



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRIWEEKLY BY EDGAR SNOWDEN.

John M. Livingston, the colored applicant for the position of Commissioner of Agriculture, sustains the conciliatory policy of the President, and says the other policy "has failed, either through the unbusinesslike acts of political adventurers, the interference of the government troops, or the course of the dominant white class."

"Almost all the disappointed applicants return to their homes firm in the opinion that the President's Southern policy is a grave mistake and will ruin the party, while the successful ones are strong in their convictions the other way."

Ex-President Grant's Secretary of War had to resign to prevent being impeached, and was saved from conviction of felony by a legal quibble, and it now seems that the strenuous efforts that have been made, and that are still in progress, to save the reputation of his Secretary of the Navy will fail, and that he will now have to go foot in the class of government peculators, for Secretary Thompson can not find the money for which the Philadelphia navy yard and some ships were sold, and, it is said, will call upon the Attorney General to commence legal proceedings against ex-Secretary Robeson for the purpose of making him assist in the search he is prosecuting for the lost treasure.

The opinion seems to be general now that the President made a grand mistake when he failed to order the withdrawal of the troops from the Capitols of South Carolina and Louisiana as soon as he was inaugurated—so general, indeed, that even members of his Cabinet entertain it. He can, however, measurably correct it by issuing the delayed order, with regard to Louisiana, immediately. The sooner he draws the line of demarcation between himself and the Blaines, Wades, Redpaths and the rest of the last ditch radicals, the better it will be for the country and for him also.

The best evidence that could be afforded the country of the hypocritical patriotism, and hollow-hearted love of, and pity for, the negro, of the radical party, is that now presented by the leading and influential men of that party like Messrs. Patterson and Redpath, the former of whom announces his intention of assisting in making the Senate democratic by voting for the admission of the man his party wrongfully accuses of being the leading spirit of the Hamburg affair, while the latter advises the negroes to join the democratic party.

A woman tried to kill herself in New York night before last by drinking poison. She had, about a year ago, made a similar attempt by jumping overboard, when a young Englishman was drowned in his efforts to save her. A young man with bright prospects lost his life in an attempt to save that of a woman who is so tired of her's that she can not wait until its end comes in a natural way—which goes to sustain the opinion entertained by many that its best to let people "kang their ain gait."

Mr. Wilson, a relative of the President, will, it is said, be appointed his private secretary to sign land warrants. If this be so, it would seem that President Hayes has been sailing under false colors ever since the story was published about his telling an applicant for office that the fatal objection to his appointment lay in the fact that he was his cousin.

The Auditor of the State says that liquor dealers' licenses taken out under the existing law will be good only until the Moffett law can be put into execution. The opinion in Richmond is that wholesale dealers will have to pay only \$150.

News of the Day.

The strike of the engineers on the Reading Road is still in progress, but the Company was able to move most of its trains yesterday, and no proposition for a compromise has come from the officers of the road. On the other hand, the engineers have published the "terms" on which they will consent to resume work. The Company is not likely to accede to them. A threat of suspending work at the mines operated by the Reading Company has been made.

Paul T. Valentine, Italian ex-priest, and who at one time held a professorship in the Drew Theological Seminary, at Madison, N. J., and who latterly opened a Methodist church in New York, and was afterwards proprietor of a school and boarding-house there, has been convicted of committing felonious assaults on little Italian boys and girls, his pupils and boarders. He was sent to the State prison for ten years.

About 1,600 coopers in the employ of the Standard Oil Company, of Cleveland, Ohio, struck yesterday morning on account of ten per centum reduction in the wages.

The Globe hotel building, located near the centennial exhibition grounds, was sold by auction, Thursday morning, for \$3,475. The original cost of this building was over \$200,000.

Impaled.

New York, April 20.—Wednesday evening a man named James B. Young was taken to the hospital, having it is supposed, fallen from a window at 202 Broadway. He descended in an oblique direction and struck an upright iron rod supporting a sign. The bent end of the rod broke off, the sharp point pierced the man's abdomen and passing through his body came out at his back. He then sank down to the post which supported the rod about five feet of which passed through his body. While thus impaled he was approached by a policeman who thought the man had merely fallen across the railing and he attempted to turn him over when he discovered that Young was transfixed. He then attempted to lift him over the rod but could not and the man was allowed to sink back again until a stool was brought when two men stood upon it and he was removed, the blood gushing from his wounds. He died yesterday. It is now said he threw himself out.

