

The State of the Country.

The citizens of St. Matthews have recently held a large meeting, at which a committee was appointed to express their views as to the best means of preserving the peace and good order of the country, under the recent orders of the military authorities of the United States emancipating our slaves, and also to recommend some uniform rules, if practicable, by which fair compensation shall be allowed them under their altered circumstances. The report and resolutions which were prepared by the committee, and which, we are informed, were adopted by the meeting with great unanimity, have been sent to us, with a request for publication. But, as the space in our paper is quite limited, we are able to publish only brief extracts from the report and some of the resolutions, as indicating the general scope of their views. The subject is certainly one of profound importance to every citizen of the South.

The meeting, after taking a rapid survey of the condition of the country, some parts of which have become almost depopulated, and most of the plantations nearly stripped of their most able-bodied negroes, (who, upon the announcement of their freedom, flocked to the seacoast or crowded into the towns and villages,) and alluding to the work now done on the plantations by the negroes which remain as "small in amount and executed in the most slovenly and imperfect manner," proceed as follows:

This state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue, without the most disastrous consequences to all the parties concerned. An insufficiency of food for the wants of the population will be the inevitable result, with all the horrors of famine for the next year. And the gathering, in various parts of the State, of idle and dissolute negroes who have left the plantations, (and these were generally the worst characters of the gangs,) must as inevitably lead to vices and crimes, dangerous to the peace and safety of the community. The cause of this threatened scarcity of food being the insufficiency of labor on the plantations, owing to desertion; and its imperfection, amounting, in many cases, almost to worthlessness, owing to the want of control and discipline which has been taken away from the planters; the first duty is to inquire how this labor can be retained on the plantations, or restored after it has been withdrawn. The most obvious method is to make it the interest of the negroes to remain at their old homes; and the most obvious means of accomplishing this is to provide and retain on the plantation the food necessary for their comfortable subsistence. If this be done, and no undue temptations are held out to allure them to other places, they will remain, not only from the promptings of interest, but from their attachment to their old homes, for which they are so remarkable.

After providing an abundance of food for them on the plantations, the next duty is not to permit it to be carried off and wasted, (as it will inevitably be wasted,) by allowing an undue part of the crop to be given to them in "compensation for their labor," as it is called. No matter how small or large a portion of the crop may be given to them "in kind," it will be sure to be wasted in a few months, (perhaps weeks,) in gewgaws and finery and expensive luxuries, which tickle the palate, or (which is more pernicious still) in intoxicating drinks, until, within a period of a few brief months, the stock of food which has been given to them will be exhausted, and they will become starving paupers upon the country and without homes to shelter them. Such a condition of things is most earnestly to be deprecated, not only from humanity to the negroes, but from considerations of public policy, which admonishes us not to throw upon society a houseless and starving, and, therefore, thieving, Lazzaroni, to prey upon the community.

To prevent this waste of food, at a crisis like this, when so little can be spared, to prevent, also, the idleness and dissipation which must occur, owing to the frequent visits of the negroes to the towns and little country shops whilst engaged in trafficking with their "crop in kind," the meeting recommends that a commutation be made to them in money, or that the food portion of it be purchased back from them at the fair market value.

They next proceed to show that, in times like these, with the negroes so demoralized and labor so defective from want of proper discipline, there will be very few plantations which will do more than pay the expenses of cultivation, thereby leaving no profit to the proprietor; and if any considerable portion of the crop be deducted as compensation to the negroes, much in that proportion will be left to turn on the negroes from his plantation, from want of food to support him for another crop.

They give, with some fulness, the causes of the present unprofitableness of agricultural capital, which, although interesting to be kept in view, we have not the space

to copy. But, in view of avoiding the numberless evils of having swarms of idle negroes roaming over the country in search of work, which they will not be over-desirous to find, the meeting strongly recommend that an ample supply of food for all the negroes on the plantation for the next year be reserved out of the crop before any division be made of the surplus. This will at least insure them a comfortable home and the means of being useful to themselves and others while engaged in making another crop.

There are other topics discussed in the report of much importance to our people at this time, but which we have no room for. We give some of the resolutions which were adopted:

Resolved, That, in order to prevent the disorders and calamities which are likely to grow out of the new order of things imposed upon our country, we will endeavor to keep the negroes diligently employed in useful labor upon our plantations; that we will discourage their rambling away from the same and gathering into idle bands elsewhere. And we hereby pledge ourselves that we will give no employment to any negro who, from caprice or insubordination, shall leave the services of his employer, except upon the written consent of such employer, nor permit such negro to be harbored upon our premises.

