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## Miscellaneous Articles.

### THE MISSISSIPPI CONVENTION.

The prompt, intelligent, and decided action of the Mississippi Convention is worthy of universal imitation. The members of the convention met and organized, and as the last forty years have been spent in the discussion of the question of slavery, they deemed it unnecessary to waste any more breath about it. Appreciating and recognizing the situation, as demanding the immediate abolition of the institution, they ratified the constitutional amendment of the National Congress, which blots out forever. Having done this without, so far as we can learn, a single superfluous word, they passed at once to the consideration of the next matter of vital importance, which, of course was the confirmation and ratification of all the acts of the several Legislatures of Mississippi which were passed during the civil war, and which were not in conflict with the Constitution and laws of the United States. Having completed its labors it seems that the convention adjourned, after having been in session less than a week. And yet the work of the convention seems to have been as thoroughly performed as if the convention had occupied six months in listening to the dreariest of speeches. This instance of speedy legislation is worthy of imitation in all the Southern States, where conventions are still to be held. Our finances will not for many years sanction long legislative sessions, tedious speeches and barren displays of ambitious orators. All that sort of thing belongs to the past, and no constituency should hereafter tolerate a gaseous and windy orator whose rapid and fluent utterances cost a hundred dollars a minute. We believe that the stern, practical lessons of the war have taught our people that mere speech-makers are of very small account. Legislation, like war, can be conducted with very little talking. The great men of the days of 1776 and 1787 rarely spoke more than ten minutes, and they were men of certainly as many ideas as any of the politicians and statesmen of our day. Great men like Grant, Lee, Sherman and Johnston have made brevity fashionable, and military earnestness and reticence is now the rage. Having run the Government on the original line until the regime of slang-wranglers endangered the life of the nation, the Mississippi Convention has proved that the safest and most certain road to reconstruction is the shortest. We have no use for representatives "warranted to run four hours" whenever they catch the eye of "Mr. Speaker." We beseech the voters of Virginia, at the approaching elections, to avoid notorious and interminable slang-wranglers as they would mad-dogs and rattlesnakes, and if they elect such unfortunate, they must be put under heavy bonds never to speak more than five minutes at a time. If they will pledge themselves never to speak unless they have something worth hearing, they will, we feel assured, preserve the most unbroken silence.—*Richmond Republic.*

### FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

The following judicious and well-timed order has just been issued by Colonel Whittlesy, Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau at Raleigh, North Carolina:

"BUREAU OF REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS, WASHINGTON, D. C., ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, WASHINGTON, D. C., August 14, 1865.

"It is reported that many freedmen refuse to enter into contracts for labor, because they believe that the farms will be given them by the United States Government. If any do so believe, they have no reason for their belief. The Government owns no lands in this State. It therefore can give away none. Freedmen can obtain farms with the money which they have earned by their labor. Every one, therefore, should work diligently, and carefully save his wages, till he may be able to buy land, and possess his own home.

"E. WHITTLESY, Colonel and Asst. Commissioner."

Many improper and erroneous ideas prevail among our colored population, and it is important to their own interests and welfare, and especially to a good understanding between them and their late masters, that just such plain and candid advice as is contained in the foregoing order, should be repeatedly impressed upon their minds.

No fanciful expectations of possessing the lands of their late masters should be allowed to deceive them for a single moment, or to betray them into a life of idleness and irregularity. Their future comfort and happiness depend entirely upon their own habits of steady industry and economy.—There is no disposition on the part of their late masters to treat them unkindly, or to throw any obstacles in the way of their making an honest and respectable support. On the contrary, the interests of the late masters and the late slaves are not in conflict, for the present, at least, and all that the late masters can properly and consistently do for the advancement of the welfare of the freedmen, will, we are sure, be cheerfully and unhesitatingly performed.