Louisiana. The Packard Legislature is rapidly dissolving. There are now sixty-five or sixty six returning board members in the Nicholls House. P. J. Watson of Madison, R. J. Walker of Texas, and S. Oliver of Concordia, returning board members of the Legislature, were seated in the Nicholls House yesterday, as were Geo. Downey of Assumption and Oscar Holt of West Baton Rouge, also heretofore acting with Packard. The resolution expelling Gauld was re-seeded. This completes a returning board quorum in both houses. It may be fairly stated that the commission and prominent leaders on both sides still entertain a hope that terms alike honorable to all parties may yet be agreed upon.

The commissioners' report to the President by telegraph yesterday includes the following: Executive Department, State of Louisiana, New Orleans, April 19, 1877.—To the Honorable Charles E. Lawrence, Joseph R. Hawley, John M. Harlan, John C. Brown and Wayne MacVeigh, Gentlemen: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the joint resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana. In so doing I desire to say that they express merely abstract ideas, but the conviction of our people, which will be practically executed by them through their representatives, and their executive officers.

As the chief magistrate of the State it will be not only my pleasure but my bounden duty to give every assistance in my power leading to that end. I am thoroughly satisfied that any course of political action traced on a narrow line that the good of the whole people, regardless of color or condition, must inevitably lead to disaster and ruin. My views on this subject were fully stated to the convention by which I was nominated and to the people by whom I was elected, and every day's experience fortifies me in the belief that any policy founded on these principles must necessarily result in the attainment of the ends for which all just governments are established. I have earnestly sought to obliterate the color line in politics and consolidate the people on a basis of equal rights and common interests, and it is a source of gratification to be able to say that this object is about to be realized. I feel that I can but speak the sentiments of the people when I declare that their government will secure first a vigorous and efficient enforcement of the laws, so that all persons and property will be fully and equally protected, and should occasion require I will proceed in person where any disorders may menace the public peace or the political rights of any citizen.

Second. The establishment of a system of public education, to be supported by equal and uniform taxation upon property, so that all, without regard to race or color, may receive equal advantages thereunder.

Third. The fostering of immigration in order to hasten the development of the great natural resources of the State.

Having thus committed our government and people to these great principles, I desire to add most emphatic assurances that the withdrawal of the troops of the United States from their barracks, instead of causing any disturbance of the peace or any tendency to riot or disorder, will be the source of profound gratification to our people, and will be accepted by them as a proof of the confidence of the President in their capacity for orderly self-government, enjoying under the blessings of Divine Providence the happiness resulting from a government based upon liberty and justice. The people of Louisiana cannot fail to appreciate that their good fortune is largely due to the magnanimous policy so wisely inaugurated and so consistently maintained by the President of the United States. I have the honor to be, your obedient servant.

THE COMMISSIONERS TALKED freely to the agent of the Associated Press yesterday afternoon, believing that the end of their labors is near. They have been necessarily more or less reticent hitherto, for their efforts have been largely through individual conversation, and to publish their appeals and suggestions in advance of evidence of their acceptability would have defeated their object. They strenuously endeavored to secure one Legislature by general consent; a reunion would be nominal and nearly valueless unless accompanied by a good degree of real conciliation and harmonious purposes. They have constantly urged upon each side the duty of making propositions tending to the removal of difficulties through the work of the citizens of Louisiana. They believe that the national Government has desired to accept what Louisiana should present rather than dictate what Louisiana should do, and that no settlement enforced upon the State by military power could establish justice and peace. They have striven not so much for detailed plans of any description as to soothe passionate feeling and create a desire for peace and union.

They have not believed that were treaties, based upon an allotment of officers, could reach the desired end. They found such and so great a diversity of opinion among republicans and democrats that party lines were often invisible. Neither party is a unit. They believe that no attainable result, whether inferred from outside or brought about by gravitating forces within could be satisfactory to the whole of either party.

