



EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 12, 1870.

In company with Capt. Jacques and Dr. Pearne, we left Knoxville on Tuesday, partly with a view of visiting the East on business, and partly for recreation. The only thing which we noted through East Tennessee, was the promising fields of wheat and clover. Never has the prospects for a bountiful crop of these two staple products been better. At Rogersville Junction we had a splendid dinner, for which we paid one dollar. Col. Young, the very prince of clever fellows, had charge of our train, and was, as usual, attentive to the comfort and convenience of passengers. We had the pleasure of meeting with Col. I. R. Hawkins, Representative in Congress from the Seventh District of our State, and found him a pleasant and genial traveling companion.

Rain commenced falling before we arrived at Jonesboro, and continued until we reached Washington. Through the mountains of Virginia the atmosphere was cold, and passengers who were fortunate enough to have overcoats with them, found them quite convenient. We took a berth in a comfortable sleeping car at Bristol, and slept away the dull, tedious hours, required to make the trip over the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. Arriving at Lynchburg, we partook of a good breakfast, and started, much refreshed, on our journey. We notice that great improvements have been made on the farms along the Orange and Alexandria Road in the past year. Fields that were then unenclosed, the fences having been burned during the war, are now being enclosed with substantial plank fences, and the whole country has assumed a livelier aspect.

At Culpepper Court House, where a number of the Nation's dead heroes sleep the long sleep of death in a National Cemetery, we stopped. We went through the form of dining, but enjoyed but little of the substance. This is the worst eating-house on the line, and we advise our traveling friends to provide themselves with a lunch before their arrival there.

We arrived safely at the Capital, and are snugly ensconced in the fourth story of the Ebbett House—a little higher than we approve of.

This morning, through the kindness of Mr. Maynard, we had the pleasure of meeting with Col. John W. Forney, of the *Chronicle*, who received us cordially, and to whom we are indebted for valuable service rendered. By the way, Col. Forney, in his paper of the 10th, paid a very high compliment to our new enterprise, which will be received ere this reaches the *CHRONICLE* office. In addition to the compliment paid, he gives us some good advice. In speaking of the *CHRONICLE*, he says: "Let them be firm and bold, but that does not require that they should cease to be gentlemen." That is precisely what we think about the matter, and whenever it becomes necessary that we should appear before the world as semi-barbarians, in order to be successful in journalism, we propose to abandon the whole thing. Since arriving here, we have received the most flattering testimonials of approval of the general tone of our paper, and I have pledged that our standard shall never be lowered, and that we will continually strive to elevate and improve its tone, thereby enlarging its capacity for good.

I, to-day visited Gen. Cox at his office, as Secretary of the Interior, and though surrounded by the cares, toils and vexations incident to his high position, I found him the same courteous, affable gentleman that he was while so efficiently commanding in our armies during the late war. Honored far above the average of his fellow-men, and yet he meets an old friend in such a way as to convince him, that the giddy height obtained on the ladder of fame, has lost him none of those noble qualities which go to make the highest type of true manhood. We had a very pleasant conversation with him, in which he manifested much interest in the welfare of Tennessee.

No special interest attaches to the Congressional proceedings now. In the Senate to-day the Army bill was under consideration. In the House the Tariff bill was discussed and a number of clauses disposed of. We learn that this bill is about three-fourths disposed. The House is working industriously, holding both day and night sessions.

Gossiping circles are all astir in Washington, in view of the early marriage of one of the *attaches* of the French Legation to a daughter of George T. Downing, a well known colored man of this city. The nuptials were to have been celebrated yesterday evening, but for some reason were postponed. We learn the wedding will certainly come off next Tuesday evening in one of the fashionable churches of the city.

five Mansion. We found him surrounded with visitors, some on business, others like ourselves there, simply to pay their respects to the Chief Magistrate of a great nation. Although surrounded with vexatious cares, he received us cordially and expressed great gratification at our visit. The President is deeply interested in Tennessee affairs and will do anything in his power to promote the welfare of our State. He possesses the happy faculty of making every one feel easy in his presence—his very personal appearance seeming to inspire such a feeling. He sits quietly at his table, the inevitable cigar in his mouth, and receives visitors in turn, saying pleasant words to all.

