishing not so good, but hunting excellent—a party of ladies and gentlemen, including myself, last week visited Mount Mitchell. We were late in our departure, and spent the night at the residence of Judge Bailey, ten miles from the summit of Mount Mitchell. Here we obtained guides and commenced the ascent. The way was steep and rocky, and our progress slow. Around and around we circled, till we reached the top of the first peak, 6,587 feet above the level of the sea. Here is a rude observatory constructed of logs, and we took a survey of the beauties of nature, and were lost in amazement. Mountains and valleys, farms and meadows, rivers and brooks, greeted the vision in every direction.

Mounting again our trusty and faithful steeds, we traveled three miles more and again dismounted, leaving the animals to graze while we, like true mountaineers, each with pack on back, should complete the journey. The soil is very productive on this mountain—grass grows five or six feet high. Fine grazing—vast herds of cattle are to be seen. Dense forests of balsam trees cover the mountain, from which exudes a substance resembling "*Virgin Turpentine*," and said to be valuable as a cure for cuts, burns, &c. At five o'clock we reached the highest peak and had a magnificent landscape view.

The sunset was transcendently charming. We visited the grave of Prof. Mitchell—gathered a few flowers and cut canes as mementoes of the illustrious dead, and then took shelter in a rude cabin to while away the night. After supper, a bag pipe and other instruments, in the hands of skillful performers, aided by vocalists, rendered such sweet music that the night was gone before we had dreamed of sleep.—The air was uncomfortably cool—thermometer fifty. A spring of water, cool as ice, furnished our beverage. One air, "Music on the Mountain," rendered as it was, was worth the fatigue of the journey, and I reckon will long be remembered by those participating. Wild animals are in abundance—we heard the howl of a wolf, but our blazing fires kept them at a safe distance. We waited to get a sunrise view, before commencing our decent, and soon saw "old Sol" as he came peeping from behind the distant mountains—it was a grand scene, and like his setting behind "Ben-Lomond," deserves to be perpetuated in verse and song.

W., Jr.

Letter from Hon. Ro. Ould—The Exchange of Prisoners—Reply to S. A. Meredith.

RICHMOND, VA., Sept. 3, 1868.

To the Editors of the Enquirer and Examiner:

SIR:—The Dispatch, a few days ago, published a letter of S. A. Meredith, who styles himself "late Brigadier General and U. S. Commissioner of Exchange." The letter was originally published in the Buffalo Commercial Advertiser. This "U. S. Commissioner" is not Brigadier General Solomon a Meredith, of Indiana, as the Hon. Garrett Davis, of Kentucky, supposed, in his remarks in the United States Senate upon retaliation in January, 1865; but Sullivan A. Meredith, formerly of Philadelphia. He is more commonly, and I will add more aptly, known as Sully Meredith; but like a verb of the class *intransitive*, he cannot "sully" any one, except himself. No man who knows him well would even get angry at anything he says or writes. He is such an ass.

He was U. S. Commissioner of Exchange once, and lest for that reason his letter might impose upon somebody, I have determined, notwithstanding its grossness, to reply to it. If he had not once occupied that official position, I never would have noticed his scurrility. Hear him:

"Another insuperable obstacle to returning exchanges was in the matter of paroles. Mr. Ould had some eighteen or twenty thousand, which he claimed as valid. Most, if not all, of these paroles were taken by guerillas, bushwhackers and detached commands in the West. No possession was ever had, no delivery was ever made, and no rolls were ever furnished. On the capture of a town by a rebel cavalry rai the command remained long enough to take the paroles of unarmed citizens there, and then decamped leaving the paroled men behind, and forwarding the paroles to Richmond. And the rebels had the assurance to require the United States Government to exchange prisoners legitimately captured in battle for such paroles as these."