They all speak with respect of the personal bearing of both Packard and Nicholls. The letter of Nicholls appears to please them greatly, and they speak of him as an honorable soldier, whose sincerity and high courage cannot be doubted. Unquestionably he will do his utmost to carry out the policy to which he so frankly commits himself, and he is sustained by the best moral and intellectual elements of his party. A large number of republicans have from the beginning accepted his Governorship as inevitable, and said that it would not only bring present peace, but make a great step forward in the protection of the people, and surely lead to a re-organization of parties, under which all sides would, as a matter both of policy and duty, protect the personal and political rights of all voters. The commissioners are in good spirits over the present aspect of affairs.

The Packard Legislature met in caucus last night and adopted the following statement expressive of their views on the present condition of affairs in this State: First. They have an unalterable faith in the legality and justice of the claims of S. B. Packard, and the government of which he is the head, and the legal government of the State of Louisiana, legally returned, legally installed and legally embodying the will of a majority of the people.

Second. That the disintegration of the legal General Assembly meeting in the State House and acknowledging the authority of Governor Packard recently witnessed, has been brought about by the direct agencies of gentlemen, citizens of other States, sent here by the President with instructions which have only been partially made known and the nature of which can only be inferentially arrived at by the action of the said commission, their expressed opinions and the agencies they have employed. Chief among these we enumerate the following:—

Third. On the evening of the 17th of April, on which day the pretended House of Representatives supporting the claims of Gen. Nicholls to the Governorship was without semblance of a legal quorum, as it has continuously been since its organization, certain members of the commission appointed by the President requested consultation with members of the General Assembly. Some twelve members of the House and two members of the Senate responded to this invitation to them. The members of the commission known as belonging to the republican party stated that the terms offered by the Nicholls Legislature, which included the seating of three democratic members from the city

of New Orleans notoriously defeated even according to democratic claims, but the recognition of whom was requisite to give even a show of legality to the organization of the Nicholls House, were the best and only terms they could procure. They distinctly recommended the republicans assembled by their invitation to accept these terms, and Mr. McVeigh, one of the members of the commission, while refraining from openly endorsing the proposition, emphasized with this remark: "If there is any member of the Legislature who entertains the most lingering idea that the troops are going to remain, for God's sake disabuse him of that idea, for they are going to be removed."

Fourth. That as a direct result of the intimidation and implied threat of the President's commission, several members of the legal Legislature have to-day joined the so-called Legislature of Gen. Nicholls.

Fifth. We therefore charge upon these gentlemen if, as they assert, they have acted simply in their individual capacity, an unwarrantable interference with the domestic affairs of a State to which they do not belong, and a flagrant violation of the principles of local self-government advocated by the President. If, on the other hand, their action in the manner set forth has been directed by the chief executive of the nation, we leave it to be characterized in fitting terms by the American people.

In the Packard legislative caucus, yesterday, Gen. McMillan made a speech saying the case was hopeless; that the blame was not with President Hayes, but with President Grant, though the underlying causes of defeat were general. Telegrams were received by the President from the Louisiana commission Wednesday and yesterday. Their tenor warrants the assertion that the prospect of a settlement of affairs continues to improve and the indications are that beyond a doubt the labors of the commission will have a satisfactory termination.

Hon. George A. Sheridan, of Louisiana, yesterday received a telegram from the chairman of the democratic legislative caucus at New Orleans saying: "We have a returning board quorum in both houses."

Mr. Sheridan thinks that this settles the contest. Ex-Gov. Kellogg seems to think that it does not, but that its determination depends upon the action that Gov. Packard, Lt. Gov. Amone and other State officers may heretofore take. There is no way, Gov. Kellogg says, of divesting a man of his title except by impeachment, and to impeach implies recognition. The other State officers may be suspended by the Legislature. If the Nicholls Legislature, having a returning board quorum, recognizes Nicholls and his officers, it can be said that a Legislature with a returning board quorum, last January recognized Packard and his officers. The very struggle by Nicholls to obtain the returning board quorum shows the strength of Packard's title. In regard to going to the courts to test the titles, Mr. Kellogg repeated the argument that the only courts having the legal title are Packard's courts, which were appointed by him. (Kellogg.) In regard to the election of a United States Senator by the Nicholls Legislature, he says that he himself received in January last, in accordance with law, the vote for Senator of a majority of all the returning board members.