Resolved, That, in consideration of the great scarcity of food which is likely to occur under the new system, and the derangement and uncertainty of labor consequent thereon, it becomes the duty of planters to part with as little as possible of the food of their plantations, but reserve as much of it as may be necessary for the comfortable support of the industrious and regular laborers whom they may have in future to employ. They give it also as their opinion, after a careful examination of the subject, that, while on many plantations the whole crops have been absorbed in the expenses of the same and the support of the negroes employed thereon, leaving no surplus as income to the proprietor, there are but a very few cases in which one-fourth of the surplus of the crop could be spared as compensation to the negroes, after first deducting the expenses of the plantation, grain enough for the usual subsistence of the negroes (now on the plantation) for the next crop, and also the usual allowance of seventy-five bushels of grain for each horse or mule engaged in the management and making of the crop.

Resolved, As the opinion of the meeting, that in those cases in which compensation to the negroes for their labor may seem to be allowable, this compensation be made to them, if possible, not in kind, but in money, at the market value of such portion of the crop as it may be considered they are entitled to.

Public Meeting at Summerville.

We have received, but too late for publication, copies of a correspondence between R. J. Limehouse, Intendant of the town of Summerville, and Col. Van Wyck, commanding the military forces of the United States at that place. The letter of Commandant Limehouse simply asks permission of the commandant to hold a meeting of citizens, with the view to the inauguration of measures which may enable the State of South Carolina to resume her place in the Union. The commandant grants the desired permission, in a long letter, full of counsel. The meeting was held in Summerville on the 31st of May. The committee consisted of the following named gentlemen: Dr. Jos. Murray, Chairman, Dr. J. A. Harrold, John Gadsden, Thomas Pelzer, T. B. Miles, B. C. Pressley, Charles Foster, J. R. Dukes, J. H. W. Hutchinson, Dr. R. W. Burnham, Jos. Isaac Perry, Constantine Bailey, Thomas Limehouse, Isaac Murray, J. T. Browning, Dr. H. S. Waring, A. R. Stillman, R. G. Stone, Rev. J. A. Mood, Daniel Knight, J. L. Rhodes, Dr. T. L. Pelzer, Charles Graves, E. P. Lawrence and J. L. Gaunt.

The report and resolutions submitted affirmed the desire of the citizens to restore themselves in a civil government and to restore the State to the Union; recommended as a duty, to the people, to forbear all acts of hostility to the authority of the latter power, and to promote, in every possible way, the return of friendly feeling between the citizens of the two sections, North and South; concluding with other resolutions appointing meetings for the several Parishes of St. George's, Dorchester and St. Paul, to be held on the 15th day of June. As we received these proceedings on the 16th—a day after the time appointed—their publication is quite needless; especially as their results contemplate nothing more than other proceedings, when the public action would be final. These we shall be pleased to publish when they reach us.

The *Courier* says, on the authority of old inhabitants, who approach the experience of Methuselah, that there will be no yellow fever this season in Charleston. But what does Professor Hume say? We say still, *non veritas*.

Local Items

The office of the *Columbia Phoenix* is on Gate street, second door from Plain.

CASUALTY.—We are told that a negro man lost his life, in the Congaree, on Sunday last, by drowning. His inexperience in the management of a dug out is said to have led to the disaster.

EXCHANGE PAPERS.—We are indebted to friendly correspondents for the use of Charleston and Northern papers—the first named to the 17th inst.; the latter, including the *Herald* and *Tribune*, to the 10th June, from which we shall make extracts.

The friendly counsels of "A. B. C." exhibit such a warm interest in the concerns of the *Phoenix*, and indicate a person so experienced in the matters of which he writes, that a personal interview with him would be desirable. We beg "A. B. C." to call upon us at the first convenient opportunity. The anonymous is hardly the proper medium for conveying such information as he seeks to impart.

LETTERS FOR CITIZENS.—Letters and packets are daily arriving for citizens of Columbia, and as the parties addressed are not always easy to be found, the packets are usually left at the store and auction house of Zealy, Scott & Bruns, who will cheerfully deliver them on application. It may be well for citizens expecting letters, papers or packets, to inquire occasionally at the office of these gentlemen.

There is a rumor, which has reached us from Charleston, that Gov. Magrath has been released from prison and arraigned. It is at this moment a mere rumor, but the thing is not improbable.

Gov. Watts, of Alabama, who was arrested at Macon, has been released from prison and permitted to return home. It is thought that Governors Letcher and Vance, of Virginia and North Carolina, will also be released, and shortly.

ALABAMA.—It is supposed by the *quid naves* at Washington that Judge Parsons, of Talladega, will be appointed Provisional Governor of Alabama; while James Q. Smith, a loyal refugee has received the appointment of United States District Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama.

Burglars are busy in Charleston, and the house of Mr. S. N. Hart, corner of Aiken's Row and Meeting street, has been rifled, and a negro soldier was the burglar. And the worthy, Mrs. Meyers—of whom we know nothing—has been victimized in the same manner and possibly by the same parties.

