COLUMBIA.

Tuesday Morning, April 10, 1866.

Let Us Stand by Our Friends.

We believe with some of our exchanges, that beyond the wild impulses of fanaticism, the gratification and the desire of making political capital, by conferring political power on the freedmen, they have still another object, and that is, so to dishearten and disgust the influential classes at the South, that they will be driven to self-expatriation to escape the taunts, sneers and persecutions of the radical party.

As we have frequently said in this journal, that following the example of Lee, Hampton, Beauregard, and other of their leaders in the late war, the post of honor and duty for all true Southerners, is to stand by their country and devote their energies, their time and their earnest labor to the rebuilding of their shattered fortunes, and bringing back their section, which has been so sorely devastated by war, to its former greatness and prosperity. If this be the case, does it not become a further duty to our section and country, to give our hearty co-operation to those who are now engaged in the work of restoring peace and harmony between all sections of the country.

President Johnson is the leader in this great work. His policy adopted after mature deliberation, is that of a patriot and statesman. In adopting it, and carrying it out with so much firmness, he has made an irreparable breach between him and the destructive faction which is now dominant in the national legislature. His vetoes of the Freedmen's Bureau bill and the civil rights bill; his memorable speech on the 22d February, and, lastly, his proclamation restoring the Southern States to their former status in the Union, have brought upon him a fierce and factious war, unparalleled in the history of party politics in this or any other country.

His last State paper, restoring the people of the South to their political rights and remanding them to the protection of civil law, summons these to his aid in the fierce warfare now being waged against him. So long as we were in a state of political probation, we thought it would be inappropriate for the people of these States to take any part in national politics; but now that he has done all that a President can do to restore these heretofore excluded States to their rightful position in the Union, he has removed the last obstacle to such co-operation as the peculiar condition of affairs at Washington demands. Already, as will be seen from a paragraph elsewhere in to-day's issue, a new "National Johnson Club" has been organized, the Vice-President of which for this State is Gov. James L. Orr, and it is to be hoped that an extensive organization of this kind throughout every State in the Union will bring to the side of the President and to the cause of restoration and peace all true and loyal men, without distinction of party or party names.

As has been well said by a cotemporary, "the contest is between one branch of the Government, (the Executive,) fighting to maintain the whole Government and each and all of its branches in their constitutional status; and another branch, (the legislative,) fighting to obliterate all distinctions between the several branches and consolidate them into one." The contest will be a stubborn one, for the radicals are stubborn and unscrupulous, but we trust the "defender of the Constitution" will be victorious.

In such a contest, we think it is the duty of the people of the South to rally to the support of the Constitution. In by-gone days, they were its firm adherents, and at this time of its danger every sentiment of honor and duty should draw them to its support, and every sentiment of gratitude to the aid of the man who is battling for it and for their rights under it.

Reliable information has been received lately from Richmond, to the effect that a movement is on foot to obtain a writ of *habeas corpus* for the relief of Jefferson Davis. The writ in question may issue either from the United States District Court, Judge Underwood presiding from a State Court. It is not li[illegible] a man of Underwood's well[illegible] would grant a writ fo[illegible]e.

Military vs. Civil Courts.

The Supreme Court of the United States has just rendered a decision of great importance affecting the administration of the law in future. It is especially important to the people of the South where "military commissions" are still in existence. The case decided on is this:

A military commission some time ago tried certain parties in Indiana for conspiracy, who were convicted and sentenced to death. The President, however, interfered, and commuted the sentence to imprisonment for life, and they have been since that time confined in the Ohio Penitentiary. Their case having failed of remedy before the courts below, was brought up on appeal to the Supreme Court. That august tribunal has decided substantially that the inferior courts failed of their duty in denying the petitioners (the men confined in the penitentiary) the right of the writ of *habeas corpus*. It has furthermore declared that the prisoners still in custody shall be discharged, and that the commission acted without jurisdiction.

This we regard as a very important decision, affecting, as it does, the civil rights of every citizen of the country.

The Court has adjourned without declaring on the constitutionality of the so-called test oath.

The Proclamation.

Under the head of "A Grievous Wrong," the Nashville *Union and American* speaks of the almost uniformly evidence of erroneous copies of official documents sent by telegraph. It says such was the case with the proclamation, received a day or two ago. It says that it has received a revised copy by mail, and adds:

"We will simply remark that the proclamation includes Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Florida, Tennessee and Texas. The proclamation of June 13th, 1865, had already relieved Tennessee in part, as previous proclamations had relieved Maryland and Missouri entirely. This completes the work."

