

The News.

We have rumors enough, but bad news enough, without the rumors. There can be no doubt that General Robert E. Lee, whose army was reduced to 8,000 starving men, has surrendered to Gen. Grant, at the head of 200,000. Of this fact, there can be little question. The two Generals treated each other with courtesy, and the honors of war were awarded to our officers and troops. But many of them refused to accept the terms, and have escaped—we suppose to Johnston's army.

A truce has been agreed upon between Generals Johnston and Sherman. This truce is to continue until the adjustment of terms between the representatives of the two confederacies. But, in the event of either party being dissatisfied, then a notice of forty-eight hours is required before the disruption of the terms of truce.

There is much that will need to be commented upon; but this must be done hereafter. It is better that our people should digest these facts thoroughly, before proceeding to speculation and conjecture. Our future is the problem before us, and the subject of negotiation involves a question as to the sort of persons, as negotiators, into whose hands we are to fall. Heaven forbid that, at this period, we shall be given over to the miserable creatures who have so long and so ruinously legislated for us. The great question now is to whom has been considered the work of negotiation: Worn out and wearied, the Confederacy is not exhausted, and a people who can still throw three hundred thousand fighting men into the arms of Maximilian, ought to submit to no degrading condition. Had we any fit representatives in power, we should still be able to command all the proper guarantees and securities of the future. To protract the war, with no surrender for six months more, and we should be able to prescribe our own terms. Alas, alas that the brains should have been so long lacking to a body endowed with so much natural vigor.

The editors of the *Macon Telegraph* and *Southern Confederacy* are engaged in such a war of paper bullets, that even their contemporaries begin to cry aloud for pistols and coffee for a couple. But we counsel a more Christian course. They should remember the advice in the old nursery ballad—

"Their little hands were never made
To tear each other's eyes."

But, if they are resolved on war, let them take the field against the Yankees, and emulous of each other in display, rush to the mounted breach, struggling which shall get there first. He who brings in the greatest number of scalps to be adjudged the victor; and the other bound to forewear all fighting—till the next campaign.

Paroled soldiers who have arrived in this city state that, in half an hour after Lee's surrender, the tree under which it occurred had been cut down, split up, and divided among the Yankee soldiers as mementoes.

The Poppy Cultivation.

We penned a paragraph a day or two ago recommending the poppy to cultivation and for the manufacture of opium. Meanwhile, we happen upon a communication in a Georgia newspaper, in which a correspondent, who appears to be *au fait*, describes the method of cultivation of the poppy and the preparation of the opium. He recommends the *white poppy* in preference to any other; but every kind will answer, according to his plan. The manner of cultivation is as follows:

Have good land, well broken, and sow in drills about 24 feet apart, when up though the work should be out as you would cotton, leaving one or two stalks in a hill; or if your seeds are scarce, you may drop four or five in a hill, about twelve or fourteen inches apart, then thin out as above. When it begins to bloom and until it matures, if the weather is dry, it will be necessary to water it often, as this makes the pods more juicy. If your land is good and is well prepared by deep plowing or hoeing, your work is done, with a little hoeing and pulling out the weeds. I saw, in 1854, when in Tennessee, great quantities of opium made from the poppy, that was cultivated by the ladies and children for ornament.

The way to gather opium is as follows: The pods should be a little more than half ripe, at which time you are to take a knife made for the purpose, with three short blades, the middle blade the shortest, so that it may not go deeper than the others, for you will recollect the hull is roundish. With this knife you make cuts lengthways on the pods, not quite through the hull, about sunset; during the night the milky juice will exude from the hulls through the cuts and adhere to the sides of the incisions. In the morning, before the sun shines, it must be collected in a plate or vessel, with an iron scoop or thin crooked scraper, made so as to fit the shape of the pods. When thus collected, you are to work it in the vessel, exposed to the sun, with a wooden paddle, till the juice is sufficiently thickened. This is opium. Then make it into cakes with the hands and wrap it up in the leaves of the poppy; and if you have no suitable bottles or jars to keep it in, put it in thin leather bags, and you can keep it as long as you please.

The firemen of Charleston, it seems, contemplated some changes in their organization. What these changes were, we know not; but the commandant of the post steps in with the club of veto, and forbids all change without his permission.

For Sale,

A HOUSE and LOT, fine VEGETABLE GARDEN, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, PIANO, &c; in fact, a complete and comfortable homestead. Terms accommodating. Apply to 273 Richardson street, below State House. April 21, '66.

Notice.

MISS E. A. KELLY, a graduate of the Charleston Normal School, intends forming a CLASS of YOUNG LADIES, to teach Arithmetic, Algebra, Grammar and Writing. The pupils will be taught with the view of preparing them to teach. They will not only receive thorough instruction in all the fundamental rules of the above mentioned branches, but this instruction will be imparted to them in such a systematic manner, that they will find it easy and pleasant to convey it to others. No pupil under fourteen desired. The class will meet at the Male Academy, on Laurel street, every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. The best of references can be given. For further particulars, apply at Mr. W. M. KELLY'S, Camden street, two doors East of Bull street. April 21.

Local Items.

The office of the *Columbia Phoenix* is on Cass street, second floor from Main.

Attention is invited to the advertisement, in this day's paper, of Miss A. E. Kelly, a graduate of the Charleston Normal School, proposing to form a class of young ladies, to give instruction in Arithmetic, Algebra, Grammar and Writing.

Mrs. John Townsend Rivers is invited to call at the *Courier* office, Charleston, in order to hear of something to her advantage.

Hops.—The hop vine makes a grateful arbor in summer. It grows luxuriantly in our climate. Its uses are various. It is a necessary element in all good yeast. It is a fundamental principle in the small beer, and other malted liquors of the English, such as every English farmer knows how to manufacture, almost by nature. It may be bread and drink both, under proper management; and if you will raise barley also, who knows how much you will economize of life, how much secure of peace and enjoyment, in lessening the use of horrid whiskey! Somebody should begin the experiment, and why not you, or you, or you, whom we see with a richly colored proboscis, waiting at the corner for the slow coming of 12 o'clock!

VEGETABLES.—If not duly provided against, we shall suffer greatly from the lack of vegetables this summer—vegetables and fresh meats. Confined wholly to the salt, we shall have scurvy, unless we can get abundant supplies of vegetable food. We shall need vinegar, especially, in large quantities. Let our farmers and good housekeepers see to this. Pickles are greatly to be desired. See to the cucumber crop. Do not despise blackberries in this day of small things. All vegetables are wholesome if in season, quite ripe, and when cooked thoroughly done. Do not, beloved brethren, fear what are esteemed crude vegetables. Radishes are good even without salt. You may even come to relish a rasped turnip. Do not throw your cucumbers out of the window, after dressing them; and where you have no vinegar, try them as squashes and in soup. Okra, as a vegetable, is not to be despised, and, to make a tart but ripe, with vinegar, a wholesome extemporaneous pickle.

TEAS AND BEVERAGES.—Sassafras tea, whether made of the blossom or the root, is a better purifier of the blood than sarsaparilla, and infinitely more pleasant as a medicine. As a drink or beer, it cannot be too much commended for a summer beverage, though, at the present high price and large use of syrup or molasses, it is scarcely proper to commend it for this purpose. But use it as a medicine, a tea, and you will find it a grateful purifier of the system. Our Indians used the cascara as a tea, and, following their example, our forefathers of the Revolution made it their substitute for Hyson and Bohea. The uses of orange leaf tea is generally known; as also tea of sage and other garden plants. We should find out the use of all things, if possible, in this our season of small things.