Gov. Kellogg yesterday received the following telegram from New Orleans: "Please inquire of President Hayes if it is by his directions that the commissioners recognize members of Packard's Legislature to join Nicholls. Two of our trusted men left to-day under such persuasion." Kellogg replied: "If it be true that the commissioners are so doing is satisfied that they are acting on their own instructions and without instructions from the President."

Packard still maintains a bold front. He stated yesterday afternoon that he had abundant reasons, means and friends to hold out at the State House until the President will be compelled to decide between the claims of the dual governments. He treats the defection of his members of the Legislature very lightly, and says they will all come back again. His programme appears to be to await the adjournment of the Nicholls Legislature, when he expects to re-establish his quorum and elect the short term U. S. Senator, thus transferring the case to Washington. The commissioners were busy all day yesterday preparing their report, which appears to go to Washington in sections, but they expected to finish up last night and hope to leave to-day. The Packard Legislature caucused last night sent a proposition to the Nicholls people offering to dissolve, provided the seventeen now unrecognized returning board members be paid their mileage and per diem. The democrats assented to the proposition. It was supposed that both Warmoth and McMillan and their friends would take seats in the Nicholls Legislature to-day. The leading faction will still hold out along with Packard. The President telegraphed to the commission that in response to the request contained in Gov. Nicholls' letter the order for the withdrawal of the troops to the barracks would be issued forthwith. A table to be embodied in the commissioners' report shows that in 45 parishes 1,273 officials acknowledge the Nicholls government and 205 the Packard. In the remaining nine, the returns of which could not be reached, they are about equally divided. If any faction still remains in the State House there is a law passed by the republicans some years ago under which persons attempting to constitute an illegal Legislature can be arrested.

NEW ORLEANS, April 20.—The following report came from the State House last night: Gov. Packard's carriage was stopped to-night at the corner of Rampart and Esplanade streets, where he resides, by ten or twelve armed men, who, finding the only occupant to be an elderly person, an attaché of Gov. Packard, bearing a letter to Mrs. Packard stating that he would not be home to-night, left him without further molestation. Packard's friends state that he had been forewarned that an attempt would be made to kidnap him should he attempt to sleep at his own house as he has lately done, and so he sent his attaché ahead to see if there was any foundation in the warning given.

NEW ORLEANS, April 20.—The statement of Mr. Young in the Packard legislative caucus yesterday that he had been deprived of his personal liberty might have been made as well by many of those present. It is said that the guard, bearing description, mutinied for a time, and refused to allow any of those suspected to leave the building. This condition of things continued for an hour or two. When order was restored many members of the caucus were very violent, and there was much disorder. Many members insisted upon speaking at the same time, several of whom were standing up in their chairs or on the tops of desks, shouting vociferously.

South Carolina.

A Charleston dispatch to the Baltimore Sun dated last night, says Gov. Hampton held another public reception this morning at the city hall, which attracted an immense concourse of whites and blacks. The colored republicans, who formed the majority of the gathering, having called loudly on the Governor for a speech, he said:—

"My friends of Charleston, it gives me great pleasure to meet you, and particularly to meet so many of the colored citizens of Charleston. I want you particularly, not only here, but throughout the whole State, to understand precisely the condition of affairs and the policy that I represented in the late election. A day when victory has crowned our efforts, and I stand now precisely where I stood twelve years ago, I was the first man in America, certainly the first man in the South, who advocated the granting of the right to vote to the colored man. That is on record."

"Only a few days ago I saw in the New York Tribune a statement made by the editor, Whitehall Reid, that in 1865 I told him that the Northern republicans would want to take away the right of voting from the colored people long before the South ever would. (A voice, "That's so.") During the late canvass I made a prediction that the colored people would very soon find that the only protection they had for their elective franchise would be from the white men of the South. You will live to see it."

"I meant to tell you no incident which happened since my election. When I was in Washington recently five or six or more prominent republicans, men of high position, actually consulted me as to how the vote of the colored man would best be restricted. I tell you what is true. My answer was: 'I don't want the vote of the colored man taken away or restricted, for aside from the friendship we bear their race their right to vote gives us thirty or more votes in Congress, and when peace comes we are satisfied that the best men in both races and parties will vote together for the common weal.'"

