

Abandoned Property.

In a recent publication President Johnson has put forth instructions in respect to this property, which may relieve the country from some of its fears, and embarrassment, and lessen greatly the wanton, and perhaps dishonest, exercise of power on the part of those bureaus to which the subject has been already quite too much confided. There is to be no general sweep of property according to the desires and mere will of officers of bureaus. It is only in cases where there has been no pardon granted, and where the property is confiscable in the cases of persons who have been specially obnoxious to the Government because of their peculiar and offensive activity in the Confederate cause, that the possession of their lands will be withheld from them. And each of these cases must be subject to trial and adjudication, determinable upon its own merits. In cases where the negroes have crops upon the ground, the crop must be purchased from them and their claims satisfied, or the lands will be retained for their use, until the present crop has been fully harvested. The land will then be restored. This important order of President Johnson will be published just as soon as we can secure a proper copy of it. Justly speaking, there is no voluntary abandonment of any property in this or any other Southern State. Along our seaboard the owners were either driven off by the actual conflict of contending armies, or they were ordered off by the Confederate authorities, who needed the land for military purposes, or desired to deprive the invading forces of those resources which otherwise might have yielded them aid and comfort. The owners, in either case, had no choice but departure. To appropriate their lands, unless under some general act of forfeiture, such as Mr. Thaddeus Stevens humanely proposes, would be a monstrous act of cruelty and despotism—would be a simple robbery of a people who had no sort of alternative, and their spoliation, as victims, for the enrichment of greedy bands of reckless adventurers. It will become the necessity of President Johnson especially to interpose for the protection of these unfortunates, and to save equally the people and the Government from the schemes of gangs of plunderers, who find their law only in the possession of their power, and make of their official stations so many agencies for the accumulation of individual spoils. Already we hear of companies in formation for the purchase of these supposed abandoned lands, which, sold at prices purely nominal—for at this moment few owners are able to contend for them in the market—will be subsequently colonized by foreign emigrants, realizing immense profits for that intermediate class which, combining together their resources, will have the entire control of the subject. We are in hopes shortly to obtain such evidence as will prove to President Johnson the necessity of taking prompt and decided steps towards the full adjustment of the subject, and restoring to innocent owners those possessions, which, so far from voluntarily abandoning, they have been most reluctant to leave. The distress of the country is already too great for the endurance of the people, and to increase their sufferings by their utter confiscation, is a cruelty not less than a crime, well calculated to drive them to despair.

The Governorship and Mr. Orr.

It is particularly proper that Mr. Orr should be selected as the Governor of the State at this juncture, and for properly adjusting and setting in motion the new machine of Govern-

ment. It is in such large degree his own handiwork, so completely have his own ideas controlled the action of the Convention, that it is but just that he should be allowed to set in operation all the wheels and agencies which are necessary for giving a fair chance to the experiment. And, irrespective of this consideration, Mr. Orr is by nature and training especially fitted for the Executive department of the State. He has had large experience, is a man of bold character, with an eager desire to do, has a strong will, with leading ideas which consort admirably with what is called the progressive spirit of the age, possesses nerves of iron, as well as nerves of will, and possesses, in an eminent degree for work, the *mens sana in corpore sano*, which so largely constitutes the necessity of the public man. That he will work out his problems to their complete fulfilment, and the full development of all that is good in them, we have no question. He will have work enough on his hands; much to distress and disturb him; but his resources are such that we have the fullest confidence in his ability to put the engine fairly on the track, with all possible advantage of circumstance, as efficiently as any man living; especially, as the general call of the Convention itself upon him, assures him of the hearty support, in good faith, not only of the politicians but of the people. Let him know this, and the interests of the commonwealth, under its present dispensation, may be safely confided to his skill as chief engineer. The Convention has taken upon itself a very solemn—indeed, an awful responsibility. It has relieved the Government of the United States from the responsibility of what has been done; for though all the radical changes in our Government have been initiated by the decrees of the United States, our people had still an option, and might have devolved upon the latter all the risks and duties, all the odium and evil which may follow from such extreme and sudden changes in our political and social condition. The greater problem remains in reserve—that of the process by which our people, stripped of all their property, are made able to respond to the exaction of any form or degree of taxation which is yet to be enforced upon them. This problem is one upon which the wisest statesmanship may well ponder in dismay.