964 National Banks are now in operation.

WANTED TO PURCHASE,
A SMALL LOT OF SHEET COPPER, suitable for making stills.
June 20 1*
R. TOZER.

Lost or Stolen,
A SMALL PALMETTO WALKING CANE, with gold head, marked "F. M. B., 1858." A suitable reward will be paid for its recovery. Apply at this office.
June 20 1*

C. F. HARRISON,
Auctioneer & Commission Merchant,
OFFICE at A. L. Solomon's store, Plain street, second door above the Shiver House.
June 20

For any Point.
A LIGHT Two-horse SPRING WAGON can be had, to convey passengers or freight to any point, by applying at this office.
June 21 2*

EATING HOUSE.
MR. J. Q. ADAMS would inform the citizens of Columbia that he has opened an EATING HOUSE, on the corner of Washington and Gates streets, where MEALS will be served up at all hours of the day. LUNCH from 11 to 2 o'clock.
June 20

General Commission Agency.
P. B. GLASS respectfully advertises to the public that he is prepared to do a GENERAL COMMISSION BUSINESS, and invites consignments of all kinds of Merchandise, Manufactures, Produce, &c. He will attend to purchase or sale of Real Estate, Stocks, &c. Office and mart on Plain street, between Bull and Pickens.
June 30 6*

P. B. GLASS,
BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
(Plain Street, between Bull and Pickens.)
HAS for sale LETTER, CAP and NOTE PAPER, ENVELOPES, Steel Pens, Pen Holders, Sealing Wax, Mucilage, Red Tape, Lead Pencils, India Rubber, Writing Ink, Memorandum and Pass Books.
June 20 6*

AUCTION SALES.

Variety Sale.

By Jacob Levin.

THIS (Tuesday) MORNING, at 10 o'clock, will be sold, in front of the Ration House,
1 Feather Bed, 1 Mattress, 1 Round Table, 1 Mahogany Tea Table, pair Brass Dogs, Arm Chairs, &c.

ALSO,

A lot of Books, among which are Historical Collections of South Carolina, Life of Napoleon, Dickens' Novels, Arabian Nights, &c. &c.

After the above, I will sell 100 bushels Corn, in lots to suit purchasers; 20 bags new Flour, 15 bags Peas.

Unlimited articles received up to time of sale.
June 20

NEW STOCK!
Just Arrived.

M. A. SHELTON & CO.,
Bull Street, one door from the Post Office.

ARE now offering a NEW STOCK OF GOODS, which they have lately purchased at low rates, and are disposed to sell

At a Slight Advance for Cash,

CONSISTING IN PART OF:

LADIES' SHOES, of all patterns—fine Gent's " of superior quality. Misses " of all numbers. Boy's " cheap and good. Gent's fine FELT HATS. " good WOOL HATS. Ladies' fine HATS, Ladies' VEILS. " HOSIERY, PLAIN.

TOOTH BRUSHES, PLAYING CARDS. Butter CRACKERS, Fancy do. CHEESE, GREEN TEA, RAISINS. WHITE SUGAR, BROWN SUGAR. JAVA COFFEE—1 pound packages. BROOMS, MATCHES, SIEVES. MUSTARD, STARCH, TINWARE. MACKEREL, HERRING, CODFISH. CANDLES, Colgate's PALE SOAP. BOURBON WHISKEY, ALE. PORTER, CLARET, St. Julien. CUMBERLAND SAUCE. MOSS TOBACCO, SMOKING do. CHEWING TOBACCO, LEMONS.

Country merchants and others visiting the city with the intention of purchasing goods, will find it to their interest to give us a call before purchasing elsewhere, as we are enabled, from an extensive purchase, to sell at a VERY LOW ADVANCE ON CHARLESTON PRICES.
June 20

FAMILY FLOUR!
SIXTY BAGS SUPERIOR FAMILY FLOUR, at \$1.50 per bag, for sale by June 19 3 KENNETH & GIBSON.

IRON! IRON!
TEN THOUSAND POUNDS HORSE SHOE and TIRE IRON, for sale low for cash by KENNETH & GIBSON
June 19 3

\$200 Reward!
IN SPECIE.

STOLEN from my stables, on the night of the 5th May, two fine BAY MARES—one a large bay mare, will fold in the first of the fall, seven years old, color a deep bay, black legs, main and tail, very small fore-top, too short to be kept or placed under the brow band—no white about her, unless saddle marks, a small scar on the right hind leg at the knee or hock joint, outside of the leg, recently done by ploughing; a very heavy made animal, with great muscular power, fine action, gentle and kind in harness or under saddle, gaits, walk, trot and lope.

Also, one BAY FILLEY, four years old, about 14 hands high, dark bay color, black legs, main and tail—a very handsome animal, beautifully formed, with rather a heavy main and tail. No particular marks, except a small scar on the left hip, near the root of the tail, in the shape of a half moon, caused by a kick. These two animals are very much attached to each other, and when separated, restless and uneasy.