"We don't want to take that right away. I want to see the colored people educated, and I renew here the pledges that I have heretofore made, that we will give the colored people better facilities for education than they have hitherto enjoyed. I shall use all my influence to see to it that the means of education are placed within the reach of every citizen of South Carolina, and when I say every citizen I do not limit or qualify the expression. I call every man a Carolinian, whether he is white or black; whether he is born here or at the North or in Europe, who is a good citizen and has the interest of the State at heart, and he is entitled to all the protection that the laws of the State and of the United States can give him."

"I am pledged to fulfill every promise made in the last canvass. I can only do that if the people of South Carolina will help me. I can do nothing of myself. I may indicate to the Legislature what I consider a proper course for them to pursue, but it is for them to make the laws. My duty is to execute them, and your duty is to send the best men to the Legislature, irrespective of race or party. Select no man for public office who is not competent to fill the position. I care not what his politics or his race. Make it your rule that you will place no man in office unless he is competent."

"If you give me good men to make the laws I pledge to you my honor that those laws shall be framed so as to place every man and woman of both races and parties upon an equal footing before the law. If we wish to consult the best interests of the State, it is to build her up and bring peace and prosperity back to her sunny fields. I will say to one and all, for get for a while, at least, all about politics, and devote yourselves to the material interests of the State. Go to work. Resolutions will do nothing. Every man should place his shoulder to the wheel. He must go to work resolutely, honestly, earnestly and boldly in the discharge of his duty to bring back harmony and unanimity between the races at the South. I know my friends you can do it. I tell you my colored fellow citizens that I have not one particle of feeling of ill-will against a single individual of your race, and it so happened that the first commission that I issued as Governor of South Carolina was issued to a colored man and a republican at that."

"When I was in Washington a colored republican, an ex-officer holder of this State, Professor Greener, of the State University, called on me and asked for a recommendation. I told him that I could not understand what recommendation would be to him, but upon his renewing his request, I gave him a letter, and I told the President that I had not intended to give any recommendation of the late administration in South Carolina, but as Greener was a colored man, had voted for Hayes and stamped the State for Chamberlain, I thought I could afford to make an exception in his case. What I say to you here I wish every man to repeat. I only say to you, judge the administration by its acts. I don't want you to become democrats or conservatives. I ask you to forget all about politics, and I only want the support of those men in South Carolina who believe that I am standing on the constitution, obeying the laws and keep my oath to see justice done to every man in South Carolina."

I have the right as Governor of the State to ask that I have the right to go to the people who elected me, and ask them to hold up my hands as long as I am doing right. When I am doing wrong let them turn their backs upon me.

State Dinner.

A State dinner was given at the White House yesterday evening in honor of the Grand Dukes Alexis and Constantine. There were also present the Russian Minister and his wife; Sir Edward and Lady Thornton, representing the Diplomatic Corps; Admiral Doutchkoff, of the Russian Navy; Admiral Porter and Gen. Sherman, Chief Justice Wain and daughter, the Secretary of State and Mrs. Evans, the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Sherman, Secretary Schurz and daughter, the Secretary of War and Mrs. McCrary, Postmaster General and Mrs. Key, the Secretary of the Navy and the Attorney General, together with the President and Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Webb Hayes, Col. Casey and wife, Mr. Rogers and Maj. Andrews, of the President's official household, and Misses McFarland, Frate and Platt, of Ohio. The President and Mrs. Hayes received the company in the blue parlor, and dinner was given as usual in the State dining-room, which was superbly decorated with flowers for the occasion. The full Marine band furnished the music, and after dinner the guests repaired to the east room and remained there a short time engaged in social conversation and promounging.

"The State dining room never presented a finer appearance, the table decorations being at once elaborate and elegant. A snowy linen cloth covered the table, upon which covers were laid for thirty-six persons. A oval mirror, representing a lake with tropical banks of fern and trailing vines. In the center of the lake arose an island of pink azaleas, while sprigs of green vine from colored along the lake to represent water-lilies. At each end of the lake arose a hillock of frosted cake, decorated with white azaleas, studded with cream and pink roses and sprigs of vine. The banks of the lake were strewn with graceful hills, formed with vases of tropical fruits, while pyramids and columns of candied fruits and bon bons stood between."