The Richmond Times tells us that Mr. L. H. Chandler, the present United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, (who is a gentleman of ability and long residence in Virginia,) is said to have stated to the people of Dinwiddie County, in a public address, on the 18th instant, "that he rejoiced to tell them that all confiscation is at an end, and that he had received orders to suspend all confiscations." As Mr. Chandler is the officer specially charged by the Government with the prosecution of the suits for the confiscation of the property which has been libelled by the Government, this declaration carries with it much authority.

A traveller, just arrived from Aiken, tells us of a serious affray at that place recently, in which several negroes were severely wounded. It appears that a negro fellow beat a little white boy very savagely. A squad of half a dozen of the little fellow's companions made common cause against the negro and drubbed him in turn. A group of negro men gathered to his defence and began the punishment of the boys, when some gentlemen interfered, and with their knives inflicted several wounds upon the negroes, and dispersed them. There was much consequent excitement.

Napoleon, Arkansas, is said to be in danger of totally disappearing in a few years before the encroachments of the Mississippi.

United States Senator.

We respectfully propose for the consideration of the State and the next Legislature, the name of the Hon. William W. Boyce as a highly suitable selection for one of our United States Senators. His long service and experience in Congress, his eminent intellectual attainments, his devotion to the South and his native State, his statesmanly and conservative views as respects Federal politics, his unsullied reputation as a public man—all render him acceptable as a Senator to represent South Carolina in the national councils.

At this particular juncture, there is a special fitness in the choice of Mr. Boyce. He is regarded throughout the North as a moderate man, and is both personally and politically highly acceptable to President Johnson, with whom, before the war, his relations were cordial. President Johnson has now, and has so expressed himself, the utmost confidence in Mr. Boyce. By his election, then, we will have an able and incorruptible representative, and one who, by his standing in the North and with the President, will be potent for good. DELEGATE.

Theft and other virtues, in the shape of horse and hog stealing, are reported to be of incessant exercise throughout the country. No man's mules or horses, hogs or poultry are now safe, no matter what sort of lock you use. The Indian proverb is, "My knife laughs at your locks." The axe of the negro is quite as useful in destroying the integrity of locks, bolts and bars. The farmer is now frequently compelled to secure his horse or mule in his basement, and watch by night with his double-barrelled gun. In this condition of things, the prospect of making a crop, or of securing it when made, is a problem which no rule laid down by Gunter is likely to elucidate.

HOMICIDE.—A painful report reaches us of the murder of Dr. Dehon and his son, in the neighborhood of Waltherboro, by the driver of his plantation and certain other negroes, while he was riding in his buggy. We hear of no other particulars, but trust that the authorities in that quarter, if not too much busied with the abstract virtues of freedmen as they existed in the time of Cato, will see to the future of the criminals, and adjust the balances on behalf of Fate. We fear that under the virtuous auspices of the age, and other still more occult influences, these crimes are destined to a fearful increase.

TIME LIMITED FOR PARDON APPLICANTS.—The Washington Chronicle, of the 21st, says, in consequence of the great number of pardon-seekers who daily besiege the Attorney-General's office, and the almost exclusive attention they absorb in that department, the time for their appearance at this office has been limited to between the hours of 11 a. m. and 1 p. m. The average number of applicants per day is 150—nearly all of whom are of the twenty thousand dollar class.