But let these freedmen dismiss forever from their minds the false and mischievous idea that they can live without work. Toil is the ordained and inevitable lot of all the sons of Adam, of whatever color or clime; and it is a fatal chimera of an ill-balanced brain to suppose that happiness, or respectability, or usefulness, or a competent support, is attainable without it. Let the freedmen, then, go to work steadily, systematically and faithfully, if they desire to improve their condition or make life itself tolerable. Let them comply with all their contracts, in letter and spirit, and their late masters instead of being converted by an opposite course, into enemies, will continue to be, as they have always been, their best, truest and kindest friends.—*Richmond Whig.*

### NEXT SESSION OF CONGRESS.

The question of the admission of members to the next Congress from the Southern States is now agitating the public mind. With a law of Congress prohibiting any one from holding a seat in that body who had been engaged in the rebellion, it is difficult to solve the question who the South can send; for there is no prominent man alive in the Southern States who has not, directly or indirectly been concerned in the war. The first matter to be considered, then, is manifestly, the repeal of the law, so as to relieve the South of the disability of being represented in the National Congress. Will the Radicals consent to this? That is the question. We have no doubt there will be an intense struggle to keep the South out, but the people of the North are more anxious for the South to come back than the South herself is to return. Hence if the majority insist upon carrying out their plans, and closing the doors of Congress upon the South, the Northern people will arouse themselves to the necessity of putting down the Radicals and opening the portals of the Union to every wayward sister who comes back, casting over her the cloak of charity and forgiveness, with the complete oblivion of the past. The South has been restored to her political rights by the amnesty proclamation and by the oaths of allegiance taken by her citizens. No further tests can be required, unless it be the test of probation, and that is, of course, out of the question. The men of the South who have conformed to the requirements of the Government are entitled to vote, and it is absurd to argue that they have not the power to select their own representatives; and it is still a greater absurdity to say that these representatives shall not be received when elected.

No such doctrine can stand before the American people. When a Southerner takes the oath of allegiance he must be regarded as being restored to his former political rights. He is as good as any other citizen in the eye of the law. The Government must recognize this fact, else why administer the oath at all? No doubt President Johnson understands this matter, and if the Radicals do not wish to go before the people in the pending State elections in a position inimical to the administration, they will handle this subject with fairness and moderation. The President regards it to be as much an act of disloyalty to prevent a recalcitrant State from coming into the Union as it is for one to go out; and if the Northern States oppose the restoration of the seceded States they are as criminal as the original secessionists.—*N. Y. Herald.*

### OUR MISTAKES ABOUT EACH OTHER.

Not one man in ten thousand sees those with whom he associates as they really are. If the prayer of Burns were granted, and we could all see ourselves as others see us, our self-estimates would in all probability be much more erroneous than they are now. The truth is that we regard each other through a variety of lenses, no one of which is correct. Passion and prejudice, love and hate, benevolence and envy, spectacle our eyes and utterly prevent us from observing accurately. Many whom we deem the porcelain of human clay are mere dirt, and a still greater number of those we put down on black books are no further off from Heaven, perhaps a little nearer, than the censurers who condemn them. We habitually undervalue or overvalue each other, and in estimating character the shrewdest of us only now and then make true appraisal of the virtues and defects of even our closest intimates.

It is not just or fair to look at character from a stand point of one's own selection. A man's profile may be unimpressing, and yet his full face agreeable. We once saw a young man, whose timidity was a standing joke with his companions, leap into a river and save a boy from drowning, while his tormentors stood panic-struck on the bank. The merchant who gives curt answers in his counting-house may be a tender husband and father, and a kind helper of the desolate and oppressed. On the other hand, your good humored person, who is all smiles and sunshine in public, may carry something as hard as the nether millstone, in the place where his heart ought to be.

Such anomalies are common. There is this comfort, however, for those whose misjudgments of their fellow-mortals lean to the kindly side—such mistakes go to their credit in the great account. He who thinks better of his neighbors than they deserve, cannot be a bad man, for the standard by which his judgment is guided is the goodness of his own heart. It is only the base who believe all men base—of, in other words, like themselves. Few, however, are all evil. Even Nero did a good turn to somebody, for when Rome was rejoicing over his death some loving hand covered his grave with flowers.