I will pay the above reward, in specie or its equivalent, for the recovery of my mares, or \$100 for either of them. Any information as to the thief will be duly appreciated, and any information as to the mares can be given to James B. Cureton, Esq., or Dr. R. B. Johnston, Camden, S. C., or Hon. James A. Witherspoon, Lancaster, C. H., Capt. Thos. Taylor, Columbia, S. C., or myself.
R. M. MILLER,
Pineville, C. & S. C. R. R., No. Ca.
June 17 4

AMNESTY.
THE TERMS OF PARDON

Proclamation by the President of the United States of America.
Whereas the President of the United States, on the 8th day of December, A. D. 1863, and on the 26th day of March, A. D. 1864, with the object to suppress the existing rebellion, to induce all persons to return to their loyalty and to restore the authority of the United States, issue proclamations offering amnesty and pardon to certain persons who had, directly or by implication, participated in the said rebellion; and whereas many persons, who had

so engaged in said rebellion, have, since the issuance of said proclamation, failed or neglected to take the benefits offered thereby; and whereas many persons, who have been justly deprived of all claim to amnesty and pardon thereunder by reason of their participation, directly or by implication, in said rebellion and continued hostility to the Government of the United States since the date of said proclamation, now desire to apply for and obtain amnesty and pardon:

To the end, therefore, that the authority of the Government of the United States may be restored, and that peace, order and freedom may be established, I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, do proclaim and declare that I hereby grant to all persons who have directly or indirectly participated in the existing rebellion, except as hereinafter excepted, amnesty and pardon, with restoration of all rights of property, except as to slaves, and except in cases where legal proceedings, under the laws of the United States providing for the confiscation of property of persons engaged in rebellion, have been instituted, but on the condition, nevertheless, that every such person shall take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation, and thereupon keep and maintain said oath inviolate, and which oath shall be registered for permanent preservation, and shall be of the tenor and effect following, to wit:

I, _____, do solemnly swear or affirm, in presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder, and that I will in like manner abide by and faithfully support all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion, with reference to the emancipation of slaves. So help me God.

The following class of persons are exempted from the benefits of this proclamation:

- 1st. All who are, or shall have been, pretended civil or diplomatic officers, or otherwise, domestic or foreign agents of the pretended Confederate Government.
- 2d. All who left judicial stations under the United States to aid in the rebellion.
- 3d. All who shall have been military or naval officers of said pretended Confederate Government above the rank of colonel in the army or lieutenant in the navy.
- 4th. All who left seats in the Congress of the United States to aid the rebellion.
- 5th. All who resigned or tendered resignations of their commissions in the army or navy of the United States to evade jury in resisting the rebellion.
- 6th. All who have engaged in any way in treating otherwise than lawfully as prisoners of war persons found in the United States service, as officers, soldiers, seamen or in other capacities.
- 7th. All persons who have been or are absentees from the United States for the purpose of aiding the rebellion.
- 8th. All military and naval officers in the rebel service who were educated by the Government in the Military Academy at West Point or the United States Naval Academy.
- 9th. All persons who held the pretended offices of Governor or States in insurrection against the United States.
- 10th. All persons who left their homes within the jurisdiction and protection of the United States, and passed beyond the Federal military lines into the so-called Confederate States for the purpose of aiding the rebellion.
- 11th. All persons who have been engaged in the destruction of the commerce of the United States upon the high seas, and who have made raids into the United States from Canada, or been engaged in destroying the commerce of the United States upon the lakes and rivers that separate the British provinces from the United States.
- 12th. All persons who, at the time when they seek to obtain the benefits hereof by taking the oath herein prescribed, are in military, naval or civil confinement or custody, or under bonds of the civil, military or naval authorities of agents of the United States, as prisoners of war or persons detained for offenses of any kind, either before or after conviction.
- 13th. All persons who have voluntarily participated in said rebellion, and the estimated value of whose taxable property is over twenty thousand dollars.
- 14th. All persons who have taken the oath of amnesty as prescribed in the President's proclamation of December 8, A. D. 1865, or an oath of allegiance to the Government of the United States since the date of said proclamation, and who have not thereupon kept and maintained the same inviolate.

Provided, that special application may be made to the President for pardon by any person belonging to the excepted classes, and such clemency will be liberally extended as may be consistent with the facts of the case and the peace and dignity of the United States.

The Secretary of State will establish rules and regulations for administering and recording the said amnesty oath, so as to insure its benefit to the people and guard the Government against fraud. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.
Done at the city of Washington, the 29th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1865, and of the independence of the United States the eighty-ninth.

ANDREW JOHNSON.
By the President:
Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State.
June 9