As the first telegraphic report left out South Carolina as well as Texas, the latter State may also have been left out in the second report of the document sent by telegraph to the New York papers, from which all the Southern papers copied it.

The same journal, in another article, says that all doubt as to the meaning and effect of the proclamation declaring the re-establishment of peace "is removed by a more careful reading of the corrected copy," and adds that "it means, so far as the Executive authority can accomplish it, restoration of the Union of the States on the basis of equality and a revival of all the rights, privileges and powers which attach to States, or pertain to individuals of States." We would have been glad if our cotemporary had published the revised copy, so that we might have seen wherein it differed from that so extensively published.

General Conference.—A despatch from New Orleans, dated the 4th instant, says that the General Conference of the Methopist Episcopal Church, South, had been organized, Bishop Andrews presiding, Bishop Early assisting, and Dr. Summers as Secretary. A standing committee of one from each State was appointed. The city clergymen comprise the Committee on Public Worship. Preaching has been arranged for every night. A hundred delegates were present, and another hundred are coming. It is a venerable body. A letter from Bishop Soule advises that the name Southern be retained. This is the first conference held in eight years. A newspaper in the interest of the conference is to be published.

The Pope.—We find the following paragraph going the rounds of the papers. We do not know whether the facts are as stated, and merely give it for what it may be worth:

A few days ago it was reported that Pius IX had prophesied that he would have to leave home this year, return next year, and die during the following year. A correspondent in Rome thinks the Pope quite capable of making and uttering such a forecast. No Pope has ever completed the twenty-third year of his Pontificate. If Pius IX should live till 1869, he would do so.

The cotton crop in Louisiana and Texas promises well. Cotton is freely coming into New Orleans.

The Negro Question.

The Rev. R. J. Breckenridge, D. D., one of the ablest and most profound men of the anti-slavery school, has written a long letter in the *Northwestern Presbyterian*, from which we make the subjoined extract. His position is that all possible amelioration in favor of negroes must rest on the basis of a distinction of race and color:

There has been for some years a party in this country which was understood to demand the absolute enfranchisement of the black race, and its political and social equality with the white race among ourselves. I have pointed out the great mistake of supposing it was the teaching of this party which produced the national attempt to abolish slavery by an amendment of the Constitution. The present endeavor on their part is to realize the equality originally demanded for the black race, by securing it as a condition of restoration in each of the revolted States; in particular, that the right of suffrage shall be given to the liberated slaves by the President, as a preliminary in the reconstruction of society in the subjugated States, and shall be secured in the State Constitutions, as a condition, without which they shall not be recognized as States or admitted into the Union. It is to be remembered that nothing of this sort is contained in the proposed amendment to the Constitution. Nothing like it is found in the platform of the party which elected Mr. Lincoln for the first time, or that which elected him the second time. Nothing in any Act of Congress. Nothing in any one of the numerous proclamations lately issued by Mr. Johnson, for the creation of Provisional Governments, and the formation of Republican Constitutions and Governments under them in the subjugated States. The power assumed in the demand, as existing in the President, and which he wisely refused to exercise, does not belong to his office, nor to any office whatever; nor to the Congress of the United States, unless these States be first despotically reduced to mere territories; nor to the whole people of the United States, until they shall be first considered competent to make for themselves a despotism—and shall actually make it—in which both the States and the existing form of the nation would be extinguished, and all suffrage become a farce. The power to make a local Constitution for a free State—much more the power to amend an existing Constitution in an existing free State—is by our system, and by the Federal Constitution, a power locally sovereign—paramount and uncontrollable, except by the Constitution of the United States. And it is only under the provisions and guarantees of that national Constitution that a citizen of one State has the rights that he possesses in another State, and that the President can interfere, either in war or peace, with the common affairs, much less with the reserved rights, and least of all with those great rights of every State, without which liberty is impossible. The claims I am controverting do, in effect, subvert both of our grand principles of double Governments and popular sovereignty, without which our whole system of freedom and greatness is futile and impossible. Moreover, if the power claimed belonged to the President, he could hardly perform an act more ruinous to the emancipated slaves than to exact it, as has been demanded of him; nor one more fatal to all hopes of cordial union among the American people, or more destructive to any party that should sustain him in it. Its political effects would be incalculable, both upon local and national parties, by the sudden creation of 400,000 or 500,000 new voters of a different race, the great mass of whom are wholly unfit for such a trust, and would be certain to constitute an element of vital and perpetual disturbance, and to fall under the habitual direction of whatever party was most interested, most active, and most unscrupulous. When it is considered that the slaveholders have everywhere controlled the non-slaveholding white vote, many times more numerous than their own, the notion that the local white vote cannot control a black vote, over the whole South, not equal to itself in numbers, may turn out to be as futile as the control of that vote by a non-resident party of extreme opinions would be disastrous. In white communities, where the number of free persons of African descent is comparatively very small, and very superior to the average of their race, it is not surprising, though it is far from general, that they should be invested with this great privilege, now demanded for all of them, everywhere. Nor, if any State sees fit of its own accord to offer this inducement to the settlement of the black race in its bodies, can anything be said against its legal right to do so. That any State, left to itself, will ever bestow suffrage on a mass of slaves of a different race, suddenly set free by a paramount authority, and nearly equal in number to the rest of its inhabitants, is an event that will hardly be witnessed in this world. That in any State where slavery never existed, or where it has long ceased to exist, a white race, both cultivated and predominant, will ever give suffrage of its own accord to a black race resident with it, equal to itself in number, and greatly beneath it in civilization, is an event contrary to the common judgment of mankind, and wholly improbable in itself. Nor, if the relative position of the parties was exactly reversed, would the result be different; because the instincts of mankind are more permanent by far than the caprices of enthusiasm, and wiser by far than the extreme conclusions of delusive theories or of party spirit. Secured in the great gift of freedom, protected in the rights of person and the rights of property, 4,000,000 of slaves of a different race will have received—if God continues to smile on our endeavors—an instalment of blessings infinitely rich. Let these blessings be enjoyed and approved, not wasted and risked in the agitation of demands which have no foundation in reason, in experience, or in public necessity, and which are attended with many perils, and no hope of true success.