Public men are seldom or never fairly judged—at least, while living. However pure, they cannot escape calumny. However corrupt, they are sure to find eulogists. History may do them justice; but they rarely get it while living, either from friend or foe.

BISHOP LAY.—We mentioned last week, that this gentleman had been arrested at Lincoln, North Carolina. He was taken to Washington for examination in regard to a package of papers, which it was known he had at one time in his possession—the property of the Hon. C. C. Clay. Satisfied with the examination, the authorities promptly released him. While in Washington the Bishop was treated with great civility and consideration.

Grand Master C. G. Wintersmith, of Kentucky, has issued an appeal to the leading members of the Masonic Order in the United States, calling a convention to meet in Louisville on the second Monday of October, to aid in bringing back the old harmony between all sections of the Union.

### THE SOUTHERN GOVERNORS.

The New York Times, one of the most conservative of the Northern papers, speaking of the Southern Governors, says:

The Provisional Governors appointed by President Johnson for the important work of restoring the Southern States to their civil relations, on a constitutional basis, have without exception, proved themselves singularly well adapted to their positions. Their action, in the first steps, has, in every case, been discreet, temperate and conservative. They have adopted the wise policy of interfering as little as possible with those things which enter into the character, history and institutions of each State, which were established in other times and are adapted to existing conditions. In one direction they must "build anew, and radically, but in others they find the result of much valuable work, which only requires to be left alone. Belonging to the States which they have been appointed to temporarily govern, these Provisional Governors have entered upon their duties with a knowledge of the people and of the local laws and necessities which is of the highest advantage to them, and the fruits of which have already appeared in their measures and messages. While unequivocally loyal in every action and word; they do not unnecessarily stir up popular prejudices, or bear about the men of conquerors. They all proclaim unflinchingly, however, that slavery is totally and forever abolished, and aid energetically in the reconstruction of the new social state upon the basis of universal freedom.

All the Provisional Governors of the States on this side of the Mississippi River have, moreover, the good fortune of being popular in their respective States.—Governor Holden, of North Carolina, and Governor Perry, of South Carolina, are both gentlemen who have been leaders of the progressive party, and who have been widely known as men of ability and character; while Gov. Johnson, of Georgia; Gov. Parsons, of Alabama and Gov. Sharkey, of Mississippi, have long been recognized in their native States as men of unblemished reputation, of high principle and of great capacity.

In the initial steps which these officers have taken, and in the others which they are about to take, is the most difficult part of their work, and the most difficult part of the great labor of reconstruction. If they manage in the future with the discretion and justice which have characterized their first movements, they will have reflected honor upon themselves and done eminent service to their country.

### GENERALS LEE AND GRANT AS HISTORIANS.

The following we clip from an exchange:

The two leading generals of the late war, Lee and Grant, are now engaged in writing up the history of their respective campaigns. In both cases we suppose that the histories will be almost purely military in their character. Lee, however, will have some advantage over Grant, in that his history will not be made in the form of an official report, and hence he can indulge in greater discursiveness of statement and a greater freedom of style than is customary in official documents.

Grant is a very close and accurate writer, and we may say that Lee in general has the same characteristics. The last of Grant's campaign, of which thus far he has given us a full report, was that which was crowned with the splendid victory at Chattanooga in the latter part of 1863; and we have always considered that report as the master piece of military writing and military philosophy that the war has produced. The last full military report of General Lee that we remember to have seen, is that of the battle of Gettysburg, fought two years ago.

Lee's report of his campaign will be confined entirely to operations in Virginia, while Grant's report will be of battles fought and won over half a continent.—From Belmont to Vicksburg, from Donelson to Chattanooga, he campaigned in the South-west; from the Wilderness to Petersburg, and thence around to Louisa Court House, was his battle march in Virginia; while during the last year of the war he directed, combined and so coordinated the movements of all the forces over all the States of the South. It will be interesting to read the reports of Grant and Lee of the great operations during the last year of the war, when the two great masters of the art struggled with each other in Virginia.