The plates of delicate Sevres China, with rich borders of chocolate and gold, were embellished with the American coat of arms in the center. At each plate the menu was laid, together with a card bearing the name of the one assigned to the seat. Both were of the heaviest cream gilt edged paper, embellished with the American coat of arms in gold. At the right of each plate stood a delicate vase, with silver stand of frosted glass of alternate colors, pink and white. The pink vases contained each five beautiful roses, the others a single half-opened bud. Upon the north side of the room stood the chocolate stand, and adjoining it the strawberry stand, the luscious fruit dish-od and floating in cream. Large bushes of full-bloom azaleas stood at intervals around the room, their gorgeous colors relieved by the rich dark green of the carnells and rhododendron. And the villain still pursued!

Pilgrims.

New York, April 20.—Eighty-six Irish Canadian pilgrims arrived in this city to-day from Montreal, en route for Rome. They sail for Europe to-morrow. They take a costly fringed green silk flag, valuable robes, furs, gold and silver ornaments, and other rare and beautiful articles for presentation to the Pope.

From Washington. [SPECIAL DISPATCHES TO THE GAZETTE.] WASHINGTON, April 20, 1877.

It being conceded that the democrats will have the organization of the next House, of course the aspirants for the Speakership are active, and the friends of the different gentlemen mentioned in connection with the position are active and earnestly at work. The reports, however, sent out to the newspapers that Mr. A. has so many "pledges" to him, and Mr. B. so many more, are, of course, unreliable, as very few "pledges" are made these days, when circumstances alter cases so frequently. Besides Messrs. Randall, Saylor and Cox, Messrs. Goode and Walker, of Virginia, are most frequently mentioned, and it is even said that the latter has gone to California with an "eye single" to the "chair." It is doubtful, however, whether such is the fact. Mr. Goode has been frequently and earnestly urged by Southern and Western democratic representatives to permit the use of his name, and now that it is known that Mr. Saylor will not contest his seat—which was the obstacle to his entertaining the proposition—he may consent to "enter the field," and if he does, with the great preponderance of democrats from the South, and a diversity of opinion as between Randall and Saylor at the North and West, it would not be surprising if Mr. G. were to be taken up as a compromise candidate. He might not desire to antagonize Mr. Randall, and would himself probably support that gentleman, but in case of a contest would very naturally avail himself of the opportunity to advance his position and secure the prize. Of course if Gov. Walker and Mr. G. both run the chances of each would be weakened, and it is not therefore likely that such will be the case. Mr. Goode did at one time positively decline the use of his name, but that was when he was threatened with a contest—the case being altered, alters the case.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Blaine, of Maine, is outspoken in his opposition to the Southern policy of the Administration, and hopes to defeat it by organizing an anti-Administration party in Congress. Such a proceeding would, of course, strengthen Hayes and bring to his support more warmly the Southern democrats. One would suppose that a man with even ordinary discernment could see that the President must lose from the ultras, and why Mr. Hayes dilly-dallies with them, to his own detriment and that of the country, is surprising.

The news from Louisiana this morning is much more encouraging, and it now looks as if the problem there would be satisfactorily solved, and that the long-suffering and hardy tried people of that State would be taken from "under the yoke" at no distant day.

The presence of the Russian fleet in American waters, and the probabilities of a war between Russia and Turkey, it is said, the subject of consideration by this government. But it would be a matter of surprise if there should be any trouble between two such staunch allies as the "Greas" and the most despotic governments in the civilized world. Alexis was made much of while here, and cannot, this time, complain of any "smothering," and the talk of any unpleasantness between the United States and Russia is probably in the interest of the navy and the ship builders.

"Dummy" street cars are to be run on Pennsylvania avenue as an experiment. The capital grounds are still in an unfinished condition, and progress towards completion is slow.

The hall of the House is to be further ventilated, the air to be drawn in from the base of the hill through a culvert now in course of construction. Redpath advises all the negroes in the South to vote the democratic ticket hereafter. He considers Hayes their betrayer.

Among the callers at the departments yesterday was N. B. Meade, esq., editor of the Richmond Whig.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The sentiment here among the President's friends, as publicly expressed, is one of perfect satisfaction, or as outsiders might call it, abiding hope, that his policy will be triumphantly vindicated in Louisiana.