There are, as I have said before, considerations founded upon the universal loyalty of this unfortunate race, and their uniform kindness to our people when in trouble and anger during the war, which, added to their helplessness, appeal to the American people most powerfully in their behalf. And certainly there has been no shortcoming, on the part of the people or the public authorities, in attempting all that seemed to promise them advantage. With how much wisdom and success in most instances, or with how much to be deplored, condemned, or even punished in others, I shall not now inquire. The great danger of this people is, that they will gradually waste away in the struggle they have now to make in competition with the stronger race for the means of existence; a danger in the face of which exorbitant and unprecedented claims on their behalf are as melancholy as they are preposterous. There are, however, alleviations of this danger, possibly effectual securities against it. The most obvious one is to secure for them the sympathy and compassion of the stronger race, especially in the region where most of them dwell. Another is their proper education, not for a futile contest for equal participation with the white race in the ultimate sovereignty, but for securing the means of comfortable existence, and acquiring the habits, advantages and virtues of a free, well ordered and steadily advancing civilization. If, by any means, the whole black race could be thinly distributed over the United States, in the ratio of its whole aggregate to that of the white race—that is, about one black to seven or eight whites—a third alleviation of the most threatening difficulties might be considered well secured, wherefore anything tending in that direction is important. On the other hand, if these two races could be separated territorially from each other, and each be enabled to develop itself freely, without disturbance from the pressure of the other, a solution the most beneficial of all would be obtained. In this light, as well as many others, the American colonies of free blacks on the West coast of Africa deserve to be ranked among the highest enterprises of modern times. And I may be allowed, on this occasion, to reiterate what I have taught so long—that a powerful and civilized State within the tropics has been the one crying necessity of the human race from the dawn of history; and that for us, and for the black race, the creation of such a State from the American descendents of that race is the highest form in which that great necessity can be supplied. Out of these various suggestions, looking in all directions, we may hopefully conclude that the difficulties of the case will not be found to exceed its resources, if we will address ourselves to whatever duties lie before us, with candor, and patience, and wisdom, and zeal, trusting in God. The oldest living opponents of the terrible system of hereditary slavery, which once prevailed everywhere amongst us, after their best hopes had been often defeated, and the system of slavery had been apparently established without present remedy over so many States, have at last, from an unexpected quarter, and in an unexpected way, seen its sudden and total overthrow, and now rejoice in the hope of its early and complete legal extinction. Confusion, disorder and misery, must not be the final result of this sublime retribution. Extravagance, anarchy and violence, cannot be the method by which its blessings are to be secured.