### NEGRO STATISTICS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Something has already been said on this subject in our columns; but it will not be amiss to give the full list of those districts in this State in which the negro exceeds the white population in numbers.—There are twenty of them, and the returns are from the census of 1860:

White.	Colored.
Abbeville.....	11,516
Barwell.....	20,869
Beaufort.....	12,702
Charleston.....	18,041
Chester.....	6,714
Charleston.....	29,188
Chester.....	40,912
Chester.....	7,098
Clarendon.....	11,024
Clarendon.....	4,978
Colleton.....	9,255
Colleton.....	32,061
Darlington.....	8,432
Darlington.....	11,929
Edgefield.....	15,054
Edgefield.....	23,238
Fairfield.....	6,373
Fairfield.....	25,738
Georgetown.....	3,013
Georgetown.....	18,292
Kershaw.....	5,048
Kershaw.....	8,038
Laurens.....	10,429
Laurens.....	13,320
Marlborough.....	5,378
Marlborough.....	7,061
Newberry.....	7,000
Newberry.....	13,070
Orangeburg.....	3,108
Orangeburg.....	10,788
Richland.....	8,868
Richland.....	11,444
Sumter.....	6,857
Sumter.....	17,002
Union.....	8,770
Union.....	10,965
Williamsburg.....	5,187
Williamsburg.....	10,302

Districts in which white population preponderates.....10  
Districts in which colored population preponderates.....20  
Whole number of Districts in State.....30  
*Columbia Phoenix.*

### THE EXODUS TO MEXICO.

Major General Heron, who has just arrived in this city from the Military Division of the Gulf, gives us some information which will correct an error that is generally, if not universally, prevalent throughout the North. It is in relation to the removal of late Confederate soldiers to Mexico, with the intention of taking part in the contest by which that unfortunate country is still distracted. Being just from Shreveport where he received the surrender of the bulk of Kirby Smith's army, and where he was brought in contact with Confederates of every rank, he is of course enabled to speak advisedly.

Instead of the seven or eight thousand Missourians who are said to have accompanied Shelby beyond the Rio Grande, that officer was followed by a scanty band of two hundred. Their purpose, as well as their leader's, was to join the "Maximilian," as has been reported, but Juarez and the liberal cause. Missourians and men from seceded States, will not exceed a few hundred in number, all told. Like the former, they designed to cast their swords into the scales against Maximilian, and the French and Austrian contingents by whom he is supported. This, he says, is the purpose of all confederates who have sought or may seek a hand in the military affairs of Mexico. Their motive in siding with the liberal party is one of resentment towards Louis Napoleon, who so grievously disappointed their hopes of intervention against the United States in the contest from which they have just emerged. A partial revenge, they now think, is attainable by expelling his protégé from Mexican soil, and they will do their best to bring about such a result. Others upon whom this motive did not operate, expressed a willingness to go out of pure regard for the principle of the Monroe doctrine, and thought that all interlopers upon American soil ought to be driven off.

Stealing Price is in Texas with his family, and entertains no idea of going to Mexico. It is not improbable that he may return to Missouri at no distant day. Gen. Moore M. Parsons has also located in Texas for the purpose of practicing law.—Gen. Churchill, who was captured originally at Arkansas Post, together with Buckner, Bragg and Beauregard, are in New Orleans—none of them thinking of removing permanently from the United States.—General Churchill expresses a wish to go to Europe to remain a limited time abroad.—*St. Louis Republican.*

### WISE THIEVES STEAL AND COMPROMISE.

Last summer a bank clerk in New York stole \$100,000. He lost the money by fighting the tiger. He then called upon a lawyer and informed him that he was a ruined man and thought of suicide. This led to the following dialogue:

"How much does your defalcation amount to?"