AT THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.

The Cabinet met this morning in the council room, and there was a full attendance. It is understood that the advice from Louisiana were such as to induce the belief that the question would be solved within a few days.

VIRGINIA NOTES.

For the first day since the opening of the contest over the postoffices in the large cities of Virginia no paper in reference to any one of them has been received in the Postoffice Department.

Among the dismissals from the Treasury within the past few days were very few from Virginia.

In reply to inquiry as to whether there was any pending legal question growing out of the relations of Virginia with the Federal government, a well known legal functionary of the government replied that it was understood that some question would soon be raised touching the status of Berkeley and Jefferson counties, a case point not decided by the Supreme Court having recently been put forward in that case.

The Postmaster General took up some small Virginia cases, yesterday, and after hearing Deputy Revenue Collector VanAucken and others, filled the postoffice at Stony Creek Warhouse, a short distance from Petersburg, by the appointment of Lucius O. Smith.

LOUISIANA.

It is said here that an official dispatch has been received here from the Louisiana Commissioners to the effect that the Louisiana difficulty had been settled, and that the Commissioners would return immediately.

Narrow Gauge Railroad to the Coal Fields of West Virginia. To the Editor of the Alexandria Gazette: The narrow gauge can be adapted to ground unfavorable to the broad gauge, the curvature can be greater, the grades heavier, the cross ties less expensive, the rails only half the weight, 30 lbs per yard being the standard weight; from 56 to 60 lbs, being the standard of the broad gauge, or 4 feet 8 1/2 inch road. The cost of construction is generally assumed at about 40 per cent less for the narrow gauge, the cost of the rolling stock being about one half. One hundred tons of dead weight, the weight of the locomotive, tender and empty cars on the narrow gauge road will transport 100 tons of freight, whilst on the broad gauge it will require a train weighing 150 tons to transport 100 tons of paying freight. A road properly constructed on the system of the narrow gauge will be able to work at less than one-half the present charges for passenger fare and freight on our Virginia railroads, and with a fair share of business, not only pay all expenses, but realize fair profits to the stockholders. At the May election in Prince William county a vote will be taken to determine if the Board of Supervisors shall subscribe \$50,000 to the stock of the Potomac and Annapolis Railway Company. It is proposed to construct this railway from Potomac City to Manassas, also to extend it from the Plains via Middleburg to the Point of Rocks, connecting with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Let this proposed railway be constructed as a narrow gauge road, then change the gauge of the Manassas Branch Railroad from its present gauge of 4 feet 8 1/2 inches to one of 3 feet, by moving in one rail only, and transfer the present rolling stock now used on the branch road to the main line of the Vir-

ginia Midland Railroad. With new stock for the narrow gauge road, the reduced rates of fare and freight will add to the prosperity of the citizens residing along the line of the road, the business of the section of the country traversed by this road will improve, the passenger and freight business will rapidly increase, and mark up production, before many passes, after the change is made from the broad to the narrow gauge, to place on the one mixed train each way, daily, from Alexandria to Strasburg, there will be enough business for the road to enable the company to run two daily trains each way, and also to run freight trains, for low charges will encourage increase travel, and to the prosperity of the people along the line of the road, and to the prosperity of the company working the road.