To show how utterly untruthful this Sully is, I will give an extract from an official letter which I wrote to him on November 21st, 1863, in relation to these paroles. It is as follows:

"I will not claim the paroles of citizens. All the paroles which I will produce will be those of Federal soldiers in actual service at the time of capture. I will show the particular locality where the parties were captured, the command to which they belonged, the command which captured them, and the precise date of each transaction.—I will accompany the presentation with such full and particular evidence as will enable you to verify the truth of the case by your own records and the statements of your own officers and soldiers."

Now, whether Sully forgot the other day in Buffalo that he had received such a letter, or purposely falsified the fact, I know not. It is, perhaps, charitable to infer that he had forgotten, as that is a habit of his. I recollect one case when he was acting as United States Commissioner, in which he failed to claim certain credits to which he was entitled, and I took occasion to refresh his memory. If he wishes the particulars, and asks for them in more polite language than he uses in his letter, I will give them to him.

Sully is scarcely more accurate in his citation of the other "causes of the suspension of the cartel." It is utterly untrue either that I made "illegal declarations of exchange," or that "all prisoners paroled by the United States authorities were immediately returned to active duty in the rebel army. It was the practice of the agents of exchange on both sides to declare exchanges when equivalents were given either in prisoners or paroles. The fifth article of the cartel provided that—

"Each party, upon the discharge of prisoners of the other party, is authorized to discharge an equal number of their own officers and men from parole; furnishing at the same time to the other party a list of those prisoners discharged, and of their own officers and men relieved from parole; thus enabling each party to relieve from parole such of their own officers and men as the party may choose."

Whenever I delivered Federal prisoners out of hand, or discharged Federal troops from their paroles, I had, under this article of the cartel, the right to declare exchanges to that extent; and I did so declare. Never in any one instance did I go beyond that. I always promptly notified the Federal agent of the exchange. Surely I had the right to offset the Vicksburg paroles by those taken by Forrest and Wheeler in Tennessee. The Federal practice and my own were in accord. Sully knows it.—In a letter written by me on October 2d, 1863, to him, I pointed out eleven instances in which his predecessor, Lieutenant Colonel Ludlow, had done the same thing, and one, at least, where Sully had himself made a similar declaration of exchange. In the same letter I also informed him that I would only claim such paroles as were in accordance with the general orders of the United States War Department. No one knows better than Sully that my declarations of exchange were limited to cases where I had either furnished equivalents in prisoners or proper paroles.

If, however, he wants an instance when men under parole were ordered to do duty without exchange, he will find it in the list of General Schenck's remarkable military achievements. That distinguished commander by General Order No. 15, dated March 9, 1863, required all officers and men, who had been captured in his department and released on parole, to return to service on penalty of being considered deserters. No equivalents, not even parole, had been furnished. If Sully will come down to a later period, he will find that the same thing was done with prisoners who were captured and paroled by General Lee and his subordinate officers in the Gettysburg campaign. Two of the officers who were ordered to duty refused on the ground of their paroles, and were court-martialed. Both of these dates were anterior to that of Chickamauga, as was Sully's declaration of exchange before mentioned.

He is not more fortunate in his reference to Mr. Davis' message and negro soldiers. As no officers were "handed over to the State authorities" the message made no practical difficulty. Federal prisoners, white and black, were under the exclusive control of the Confederate government during the whole of the war.