"One hundred thousand dollars."

"Got any of it left?"

"Not a cent."

"That's bad; you have left nothing to work with."

"What must be done?"

"You must return to your desk and abstract another hundred thousand."

"What must I do that for?"

"To preserve your character and save you from going to the State prison. With the hundred thousand dollars you are to steal to-morrow, I intend to compromise with the bank. Your stealings after to-morrow will amount to \$200,000. I will call at the bank and confess your offence; I will represent myself as your heart-broken uncle, honest, but poor; I will offer the bank \$50,000 to hush up the matter. The bank will accept. This will leave \$50,000 to divide between you and me—that is \$25,000 apiece. With this sum you can retire from business."

The young man listened and took on wisdom. He doubted his defalcation and compromised as the lawyer said he should. He is now worth \$250,000, and is counted one of the most respectable gentlemen in the city of New York.

### HOW TO CATCH A THIEF.

One of my Khybriat friends having been repeatedly robbed of his sugar-candy, which was kept in an open earthen vessel in a small inner room, he thought of a way to discover the thief. Having caught a dozen or so of wasps, he clipped off their wings and dropped them into the jar of sugar-candy. The room was open to all the servants, but nothing occurred till the dusk of the evening, when one of them going into the room, ostensibly to bring some tobacco for his master Hookah, was heard to set up a fearful howl. The master at once knew that his bait was taken, and rushing into the room, caught the pilferer, as with a handful of sugar-candy he had grasped some half dozen wasps.—*Langley's Residence in South.*

### HORSES CAPTURED DURING THE WAR.

The Quartermaster General has issued an order, under instructions from the Secretary of War, in reference to horses recaptured from the Confederate armies, to the effect that where a horse captured is identified by sufficient proof as the property of a loyal citizen, the claim of such citizen to his property will be recognized by returning the horse to him, or if the necessities of the service prevent such return, by paying for it the average Government price of the district; receipts to be taken in all cases in duplicate.

How to Keep Butter Cool.—A simple mode of keeping butter in warm weather; where ice is not handy, is to invert a common flower-pot over the butter, with some water in the dish where the butter is laid. The orifice at the bottom may be corked or not. The porousness of the earthenware will keep the butter cool. It will be better still if the pot be covered with a wet cloth, the rapid abstraction of heat by external evaporation causing the butter to become hard.

### FORM OF PARDON.

Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America, to all whom these presents may come, greeting;

Whereas, ——— of ———, by taking part in the late rebellion against the Government of the United States, has made himself liable to heavy pains and penalties; and whereas the circumstances of his case renders him a proper object of Executive clemency.

Now, therefore, be it known, That I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States of America, in consideration of the premises, divers good and sufficient reasons thereunto moving, do hereby grant unto the said ——— a full pardon and amnesty for all offenses by him committed, arising from participation, direct or implied, in the said rebellion, conditioned as follows, namely: This pardon to begin and take effect from the day on which the said ——— shall take the oath prescribed in the proclamation of the President, dated May 29, 1865, and to be void and of no effect if the said ——— shall hereafter, at any time, acquire any property whatever in slaves, or make use of slave labor; and that he first pay all costs which may have accrued in any proceeding hitherto instituted against person and property.

And upon the further condition. That the said ——— shall notify the Secretary of State, in writing, that he has received and accepted the foregoing pardon.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this ——— day of ———, A. D. 1865, and of the Independence of the United States, the 90th.

ANDREW JOHNSON.  
By the President: WM. H. SEWARD,  
Secretary of State.