On the extension, by a narrow gauge railroad, from Strasburg via Cape Springs, to the coal fields of West Virginia, this proposed road will do a much larger business than the total passenger and freight now passing over the Virginia Midland Railroad and its branches. Again, at Front Royal a connection can be made with the Shenandoah Valley Railway, and the gauge of that road may be changed, if the gauge of that road should be changed, this change will ensure the completion of the Shenandoah Valley Railway from Front Royal to Strasburg in Passapatan valley, some point on the base of the Blue Ridge and Ohio Railroad, and thus Alexandria will receive the benefit of the valuable products of the valley of the south, the products of the Shenandoah river, and the full development of the valuable hemlock and maple woods of that section of our State, only now being developed. Again, from the Plains to the Point of Rocks, in the nature of business development, a line of narrow gauge road will be constructed leading into Rappahannock county via Washington to Sperryville, and in the county of Stafford, may be extended westward into Manassas county, making Manassas Court House a terminus point. If this line is ever constructed, we expect the valuable deposits of asphaltum, indications of which have been discovered, are known to exist, including the deposits of the Stony Man, southwest of the Manassas line, to be fully developed, thus adding to the coal fields of West Virginia, and the mineral resources of Alexandria, enlarging the business of Manassas Branch, and re-organizing the relations of your city, in the judgment of the management of the Virginia Midland Railroad Company, they may consider it judicious to change the gauge of the Manassas Branch, then I would propose for their consideration this plan, by an extension from Strasburg to Gainesville, so that the narrow gauge trains can run over the Manassas Branch, schedule time, connecting at Gainesville with the Independent Manassas line from Alexandria via Fairfax Court House and Centerville to Gainesville. I am not informed of the length of the Independent line, but it is considerably less than the distance by the Manassas, as now worked, the distance from Alexandria via Manassas to Gainesville, being 20 miles. The old road bed is nearly ready for the completion of the grading, construction of iron culverts will be light, and the line of road constructed as a narrow gauge, will add to the value of the lands now owned by Prince William and Fairfax counties, and soon as in good condition, the Manassas Branch will prove to be a great benefit to the country. The construction of this branch of narrow gauge railroad, leading to Alexandria, can be completed and operated at a very moderate cost, is within the control of your citizens, and based on the tax and Prince William counties, and will add much to the value of their lands and to the wealth, to their convenience and comfort, and to their general prosperity. I have sketched the various lines of narrow gauge railroads that the future may require for the commercial connections of the interior counties with Alexandria, and what the management of the Virginia Midland Railroad Company of the change of grade of the Manassas Gap Railroad from the present gauge of 4 feet 8 1/2 inches to a narrow gauge railroad, and laying down of a third rail for the use of the rolling stock of the Manassas Branch, from off its connecting narrow gauge railroad.

HOWARD BROWN, CATLETTS, April 19, 1877.

Foreign News. A dispatch this morning from Constantinople of Montenegro is a concentration of the "Pope of Duga," class to a force of 10,000 men, and that a collision is momentarily expected. A Vienna correspondent to the London Telegraph of to-day learns that a four days' peace is still found in the efforts of the Emperor to persuade the Sultan to treat of disarmament. It is suggested that this may be the result of the Czar's having determined not to sign a manifesto till he returns to St. Petersburg, thus giving ten or twelve days for the negotiation.

The Czar it is said will visit the warlike fests at Moscow after returning from his cheneff. Lord Derby has no objection to that war will be averted, but says England's interests will be protected whenever the Emperor of Austria, it is believed, will occupy Bosnia when Russia crosses the Danube. The Emperor will impede the Russian advance. The tube is very high, and rising rapidly.

By an explosion in a coal mine in West Wednesday, 11th April, nine men were killed behind a mass of coal forty feet thick. A constant digging yesterday commenced, and successfully made with them, and they were to be alive. The other four, it is said, had perished.

RAGUSA, April 20.—The Italian army divided into four corps are surrounding the city of the Adriatic country. The inhabitants of the city have laid down their arms.

BUCHAREST, April 20.—A dispatch from Charles orders the mobilization of the army and territorial armies and their positions. The militia and civil guards are also called out and an extraordinary session of the Chambers summoned for April 22nd.

CONSTANTINOPLE, April 20.—Turkey may be at the prospect of imminent war would gladly listen to proposals for a truce if it were not for the army.

BUCHAREST, April 20.—The Emperor of Austria is expected to visit the Emperor of Russia on Sunday. He will be reviewed of the army on the banks of the Danube on Monday.

DEATH. On the 20th of April, 1877, at her residence on Duke street, ANNIE SELDEN GORING, daughter of the late John S. Goring, of Fairfax county, Va. Her funeral services will be held at 7 a. m., previous to her interment in the cemetery near Green Spring, Va. Her husband, Mr. C. W. MAFRETT, of the city of her age.

CANDIDATES. TO THE VOTERS OF ALEXANDRIA CITY.—I respectfully announce myself a candidate for Superintendent of the city, and in the decision of the city, I will voluntarily submit to a vote on the 25th day of March, 1877, at the residence of Mr. C. W. MAFRETT, of the city of her age.

EDWARD SNOWDEN.