Sully is inaccurate again in his statement about negro troops. The Confederate authorities did not refuse to exchange free negro troops. It is true they did not agree to treat negro slaves as the subjects of exchange. They did not so consent because their constitutions, Confederate and State, recognized slaves as property, and, therefore, on capture they followed the rule of all property, and reverted to their former condition. They held that an edict of emancipation, declared by a hostile power, did not defeat their rights, or the rights of their citizens, when the slave came again into their possession. If the principles of the *jus post liminii* are to govern the case, I do not see how that view can be answered. In this matter I have no concealments to make, and have, therefore, frankly stated the position taken by the Confederate government. But be that as it may, why should a difficulty about the release of slaves, who did not form one-fiftieth of the number of prisoners, prevent the exchange of the others? Where Streight's men were detained under grave charges, preferred by the Governor of Alabama, other exchanges went on. So, when Morgan's men were put in a penitentiary, or Missouri soldiers were kept in jails, exchanges were not stopped. Was there to be one rule for the white man and another and more favorable one for the black? General Butler thought the case of negro soldiers strong enough to stand upon its own merits, especially as the Federal government, after all the Union prisoners were exchanged, would have had a large excess of Confederates on hand, who could be held as hostages; but it seems that Sully thinks otherwise. Sully is right in one thing; the matters he sets forth were difficulties in the way of exchange, but only because they were made so by himself and his prompters. I believed at the time, and now believe, that he was sent to Fortress Monroe for the purpose of preventing exchanges. General Butler, in his Massachusetts speech of 1865, frankly confessed that he was reluctantly engaged in that sort of business at a later date. He had a willing forerunner in Sully. Moreover, he was coarse, rude, arrogant, and so inexpressibly stupid that it was difficult to transact any business with him. With some reason he might have urged these personal peculiarities as an obstruction to exchanges. A tolerably fair specimen of his style of correspondence as agent of exchange is found in this Buffalo letter.

In the preparation of my letter of the 20th ultimo, I studiously avoided anything in the way of epithet or denunciation, and confined myself to a simple array of facts, with an appeal in each case either to the record or to the testimony of Federal officers. I well knew that the sluices of abuse would be opened. If I had thought of Sully, I would have felt assured that his little flood-gate would be the first. This style of attack has, however, no terrors for me. I have buffeted many a time with worse calamities.

Sully says that the difficulties which he enumerates "alone were the causes which prevented the exchanges of prisoners, and these causes were in operation until the close of the war." Sully retired from the position of agent about the first of January, 1864, for what reason I do not know. He was not brevetted for distinguished services in that capacity. But is it to be supposed thet he knew as much about the reasons which prevented the exchange as General Grant, who had control of the matter?—The Lieutenant General gives a very different reason. In his telegram to General Butler, of August 18, 1864, he says: "If we commence a system of exchange which liberates all prisoners taken, we will have to fight on until the whole South is exterminated. If we hold those men caught they amount to more than dead men. At this particular time, to release all rebel prisoners North would insure Sherman's defeat, and would compromise our safety here." Who is to be believed, Sully or General Grant?

But why has Sully confined himself to that portion of my letter which related to the stoppage of exchanges? There were several other matters brought to light in that paper. Has he nothing to say about the offer made as early as January, 1864—before Andersonville was established—to admit Federal surgeons, food, raiment and medicines? Has he nothing to say about the offer, in the summer of 1864, to release all Federal sick and wounded without requiring equivalents? Has he no excuse to make for the failure to send transportation for their sick and wounded for months? Has he nothing to say about the unnoticed offer to purchase medicines, with liberty to Federal surgeons to bring them within the Confederate lines, for the exclusive relief of Union prisoners? He, who has been so forward to utter what I have shown to be utterly untrue about the question of exchange, is silent as to these other and graver matters. Silence, under such circumstances, is the strongest of confessions.

Sully is a convenient and invaluable opponent. He fathers strange stories that have been running about without any paternity, in a way that serves to show, beyond a doubt, that they are bastards.—Will his friends keep him in the lists in his damaged condition, or retire him again?

Respectfully, your ob'dt serv't,

RO. OULD.

STATE NEWS.

HEAVY RAIN.—A heavy rain last Friday visited this section, and along the creeks and branches did much damage to the outgrowing crops. It damaged the mill dams around us, washing away the 'trunk' and 'foby' to Murray's mill, just two miles from here, on the Barksdale road, and blocking all operations for some time to come.—Danville *Chronicle, Sept. 3d.*

THE BARBECUE.—The barbecue given at Jonesboro', last Saturday, is represented to us as having been a splendid affair, and highly creditable to Capt. J. Morgan Smith and the other gentlemen who aided in getting it up. There were three separate tables, one for the ladies, one for the white men and one for the colored folks. The tables groaned under the weight of good things elegantly served up. Stirring speeches were made to the large crowd by Col. E. B. Withers, Hon. S. F. Hill, Hon. John Kerr, and Col. Cunningham. The latter gentleman merely defined his position. Stephen Slade, colored, also made a speech, and every thing passed off as smooth as pond water.—Milton *Chronicle, 3d.*