### EXTRAORDINARY DECISION OF A NEGRO MEETING.

The Mobile Advertiser of the 16th makes the following extraordinary announcement on the authority of a citizen, who was present at a meeting of negroes on the previous Sunday, near the city:

"Nine hundred of them assembled to consider their condition, their rights and duties under the new state of existence upon which they have been so suddenly launched. Our informant was surprised at the hard, practical sense and moderation of tone with which the spokesmen of the meeting urged their views. After long talk and careful deliberation, this meeting resolved, by a vote of seven hundred voices to two hundred, that they had made a practical trial for three months of the freedom which the war has bequeathed to them, that its realities were far from being so flattering as their imaginations had painted it; that they had discovered that the prejudices of color were by no means confined to the people of the South, but on the contrary, that it was stronger and more marked against them in the strangers from the North, than the home people of the South, among whom they had been reared; that negroes, no more than white men, could live without work, or be comfortable without homes; that their Northern deliverers from bondage had not, as they had expected and been taught to expect, undertaken to provide for their happy existence in their new state of freedom, and that their former masters had ceased to take any interest in them, or have a care for them; and finally, that their last state was worse than the first, and it was their deliberate conclusion that their true happiness and well-being required them to return to the homes which they had abandoned in a moment of excitement, and to work again under their old masters." And the resolutions were passed, and at last accounts the wanderers were packing up their little stock of movable goods, preparatory to the execution of their sensible purpose.

### FROM EAST TENNESSEE—DEPLORABLE STATE OF AFFAIRS.

A correspondent in Bristol, Tennessee, furnishes us with a letter, in which it is urged upon us to notice editorially the great danger to which persons are liable in passing westward through East-Tennessee. The letter states that from Carter's Station, twenty miles west of this place (Bristol), to Chattanooga, no one professing Southern sentiments can pass without a guard of bayonets. Should they attempt such a thing, they are brutally beaten, and in many instances murdered. All who see them passing through this little town, shudder for the poor fellows, for they well know what is in store for them.

All the prominent citizens are leaving the country from Knoxville to the Watauga River. Even those who were known only as Southern men, but who never took any part in the war in any manner, have been forced to leave their homes. Hundreds of the best citizens of East-Tennessee are coming to Virginia. The lawless conduct is encouraged and urged by public speeches. Those Confederates, who are from West Tennessee, Georgia, etc., should go some other route than this. Should they attempt to go this route for the next few weeks they will never get home—at least, nine out of ten will not. I beg you to call the attention of such characters to the dangers of this route, and in the same connection the attention of the United States authorities. It is but murder to send them this route. Even Union men who profess to be conservatives, and not abolitionists, can't remain in East-Tennessee.

Lynchburg Republican.

### EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

It appears from foreign advices that the rush of emigrants to this country from the North of Europe is setting in with more than usual vehemence. Fifteen thousand Polish exiles are making arrangements with the Swiss Government for transportation to the free soil of the States. From Norway the exodus of the most valuable part of the population is so great as to excite the fears of the authorities, who are endeavoring to check it.

### ABOUT PARDONS.

A very strange doubt or misconception exists in regard to the effect of the President's pardon upon the property rights of the party pardoned.

Pardons, special and general, are granted in conformity with a clause of the confiscation act itself, approved July 17, 1862, and entitled "an act to suppress insurrection: to seize and confiscate the property of rebels, and for other purposes." The clause is as follows:

"Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That the President is hereby authorized, at any time hereafter, by proclamation, to extend to persons who may have participated in the existing rebellion in any State or part thereof, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions and at such times and on such conditions as he may deem expedient for the public welfare."

It thus appears that the President has the authority of Congress for granting amnesty and pardon for all offenses against the United States committed during the late rebellion, and that he has exercised the power thus conferred by restoring all property rights to the parties, even where legal proceeding has been instituted, but has not consummated. If the proceedings are begun under this act of confiscation, in any court of the United States, the pardon has the effect of quashing them on payment of costs by the party pardoned.