A TERRIBLE CONFESSION.—Daniel Andrews, Postmaster at Glencoe, Missouri, was recently arrested for robbing a neighbor, and committed suicide in prison. Before doing so he wrote a confession, which stated, among other things, that he murdered a returned Californian, eight or ten years ago, for the purpose of securing his money, which amounted to about ten thousand dollars; that he had the murdered man buried at his own expense, many of the neighbors attending the funeral, and giving him credit for charity to the dead. He also informs his friends that since his appointment as postmaster he had robbed the mails in search of money in many instances, and that he never lost an opportunity to appropriate letters entrusted to him, with the information that their contents were valuable. The most shocking statement in the confession is that he had been the means of killing two of his own children, and that he had mediated the murder of his wife, "procuring a gun and loading it for that purpose only a few days before the date of the confession.

STATE CONVENTION.

Tuesday, September 26, 1865.

The Convention assembled at 10 o'clock, the President took the Chair, and the deliberations were opened with prayer.

Mr. Robertson introduced the following resolutions, which were agreed to:

Resolved, That the Clerk of this Convention be charged, with the supervision of the printing of the journal, reports, resolutions and ordinances adopted by this Convention, in permanent form; that he prepare and have printed with the same a complete index, and that he be also charged with the distribution of the same, under the direction of the President; that he also shall prepare, and have substantially bound, a correct manuscript copy of the journal, to be deposited in the Secretary of State's office.

Resolved, That the Clerk be paid for said services, and for services as Clerk of the Convention, the same salary as was paid the Clerk of the House of Representatives in 1860.

Mr. Inglis, from the Revisory Committee, made a report on matters, submitting a draft of the Constitution, which was amended. The report was then agreed to, and the Constitution committed to the Engrossing Committee, and 500 copies ordered to be printed.

The President laid before the Convention the following communication:

CASHIER VALLEY, N. C., September 11, 1865.

To the President of the Convention of South Carolina.

SIR: I have heard, though not officially, that I have been elected a member of the Convention from Richland District, and I write to say that I shall do myself the honor to take my seat as soon as I can reach Columbia. Unfortunately, my means of transportation are just at present not in a condition to be used, but I hope to have them available very soon.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, yours,

WADE HAMPTON.

The report of the Committee on the Judiciary, on a resolution as to colored persons testifying in certain cases, was referred to the Committee to be appointed by the Governor.

The ordinance providing for the election of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and members of the Legislature, was referred to the Engrossing Committee.

Mr. Conner offered a resolution, which was unanimously agreed to, that Messrs. D. L. Wardlaw, Alfred Huger and T. N. Watkins be a committee to present to President Johnson the memorial of this Convention in behalf of Hons. Jefferson Davis, A. H. Stevens, A. G. Magrath and G. A. Trenholm, and that the expenses be defrayed out of funds raised under ordinances of the Convention.

Messrs. Macbeth, Lesesne and others presented sundry reports.

The ordinance dividing the State into four Congressional Districts, instead of six as heretofore, was passed.

Mr. Simonton introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, endorsing the administration of President Johnson, and approving the mode of pacification proposed by him, and offering to co-operate with him in the wise measure he has adopted for securing peace and prosperity to the whole Union.

The trial at New York of Anderson, the captain of an emigrant ship, who is charged with the most inhuman conduct towards his passengers, is diverting attention from the jailor of Andersonville, the notorious Wirz. Anderson, it seems, established a floating "Andersonville" upon the high seas, where he starved many hundred men, women and children, who were not prisoners of war. He is proved to have been liberal to his cows and pigs, and to have kept his human passengers in a famished state; but as the pigs and cows cannot testify for the defendant, his case looks very black. One large family he allowed per week eight small potatoes and eleven crackers, and yet they are alive to testify against him. He had false bottoms to his measures, and cheated as well as starved his passengers. When asked for beef, he gave bones, and all that he gave, whether liquid or solid, was alive with loathsome insects. He made the "good A No. 1 copper-bottomed passenger ship 'Villa Franca'" a floating hell, and his chances for being laid up in dry dock at Sing Sing for a decade are exceedingly promising.