We also called upon Secretary Boutwell, upon whom rests the herculean task of managing the gigantic financial system of the government. Burdened with cares of such great magnitude, one might expect in him a morose temper; but contrary to this, he is a most affable and courteous gentleman. We passed on through the magnificent halls of the Treasury building, noticing the vast army of clerks (especially the women,) and could but reflect upon the mighty power of intellect necessary to the successful management of that portion of our affairs committed to the custody of Mr. Boutwell.

We are pleased to find a growing desire here for the payment of just and meritorious claims to Southern loyalists. If none other than meritorious claims were presented, there would be no trouble to secure their payment. Our people have but little idea of the manner in which some men have attempted to swindle the Government. Claims have been filed by parties for sums larger than they have ever been worth, and whose loyalty during the war was, to say the least, very questionable. Men, who when the Confederates were successful, were good rebels, but who were marvelously loyal when the "Yankees" came, have been the first to claim large amounts from the Government. We could not do a greater service for ourselves than to ferret out such swindlers, and aid the Department and Congress in arriving at claims which should be paid. There are hundreds of meritorious claims due from the Government to East Tennesseans, and every principle of right and justice requires their early payment.

Among the acts of Congress recently passed, of local interest to our people, is a bill which passed the House yesterday, granting a pension to Col. W. C. Pickens, of Blount county, on account of wounds received while attempting to destroy the railroad bridge at Strawberry Plains, in 1861.

Judge Humphreys, of Alabama, arrived here yesterday evening, and will at once assume his duties as one of the Justices of the Supreme Court in the District of Columbia.

This evening we leave for New York, where we will remain a few days, from which place we will again write.

UNDISGUISED DEMOCRACY.

Some of the Democratic papers of Tennessee seek to assure the colored people that they accept the Fifteenth Amendment as finally determining the rights of the colored man to franchise in every State in the Union. The following, from the *Columbus*, (Ohio), *Crista*, shows the spirit of modern Democracy:

"There is a vast quantity of senseless blather about submitting to finalities, and hundreds of feeble intellects favor the policy of acquiescing in the grossest and most scandalous frauds ever perpetrated upon a people, with a view to gain office and power. Such advisers should be, like the debt, repudiated. They are the representatives of the donkey race, leading the columns of lions, and their counsels are unworthy of esteem, because instigated by motives never regarded by the Democracy of this country. In a republic, supposed to be governed 'by the people and for the people,' there can be no such thing as fraudulent finalities. The usurpation of these finalities rests with the people, and if there is not spirit and intelligence enough in them to resent such impostures as the 15th Amendment, or this scandalous public debt, there can be no need of parties, nor can there be much excuse for the formation of factions in opposition to the imperialism that has already assumed sway.

"The 15th Amendment will be, as it ought to be, denounced and repudiated as a fraud, swindle and usurpation, such as the people of the State of Ohio, with a becoming sense of their own rights and dignity, will refuse to recognize of any force and effect, as a part of the law of the land, in the form of a Federal Constitution. It should go to the world as the opinion of at least one-third of the people of Ohio, that the 15th Amendment is the thimble-riggering trick of a caucus of thieves, who had no more right to vote away the liberties of States and peoples than they had to sell dominions they did not own.

"To the objections of the policy men, it says:

"There will be less difficulty than many believe in securing the triumph of a thoroughly Democratic ticket. For every nigger vote the Abolitionists receive, they will lose two white votes; and this should encourage the most strenuous effort."

ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE.—An Italian named Delaccha, attempted to shoot himself in Memphis Monday night. The ball from the pistol entered just above the left breast, and ranged downward, following the ribs, inflicting a severe and painful wound. All for love.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

SPECIAL DISPATCHES.

NASHVILLE.

The Mineral Home Railroad Mismanaged. The One Hundred Thousand Dollars of Bonds Badly Used.

Special Dispatch to the Chronicle.

NASHVILLE, May 16.—In the Senate the Special Committee on the Mineral Home Railroad Company reported. They showed irregularity and mismanagement on the part of the company, and no work done. The \$100,000 bonds appropriated by the State have been badly used, and that the Exchange and Deposit Bank of Knoxville had been notified to hold the assets of the company, with a view to reimbursing the State. The report charges that the whole scheme was concocted to swindle the State. A bill securing to counties their prorata of money arising from the sale of lands for school purposes, was introduced and referred.