We have been induced to make this statement in consequence of doubts and misapprehensions in regard to the effect of a pardon, which tend to throw suspicion upon the solvency of Southern men, and to prevent the revival of business and industry. The whole country is interested in the speedy restoration of peace, order and confidence in the South, without which there can be no healthy trade and intercourse between the sections.—*Washington Chronicle.*

### FRENCH TROOPS.

In view of possible complications on the Mexican frontier, it may be of interest to know what kind of an army Louis Napoleon is spending his *fete* day with at Chalons. The correspondent of the London Daily Post writes:

"The French cavalry is decidedly inferior to ours, except in numbers. The best corps they have, in my opinion, are the Chasseurs a Cheval, or mounted light troops.—They are certainly the lightest of light horsemen, but extremely well mounted. All that I have seen have Algerian horses, entire animals, stallions, very like the Arabs, on which the Tenth Hussars and Twelfth Lancers were mounted when they arrived at Sebastopol from India overland. The horses of the Chasseurs a Cheval are not more than fourteen hands two inches, English measurement, but they look fully fifty-two hands, owing to the men being so very small. I am told the French have seventeen of these corps, each of which consists of six squadrons of a hundred men. That would make ten thousand men of the most workmanlike light horse I have seen in Europe. There is nothing to be compared with them in the Austrian army.

The Lancers are a fine body of men.—They have eight regiments of them, each numbering six hundred men and horses. The men are much larger than the Chasseurs a Cheval, more like our Hussar regiments. The Cuirassiers are great heavy fellows, as lumbering, but much more provincial than our Life Guards, and I should think quite as useless. The dragons I don't admire, although the French think so highly of them. They are trained to act as cavalry as well as infantry, and consequently split both. The artillery cannot hold a candle to our fellows. Even the crack corps, the horse artillery of the Imperial Guard, cannot be compared for a moment to our horse artillery. The infantry, I must admit, is magnificent, and is certainly now the best dressed infantry in Europe. In their first, their gymnastic exercise, their bayonet, fencing and every other exercise, the Emperor seems determined to bring the whole infantry up to the standard of excellence which was once to be seen exclusively with the Zouaves."

### THE STATE PRISONERS.

The Fortress Monroe correspondent of the Philadelphia Inquirer writes under date of Tuesday:

Jeff. Davis has been unable to take his outdoor exercise for several days past, on account of a carbuncle on one of his legs. Davis has for years been subject to these painful eruptions, and asserts that they are not occasioned by his confinement. Jeff. has become quite cheerful and communicative. He fully appreciates the mild regime to which he is now subjected. Several volumes of the English classics are now allowed him, an occasional daily paper, and pen, ink and paper. He writes letters, of course, enclosed to the Secretary of War. Whom Jeff. favors with epistolary communications is known only to Mr. Stanton and his confidential clerks.

Letters to Jeff. are of frequent occurrence. Those who send them may as well save their stationery and stamps, to say nothing of the labor of writing. No letters are allowed to J. D. General Miles becomes their custodian. Their contents are perused by the reticent young General and then packed away, and he to whom they are addressed is not aware of their existence.

Clay and Mitchell promenade the ramparts every day, though never at the same hours.

### ATTACK ON GENERAL WHEELER.

General Wheeler on Tuesday, 22d ultimo, was attacked and badly beaten by Colonel Blackburn and Captain Quinn, at the City Hotel, Nashville, Tenn., where Wheeler was stopping. The difficulty, it is said, is in consequence of a threat made during the war by Wheeler, that "he would kill Blackburn if he ever took him prisoner, as he was a damned home-made Yankee." Wheeler was in bed when attacked, and was severely beaten.

### LETTER FROM GEN. JOHNSTON.

Baltimore, August 24.—The Fredericksburg (Va.) Ledger, of Tuesday, publishes the following letter of General Joseph E. Johnston.

BUFFALO SPRING, August 17, 1865.

You ask my views of the future peace and future interests of us all. The case is so plain that very little can be said or written upon it.

We, of the South, returned the question at issue between us and the United States to the arbitration of the sword.

The decision has been made and it is against us. We must acquiesce in that decision, accept it as final, and recognize the fact that Virginia is again one of the United States.