Painful Exhibit. The Judge of Probate for Marshall County, Ala., makes the following report, which we find in the Hunisville *Independent*. After premising that his examination has been conducted with ca[illegible] and can be relied on for accuracy, he c[illegible] tinues:

"Of the helpless, indigent people, without any means of support, including white and colored, there are 2,180 persons—women, children and infirm men. Of persons who are able to work, but have no means to purchase supplies for carrying on any farming operations, there are families embracing about 2,000 persons, white and black. Of the residue of the population, not twenty have means more than adequate to their wants. According to the census last taken, in 1860, the population of the County, white and colored, was about 11,000, and at this time is not probably more than 9,500 persons.

The Fenians Afloat.

The New York papers of Thursday bring startling rumors of two formidable expeditions of the Fenians, which sailed from that city on Tuesday night. We give the *Daily News'* account of the matter:

The authorized statement from the O'Mahony headquarters is to the effect that B. Doran Killian, whilom Secretary of the Treasury F. B., started, on Monday evening, in company with an expedition consisting of three steamers—two propellers and one side-wheel steamer of fast-sailing qualities unrivaled. The expedition was fitted out with 3,000 men, well-officered, both officers and men being mostly composed of veteran sailors who have fought during the late war with the South. These vessels are well-armed and equipped, one of them being a formidable iron-clad, carrying two 100-pound Parrott guns, one fore and one aft, and four rifled guns of the heaviest calibre amid ships. Large quantities of ammunition and spare arms have been put on board, all intended to find their ultimate destination in Ireland.

The second part of the expedition is composed of a couple of propellers, capable of making eighteen miles per hour under a full head of steam. These vessels are also fully armed and equipped, and have on board a complement of 2,730 men, besides those necessary to manage the vessels. These men have all been selected from the skilled veterans of the late war with the South, and are fully armed and equipped for service in the field.

[The whole number accompanying the expedition, exclusive of sailors, is, therefore, according to statement, 5,730.—Reporter.]

These vessels are said to be fitted out with a view to the severest naval combat, if rendered necessary by any emergency which, with the exercise of due caution, can possibly occur.

Both expeditions are in the hands of eminent Fenians, and are commanded by experienced naval officers, who have seen service during the war, Captain Downing being in command of the second expedition, and the whole three vessels are manned with picked men. B. Doran Killian is invested with the supervision of both expeditions.

It is also asserted at headquarters that seven war-ships have left the coast of California, simultaneously with the above-named from an Eastern port—a given telegraphic signal having been agreed upon which would prevent the possibility of any failure of the Californian expedition to sail upon receipt of the telegram that all was ready in New York. These Californian vessels are said to be models of the naval fortress, and are armed and equipped in a manner vieing with the armaments of the Eastern portion of the expedition. The Californian expedition takes out in round numbers 10,000 men, fully armed and equipped for service.

Other expeditions have, it is stated upon competent authority, left several Northern ports simultaneous with the above—all armed with every implement of naval and land service, and commanded by men of ability and experience.

The plan is understood to be to seize Bermuda, and make it a base of supplies, after which, with as little delay as possible, the whole expedition will be put to sea, falling upon British commerce, and sweeping British trade from the seas with the besom of destruction, and enacting over again the careers of the Alabamas, the Shenandoahs and the Petrels of the Confederacy.

Other expeditions will follow at as early a date as possible. These will will be designed to operate directly upon the Irish coast, where, at a given point, a landing will be effected.

Emigration to the States.—The number of the emigrants from Germany, says the Paris correspondent of the London *Herald*, arrived at Havre to take ship for America, has lately increased in an extraordinary degree. A Havre journal states that there are not less than a thousand emigrants now lodging in the quarter of St. Francois alone, awaiting vessels to take them out. Two days since, eighty persons left Havre for England, in the hope of getting off earlier.

The same journal remarks that this increase of emigration coincides with a great extension of the commercial relations between France and the United States. Not less than twenty-five vessels are shortly expected at Havre from New Orleans, one from Texas, and five from Mobile, all laden with cotton. A considerable quantity of the same material is also being shipped for Havre from New York, along with other merchandize. In short, the import trade at Havre has not been so brisk for five years past.

The emigration to North America, says the correspondence of the London *Times*, dated March 12, is daily assuming greater proportions. Up to the end of May, 10,000 persons have already engaged to leave, via Hamburg and Bremen. The emigrants are nearly all Northerners and Protestants; whereas, ten years ago, the vast majority consisted of Southerners, many of them Roman Catholics.