[Richmond Times.]

Mrs. Moore, the widow of the poet, is dead.

Local Items.

"Cotton Blanks" and permits—indispensable to all persons purchasing or shipping cotton—can be obtained at this office.

Members of the Convention and others can procure comfortable seats in good vehicles to Kingsville or any other point, at reduced rates, by applying at this office.

That useful institution, the Southern Express Company, has again placed us under obligations by the prompt delivery of late papers.

THE CAPTURE AND DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, S. C.—Originally Published in the Columbia Phoenix—Revised and Corrected by the Author.—About the middle of October, the above work will be issued from the press of the Columbia Phoenix—printed with new type and on fine paper. Persons desiring copies are requested to give their names as early as possible. Single copies will be furnished at \$1. The trade supplied at a discount.

PROGRESS OF RECONSTRUCTION.—The rebuilding of the city of Columbia goes on with rapidity, and though the fabrics now in course of erection but poorly represent the ancient splendor, beauty and wealth of the city, they must yet be held as encouraging signs of that restored and growing energy of the people which speaks well for their resolution and their faith in the future. Our estimate is that more than one hundred new buildings are now in progress, taking their places promiscuously among the beds of ruin. Some of these fabrics are large and of brick—some rising unto two or more stories. Main street, the former principal street for business, here and there looms out with a new fabric, and here and there, throughout all the ruined portions of the city, individual proprietors are reclaiming the land from the ashes, and making comfortable, if not improving, habitations. The large number of shops and store-houses argues preparation for the resumption of trade, of no little importance and variety. So should it be.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published for the first time this morning:

- A. R. Phillips—Furniture, Saddle, &c.
- Miss Bell—School Notice.
- Nomination of E. J. Arthur for Senator.
- J. Meighan—New Goods.
- J. Woodrow & Co.—Southern Presbyterian Merchant's Hotel, Charleston.
- Gen. Ames—Special Orders No. 10.
- Circular No. 1.
- General Orders No. 2.
- Meeting of Columbia Medical Society.
- H. Hawkins—\$50 Reward.

COLONEL G. ST. LEGER GRENFELL.—We find the following account of this officer, formerly of the Confederate States Army, in a New York paper of the 18th:

Late on Saturday night, Lieutenant Wyman, of the Fourth Regulars, Hancock's Corps, with a squad of six privates, arrived in Jersey City via the New York and Erie Railway, having in custody G. St. Leger Grenfell, tried and found guilty as a rebel conspirator and hotel burner in Chicago, and sentenced to be hung, the sentence remitted to imprisonment for life in the Dry Tortugas, and now on his way there. The prisoner was detained at the station house over night and yesterday. Lieut. Wyman proceeded with him to New York for the purpose of embarking on board the first vessel bound for New Orleans, to convey the convict to his destination.

FALSEHOOD.—A paragraph has been going the rounds of the press, stating that Mr. Howell, the father-in-law of Jefferson Davis, had expressed the wish, in coarse and profane language, that his son-in-law might be hanged. It originated with the correspondent of that mendacious sheet, the New York Herald. How much truth there is in the statement will appear from the fact that Mr. Howell has been dead, as we learn from the Vicksburg Herald, about three years.

Our impression is that there is as much lying just now about various matters and things in the South as there has been at any time in the last twenty-five years.

It is doing a great deal of harm. [Louisville Journal.]

The following from Gen. Sherman's late speech at Lancaster, Ohio, gives pretty clearly the responsibility of the devastation in his line of march: "So, soldiers, when we marched through and conquered the country of the rebels, we became owners of all they had, and I don't want you to be troubled in your consciences for taking, while on our great march, the property of conquered rebels. They forfeited their rights to it, and I, being agent for the Government to which I belonged, gave you authority to keep all the quartermasters couldn't take possession of or didn't want."