Our duties and interest coincide. We shall contend the one and perform the other by doing all that we can to promote the welfare of our neighbors and restore prosperity to the country.

We should at once commence the duties of peaceful citizens, upon some useful pursuit, qualifying ourselves to vote if possible, and at the polls our vote should be cast for conservative men—men who understand and will maintain the interests of Virginia as one of the United States.

This is the course which I have recommended to all with whom I have conversed on the subject, and that which I have adopted for myself as far as practicable.

Very truly yours,  
J. E. JOHNSTON.

### HOW A TOAD PULLS OFF HIS PANTS.

A writer in the North Carolina Farmer tells us the following:

"About the middle of July I found a toad on a hill of melons, and not wanting him to leave, hood around him. He appeared sluggish, and not inclined to move. Presently I observed him prying his abdomen against his sides, and rubbing downward. He appeared so singular that I watched to see what he was up to. A few smart rubs his skin began to bust open straight along his back. Now, said I, old fellow, you have done it; but he appeared to be unconcerned, and kept on rubbing until he had worked down all his skin into folds on his sides and tips; then grasping one hind leg with his hands, he hauled off one leg of his pants the same as any body would, then stripped the other leg the same way. He then took his cut-off outside forward, between his forelegs into his mouth, and swallowed it; then by raising and lowering his head, swallowing as his head came down, he stripped off the skin underneath until it came to his forelegs, and grasping one of these with the opposite hand, by considerable pulling stripped off the skin, changing hands he stripped the other, and by a slight motion of the head he drew it over the breast and swallowed the whole. The operation seemed to be an agreeable one, and occupied but a short time."

### A NEW FAITH.

A new religion has its birth in New York city, on the 31st of July. It was sired by a Scotchman by the name of Davidson, and, of course, damned by fanatics, and damned by the papers generally. Davidson claims to be a brother of Christ. If so, he must be the wandering Jew. We have never heard of him by that name before, as that notable wanderer has borne many cognomens which smelt of Jewish origin, such as Joseph, Anathemus and Cartaphilus; but Davidson is too common to savor of Israelitish origin. Again, if he is a brother of the Saviour, he has remained a long time in these gloomy grounds of sorrow, without making known his genealogy.

Davidson is assisted by a man named Noyes Wheeler, who claims to have been sent by the Angel Gabriel to be a leader of the new sect, and will be immediately immersed by a "high priestess," daughter of Zion and hand-maiden of the Lord; the Angel Gabriel being present, and aiding and abetting.

This "brother of Christ" seems to give no proof of his identity by miracle or otherwise, as he considers it useless where faith is wanting, and where faith exists it is unnecessary. On the whole, he casts Napoleon completely. We wonder if Boston is not jealous of New York being the high place of the basing.

### A DARING OUTRAGE.

As Mr. H. C. Wiseman was riding, on Thursday last, towards Orangeburg, on the State Road, he was attacked about dusk, when within fifteen miles of that town, by a negro man, who, after demanding his money, forcibly dragged him from his horse and rifled his pockets of \$200 in gold and between forty and fifty dollars in greenbacks. The gentleman states that he was informed by persons in the neighborhood, among whom he went to obtain assistance, that the negroes in that section are in a very demoralized state, and are constantly committing depredations on the farmers around.

Charleston News.

Two Views.—It is said that a negro woman who was baptised a few Sundays ago, at Huntsville, Alabama, came forth from the water shouting—"freed from slavery, freed from sin—bless God and General Grant."

Per Contra.—An old lady in Petersburg, Virginia, recently was heard talking on freedom. He was giving advice to some of his "colored brethren," and said, "Stay wid your mass and work; he'll find and clode you, but you come to town and gits freedom; 'tis like Confederate money—de more yo had de was yo in."

### THE REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU FOR NORTH CAROLINA.

Under date of Aug. 21st, states that the whole number of destitute freedmen and white refugees requiring support from government, amounted to about 10,000 persons. Two months ago the number was double. The report speaks encouragingly.