A bill to prevent the intermarriage of whites and blacks was referred.

A bill to repeal all the tax for marriage license was referred.

SECOND DISPATCH.

House bill providing for the erection of a Governor's mansion on the site of the old Lunatic Asylum, passed.

Bill to relieve teachers of public schools, and directing treasurers to receive for taxes warrants issued to teachers, passed.

Bill to suppress drunkenness in public officers, passed.

Resolutions appointing committees to settle with the Treasurer and Comptroller were adopted.

DAMON.

WASHINGTON.

Preparation for Decorating the National Cemeteries, &c.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—Quartermaster General Meigs has issued an order to officers in charge of National Cemeteries, instructing them to make all necessary arrangements and afford the proper facilities for the decoration of the Union soldiers' graves. He has furnished a copy of this order to the Grand Army of the Republic, thus officially recognizing for the first time the existence of that organization.

The Cabinet on Friday decided against allowing the Big Horn Mining expedition to start until after a conference with the hostile chiefs now on their way here.

Gen. Augur, commanding the Department of the Platte, has been instructed to carry out this determination.

Congressman Pease, from Mississippi, has nominated a negro to West Point.

Revenue receipts \$1,325,000.

New San Domingo treaty was not sent to the Senate to-day.

A special meeting of the Cabinet took place to-day, but its object has not transpired.

The President nominated Phillip Jacobson Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi. Also, P. B. Hawkins Postmaster at Bowling Green, Ky.

Freedmen's Bureau Howard corruption investigation still progressing. Nothing tangible transpired.

New Internal Revenue bill reported to-day. It takes the taxes off of nearly everything except fermented liquors, distilled spirits, tobacco, cigars, &c.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture considers the season so far favorable to a large crop.

The Grand Army of the Republic have designated their officers to superintend the decoration of the Union graves at Andersonville, on the 30th May.

The features of the House proceedings to-day were the postponement of the Tariff bill until after the passage of all appropriation bills, which is equivalent to an indefinite postponement; the consideration of a report from the Ways and Means Committee of a partial internal revenue bill repealing taxes on gross sales, except as to liquor and tobacco manufacturers and dealers, and continuing the income tax at five per cent, the exemption being raised to \$1,500; and the passage of a bill reported from the Judiciary Committee to protect the colored population in the exercise of the right of suffrage, and providing pains and penalties against any State officers or individual citizens who attempt to prevent the exercise of that right.

The whole transaction at the Church was orderly and quiet.

Now we submit, in view of all these facts, that the *Press and Herald* has either been outrageously imposed upon, or has "manufactured" the account in 1870. In justice to the parties named, and to the good citizens of Blount county, we call upon our contemporary to give the names of its informants, that we may all know who these slanderers are. The *Press and Herald* must either do this, sustain its charges, or stand convicted of deliberately and outrageously misrepresenting an innocent and unoffending community.

A CALL.—Rev. Andrew Phillips, who has been pastor of the Presbyterian congregation at this place for the past two years, having accepted a new call, left here on Monday last for his new field of labor, which, we understand, is somewhere in the northern part of New York. The best wishes of our entire community attend him.—*East Tennessean*.

Memorials are sent to Madrid from the Northwestern part of Spain, asking that Espartero may be made King. As he is in his 79th year, his supporters evidently mean to have an old King though of a new race. He is a Manchegan, that is, a native of La Mancha, the home of Don Quixote,—and to make him King would be a most Quixote proceeding.

A discussion ensued, Ferry expressing the opinion that all political disabilities of the Southern people would be removed in the course of two years; Morton declaring the policy a failure and hoping that the Senate bill to repeal the Test Oath might be defeated in the House.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Bills in Aid of Railroad and River Improvements.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, May 16.—A bill granting public lands in Alabama to the Decatur and Aberdeen railroad passed.

A bill to repeal all laws authorizing the transportation and exportation of goods, wares and merchandise, in bond to Mexico, overland, was reported from the committee without amendment.

A bill to enforce the 15th Amendment was proposed to enforce the proceedings by United States District Attorney's in several districts, against persons holding office who are ineligible under the 14th Amendment, imposing, upon conviction, a fine, imprisonment and disqualification for office thereafter. Also, the re-enactment of the Civil Rights act.