GENEROUS SUBSCRIPTION.—On the passenger car of the Richmond and Danville Road, last Sunday, there was a blind Georgia Colonel, whose eyes were blown out by the explosion of a shell at Malvern Hill. He was on his way to his home in Augusta, and had with him a free pass of travel from Col. Dodamead, the worthy Superintendent of that road. It becoming known that the unfortunate soldier was without money—a purse was immediately made up among the passengers and a sum of $12 55 presented him. While the collection was going on, a bright-eyed little boy came rushing up—his face beaming with manly emotion—and gave the blind soldier every cent of his "marble money." He was a Virginia boy and a true type of that grand old State.—Milton *Chronicle.*

ROBBERY IN WILLIAMSTON.—On Thursday night last the store of Messrs. Robertson & Bros., in Williamston, was entered and goods to a considerable amount stolen, together with $90 in cash. The thieves effected an entrance by cutting a hole through the floor from underneath the building. The thieves, two negroes, were afterwards detected on the following Saturday night on board the steamer L. G. Cannon, at Jamesville. Their luggage was searched and a quantity of fine dress goods and the $90 in cash recovered, also a brace of bits which the thieves used to bore through the floor with. After being taken under arrest, by some mismanagement they were allowed to escape.

ESCAPE OF CONVICTS.—Five of the nine convicts in the chain gang at labor near Tarboro', made their escape on Wednesday last. They were under the superintendence of two guard, and while one of these was absent with a prisoner for water, the whole gang made a break at once.—The remaining guard discharged both barrels of his gun after them, but with no effect. His pistols were tried and missed fire. Clubbing his gun he knocked down one and stopped two more. Among those escaped is the notorious Lewis Smith, who is generally supposed to be the author of the destructive conflagration in Tarboro' last year. Parties are in pursuit, but there have been no recaptures as yet.

DEMOCRATIC BARBECUE IN EDGECOMBE.—The Democrats of Edgecombe contemplate having a grand Mass Meeting and Barbecue at Tarboro', about the last of September. It will be a grand affair and arrangements have been made to secure speakers from various portions of the State. A torch light procession at night will constitute one of the important features. The Democratic Clubs, both white and colored, will be in line.

THE HEALTH OF NEWBERN.—Since December, 1867, the health of our city has been very good—equal to that of any town of like size in the United States—till within ten days past. From some cause, since the 20th ultimo, there has been considerable sickness of a typhoid and congestive character.

Enough care has not been taken to keep the streets clean and the pumps in order. Dirty streets and back lots, and impure water are causes sufficient to account for almost every case of disease with which we have been visited.

Unless immediate sanitary measures are taken, the broiling, sickly sun of September and the heavy dews of our nights will bring a large increase to the sickness and swell the mortality. Let each citizen do all in his power on his own lot, by a free use of lime and other disinfectants, and let the City Council attend at once to drains and pumps—work that should have been done weeks ago—and we may confidently hope that there will not be any increase in disease, but a restoration of perfect healthfulness.—Newbern *Jour. of Com.*

FIRST RATE APPOINTMENT.—We understand that Capt. West H. High has been appointed Messenger for the Southern Express Company, between Morehead City and Goldsboro'. This appointment will be received with intense satisfaction by the many friends of that gentleman, and will conduce greatly to the prosperity of the Express business between those points.

Newbern *Jour. of Com.*

For the Journal.

Brunswick County.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT, BRUNSWICK, N. C., Aug. 29, 1868.

Messrs. Editors: The people of North West (I mean the good, not the Morrill men of the District), having always been thoroughly disgusted with Radicalism, have again assumed their armor for the contest with the determination to win (not by fraud and proscription by way of retaliation) but by just and honorable ballotation on the day of election.