By order of the Mayor of the city of New York, the flags on the public buildings were hung out, on the 3d instant, in honor of the declarat[illegible] of peace by the Preside[illegible]

Local Items.

Mortgages and Conveyances of Real Estate for sale at this office.

We have been requested to state that Dr. D. P. Gregg (Surgeon Dentist) will be absent from the city for two weeks.

The Burning of Columbia.—An interesting account of the "Sack and Destruction of the City of Columbia, S. C.," has just been issued, in pamphlet form, from the *Phœnix* steam power press. Orders can be filled to any extent.

Our readers will bear in mind the musical entertainment, this evening, by Mrs. Murray and the Dencks. The programme is an excellent one, and will no doubt be the means of inducing many persons to attend.

The jury of inquest, empannelled on Saturday last, closed their labors yesterday afternoon, after hearing the evidence of many witnesses, and rendered a verdict, "That the said Matilda, a freedwoman, came to her death, on the night of the 6th inst., from the effects of a wound caused by a ball discharged from a pistol in the hands of some person unknown."

Book and Job Printing.—The *Phœnix* office is now fully supplied with cards, colored and white paper, colored ink, wood type, etc., and is now in condition to execute all manner of book and job printing in the shortest possible time. Give us a call.

A Home Companion.—The proprietor of the *Columbia Phœnix* will, on the 18th instant, commence the regular publication of the *Weekly Gleaner*—a mammoth paper—containing *forty-eight columns* of reading matter, embracing tales, anecdotes, poetry, editorials, correspondence, telegrams and news matter generally. The *Gleaner* is published for the accommodation of those persons residing in remote sections, accessible by mail only once a week, and at the same time to provide an agreeable pastime for readers of all classes. The gist of the reading matter contained in the *Daily* and *Tri-Weekly Phœnix*, will be published in its columns. The paper is furnished to subscribers at $4 per annum; $1 for three months. Forward your subscriptions at once.

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

M. L. Kinard—New Goods.
R. M. Stokes—Plants for Sale.
Levin & Peixotto—Furniture, &c.
L. T. Levin—Mules.
J. E. Adger & Co.—Carron Ware.
E. Pollard—Fishing Tackle, &c.
A. S. Cloud—Charlotte Railroad Line.
Mrs. J. P. Reed—Millinery Goods.
Grand Vocal and Instrumental Concert.
James G. Gibbes—Plantation to Rent.
" " " —Guano, Tobacco, &c.
T. J. Gibson—Cottage to Rent.

Southern Relief Fair in Baltimore.—The great Southern Relief Fair, inaugurated under the auspices of the ladies of Maryland, for the relief of the destitute people of the South, was opened Monday night, at the hall of the Maryland Institute, in Baltimore. The doors were opened at 7 o'clock in the evening, and in a very short time the hall was filled to its utmost capacity. In many cases the crowd was so great that the ladies were unable to effect sales on account of the pressure. It is estimated that nearly 8,000 persons were in the hall during the evening, while hundreds of persons were unable to get anywhere near the ticket office, and were obliged to return home. The indications are that the fair will be a decided success.

The Baltimore *Commercial*, of Tuesday, says:

Not in a long while has Baltimore presented such an animated and attractive appearance as was witnessed yesterday, except upon some great holiday occasion, when the bulk of the entire population is abroad to enjoy a respite from the monotony of every-day life. The principal thoroughfare and promenade—Baltimore street—was, throughout the day, one vast carnival of beauty. Immense throngs of ladies, many of whom had been confined within doors by the inclement weather of March, were abroad in spring attire, a garb that never fails to enhance the charms of nature, no matter how lavishly the latter may have been bestowed. Quite a number of strangers, of both sexes, many of them drawn thither by the promising opening of the great Southern relief fair, were also to be seen upon this streets, and this, together with the bustle attendant upon the preparations for this great demonstration, in which so many ladies have taken an active part, served to heighten the attractiveness of the scene.

Death of Dr. Henry R. Frost. Dr. Henry R. Frost, one of our oldest, most distinguished and useful physicians, and one of the founders of the South Carolina Medical College, died in this city, at his residence on Broad street, after a brief illness, between 2 and 3 o'clock Saturday afternoon, aged seventy years and six months. Dr. Frost was for many years Dean of the Faculty of the South Carolina Medical College, and remained in it as Professor up to the time of his death. A large ma[illegible] of our present most successful [illegible]sicians and druggists in thi[illegible] State graduated under h[illegible] from him receiv[illegible]

Charleston Co[illegible]