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"HOW TENNESSEE IS SLANDERED."

The Real Enemies of our Peace.

"The Press and Herald Man" "Manufacturing News."

"A Disgraceful Scene" in the Press and Herald Office.

The *Press and Herald* of Tuesday, the 10th, contained a highly sensational article, headed, "A Disgraceful Scene," &c., which if true might well excite indignation and provoke rebuke. Upon reading the article, we determined to send a special messenger, at once, to Blount county, to learn the actual facts, but just as we were making such arrangements, we were informed that several gentlemen from Blount county were in the city, who knew something of the facts. The first of these we met was Capt. R. N. Hood, a clever gentleman, and one of the most active and enthusiastic Conservatives of that county. We knew Captain Hood's relations to the politics of Blount county very well, and we knew that he would not report the matter a whit more favorably to the side of the accused than the facts warranted. We are therefore satisfied, from what we know of Captain Hood, that the facts as he states them are substantially true.

In response to the question, as to what he knew of the reported mob, he said: "I know enough about it to know that what is reported about it is a — lie. You know that I have no sympathy for the preacher-whippers of Blount county, but then I don't believe in making matters any worse than they are. The facts are that the Church referred to has been in the legal possession of the Methodist Church North ever since the war. Who it belongs to of right, I suppose is a question of law. But if they are not entitled to it, it ought to be taken from them by law. As I understand it, this man Bays had no right to the Church, and his going there was calculated to get up a trouble. There was no force or violence used, or knives drawn, that I heard of, and I think I heard all of it. As I heard the story, they simply told Mr. Bays that he couldn't preach there, and he went off, and that is about the whole of it." We remarked in reply that we were glad to hear the story contradicted, for if it had occurred as reported, we intended to denounce it. His answer was: "I have given the thing as we heard it at Maryville, and you can give me authority for what I have said."

We have given Captain Hood's statement as near verbatim as possible, and we attach weight to it, for he is of the same politics as the *Press and Herald* man."

A few moments after leaving Capt. Hood, we met with W. T. Parham, of Maryville, a gentleman of veracity. His statement was somewhat fuller than Mr. Hood's, and is, therefore, more satisfactory. The two men so fully agree in their main facts that we are satisfied they are correct, and that the *Press and Herald* has grossly slandered the quiet citizens of Blount county.

Our second informant, in substance, said:

"The building is the property of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It claims, and has had possession of it ever since the war. Four weeks ago last Sunday, Mr. Kennedy, without the knowledge of the Trustees of the Church, invited Mr. Bays to preach there. The announcement was made and the people turned out and heard him respectfully. The whole thing passed off and nothing more was said about it. Some time last week the Trustees learned that Mr. Kennedy had again invited Mr. Bays to preach in their Church. As he had never asked them for the use of the Church, they thought it rather cool.

"At a meeting of the Trustees held on last Saturday, it was unanimously decided that Mr. Bays should be notified that it was not agreeable that he should use the Church, and that Mr. Kennedy had no authority to invite him there. When Sunday morning came, the members of the Church met and awaited Mr. Bays' coming. As soon as he came he was quietly notified of the action of the Trustees. He promptly replied that he did not wish to preach there if the people did not want to hear him, and went off. Our informant says there was no barricading of doors or windows with benches, nor any arriving nor preparing for trouble. No violence was manifested, as none was called for. The whole transaction at the Church was orderly and quiet.

Now we submit, in view of all these facts, that the *Press and Herald* has either been outrageously imposed upon, or has "manufactured" the account in 1870. In justice to the parties named, and to the good citizens of Blount county, we call upon our contemporary to give the names of its informants, that we may all know who these slanderers are. The *Press and Herald* must either do this, sustain its charges, or stand convicted of deliberately and outrageously misrepresenting an innocent and unoffending community.

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THE BLOUNT COUNTY SIDE.

What They Think of the Press and Herald Account.

The Facts of the Case.

Desiring to know the actual facts of the Blount county affair, of which so much has been said, one of the publishers of the *CHRONICLE* yesterday went to Logan's Chapel and neighborhood, where he is well known. After communicating fully with all the parties present at the church on last Sunday morning, he gathers the following facts, which we give just exactly as they were given to him:

The Chapel has been in the possession and custody of the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the past five years.