The District being large it was thought necessary to form several clubs, and to-day the fourth one, I believe, was organized at Black Rock, when the following proceedings were had:

On motion, F. Hudler was called to the Chair, and D. C. Allen requested to act as Secretary. The object of the meeting having been explained, on motion of S. Lloyd, Esq., a committee of four as appointed to report permanent officers for the club. This committee having retired, the Chairman, upon motion, appointed a committee on resolutions, consisting of the following gentlemen: J. M. Bryan, R. Lloyd and W. H. King, who subsequently, through their Chairman, J. M. Bryan, reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted, to wit:

1st. That we most cordially approve of the platform adopted by the Democratic Convention which assembled in New York on the 4th day of July, 1868.

2d. That the efforts of said party to overthrow the Radical party, now in control of the government under which we live, deserve the aid and support of every good citizen of this country.

3d. The usurpations of the Radical Congress have already converted the Government of our forefathers into a central despotism, and if this party is permitted to continue in power, the last vestige of the Republican Government will be obliterated.

4th. The people of Black Rock do cordially endorse the nomination of Horatio Seymour for President and Frank P. Blair for Vice-President of the United States, and pledge themselves to use all fair and legitimate means to secure their success.

5th. That the good citizens of North West, and we most honestly believe of the entire country, do most earnestly protest against, and disapprove of, the proscriptive, ruinous and extravagant legislation of Holden's General Assembly, and particularly of the course of our self-constituted representative, whose *per diem*, during the recess of the Legislature, we had far rather pay and have him in Raleigh than to have such a man among us.

6th. That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Journal and Star, of Wilmington.

All the whites present and one colored, Charles Gowen, a mechanic and a man of excellent sense, furnished their names to the Secretary as members of the Club.

When the Committee, through their Chairman, reported the following permanent officers:

For President—Joseph Green, Esq.

Vice-Presidents—S. Lloyd and Sam'l A. King.

Secretaries—Hardy B. Willis and D. C. Allen,

Who were unanimously chosen by the Club.

On motion of W. S. Hudler the Secretary was requested to send a copy of the proceedings to the Wilmington Journal for publication, and request the Star to copy.

On motion the meeting adjourned.

FREDRICK HUDLER, Ch'n.

D. C. ALLEN, Sec'y.

The President on Paid Militia in the States.

Mr. L. C. Berek and Col. Looney, authorized by the Conservatives of Tennessee to lay before the President the situation of affairs in that State, have had a lengthy interview with the Executive, during which Tennessee matters were fully discussed, with the following result, according to a Washington telegram:

"The President referred the delegation to recent orders as the limit of Executive power in the matter, but assured them that every means authorized by the constitution and the laws would be used to secure the freedom of the ballot in Tennessee and the southern States without interference by Federal or State troops. The President took the ground that the constitution forbids any of the States organizing a standing army of paid soldiers; that militia duty is incumbent upon every citizen, who can only be exempted from it by the payment of a fine or providing a substitute; that the militia is an emergency force, subject to be called from the plow or loom at any moment, and from which no citizen can escape; but that a standing army of paid troops in any State is repugnant to the constitution and to the spirit of our institutions. Every constitutional power of the Executive will be used to prevent the organization of standing armies of paid troops in any State unless called for and controlled by the Federal authority.

"The President, during his prolonged interview with Messrs. Berk and Looney, produced and read from the books the parts of the constitution and the several laws on the subject in support of his position that no State can maintain a standing army of paid soldiers. The law of 1865, he declared, was conclusive on this subject. It disbanded and forbade the reorganization of the militia or volunteer forces of the southern States."

The above but agrees with the general grounds taken by Attorney General Evarts in his opinion on the subject lately, and on which orders have been issued to the military commanders in the south.

The "season" at Newport, R. I., still continues, and the hotels are quite full.—The same is the case at most of the Virginia springs.

The carriage factory of John Gale has been burned. Loss $20,000.