A few weeks before this affair occurred, the Rev. W. H. Bays, upon the invitation of A. Kennedy, Sr., but without the consent of the Trustees, preached in the Chapel. Before beginning his sermon, he stated that if any one objected to his preaching he would leave. No one objecting, he held the usual services, and at the close made an appointment for last Sunday. Some days before last Sabbath, the Trustees held a meeting and decided that Mr. Bays should be notified that it was not their wish that he should continue his services in that church. On the morning in question, Mr. William Goddard, in company with Mr. Keller, went to the church to give Mr. Bays the notice. Others had gathered at the church, in accordance with the appointment previously published. Of the number thus congregated, there were some six or eight orderly and quiet colored people residing in the immediate neighborhood, who had, like the others, come to hear the preaching. Mr. Goddard, on reaching the place, in pursuance with the agreement of the Trustees, closed and fastened the door. There being no lock on it, there was no other means of fastening it but by placing against it some of the benches.

Those assembled there waited in a shed adjoining the church for the coming of the minister. When Mr. Bays and Mr. Kennedy and family came, Mr. Goddard went up from the shed to the fence, where the carriage stopped, and very quietly and peaceably told Mr. Bays what the Trustees had agreed upon. Mr. A. Kennedy, Sr., at once spoke up, and said Mr. Bays should preach there if he wanted to, and that a crowd would be along that would see that he did preach if he was so inclined. Kennedy then got down from his horse, left the company at the fence, and went out to the building to see if it was fastened. He came back and told Mr. Bays that the door was closed and fastened. Mr. Bays said at once that he would not break the door open. Goddard then asked him if he had not said publicly that he would not preach there if any one objected. Mr. Bays said he had, and said furthermore that if they objected he would not preach, and that he would make no further appointment, and then left with his wife and Mr. Kennedy's family.

There was not an angry word passed between Mr. Goddard or any of the party and Mr. Bays. The only angry words spoken were by Mr. Kennedy, Sr., when he declared that there should be preaching.

Our reporter saw the larger portion of all the parties present, including two of Mr. Kennedy's sons and Mr. Kennedy's father-in-law, and all parties entirely agree in the above statement of facts.

No one could be found who saw a knife drawn, a pistol or a club in the whole crowd. No swearing, loud words or boisterous language was heard by any one, and the whole thing passed off just as we have stated it. Mrs. Bays may have been frightened, as she says she was, fearing some violence might result, but nothing was done or said to give her any grounds for fear. Our reporter was very particular to hear parties on both sides of the controversy. He read to Mr. Kennedy's father-in-law the *Press and Herald* account of the affair, and he promptly said that the only thing about it that was true was that Mr. Bays was told he could not preach, and that he went away. With the account telegraphed from this city to the *Nashville Banner* they were all indignant, and said it was all false. From several of the very best men in Blount county, who have been in the neighborhood of the chapel since last Sabbath, we to-day learned that they never heard anything of it at all. They were very indignant at the slander heaped upon their county, and urged us to expose the whole thing.

From different gentlemen who conversed with Mr. A. Kennedy, Sr., yesterday, we hear different accounts, so that he seems to be at a loss to know just how it did happen. To one man he endorsed the *Press and Herald* account in full. To another he qualified it very much, in all the material points; while to a third, he said it amounted to substantially what we have given above.

We have now done our duty and leave the public to fairly and impartially judge the parties concerned.

With the question of the propriety of the course of the parties involved, we have but little to do. The public can now decide how far Mr. Bays was injured in this matter or how far the Trustees were justified in their course. These are questions far less important than the more serious one. Who is responsible for the great injustice done Blount county, and the injury done to the whole State? Almost every paper we take up has some awful accounts of this affair, and no one can estimate the damage it has inflicted.

We now call upon our contemporary to make a full expose of the parties who furnished it with the account published, or allow sentence to be passed upon its own head. The case is now narrowed down to a very small point. Some one has been guilty of the meanest, most cowardly misrepresentation and slander, and the public want to know the guilty man. The very few now implicated cannot afford to permit the affair to end here.