PUBLIC LEDGER.

By Whitmore Brothers. LARGEST CITY CIRCULATION. Ten Cents Per Week.

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PUBLIC LEDGER.

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—BY—

William A. and Edwin Whitmore,

Under the firm style of

WHITMORE BROTHERS,

—AT—

No. 13 Madison Street.

The PUBLIC LEDGER will be served to City Subscribers by faithful carriers at TEN CENTS per week, payable weekly to the carriers.

By mail, SIX DOLLARS per annum, or Fifty Cents per month, in advance.

Communications upon subjects of general interest to the public are at all times acceptable.

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Subsequent Insertions	5 " " "
For One Week	30 " " "
For Two Weeks	45 " " "
For Three Weeks	60 " " "
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Notices of Marriages and Deaths will be inserted in the PUBLIC LEDGER as items of news. But anything beyond the mere announcement will be charged for at the rate of 20 cents per line.

All bills for advertising are due when contracted and payable on demand.

☞ All letters, whether upon business or otherwise, must be addressed to

WHITMORE BROTHERS,
Publishers and Proprietors.

The Franchise Bill.

The Nashville *Banner* thus exposes the enormities of the Franchise bill, now pending in the Legislature:

The Franchise bill reverses the universal presumption of law, that all men accused are innocent until the contrary is proven. It presumes, on the contrary, that all men are disloyal and not to be trusted with the right of suffrage, or to be believed upon oath, except the exempted class of individuals in the bill mentioned. It furthermore empowers the Governor of the State to appoint about eighty-four Commissioners of Registration—one for each county in the State—with power to administer oaths, etc. These Commissioners are to receive one hundred dollars each—to be paid out of the State Treasury—and three dollars per day for attending the county courts at their quarterly terms. The books and printed blanks are to be paid for at the expense of the State. Thus, the cost of registration of voters may be put down at an expense to the tax-payers of the State, from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars. The people who are disfranchised and precluded from holding office by the bill are to be taxed equally with the favored class to support and maintain a policy that degrades them, and denies to them the privilege of holding any office or voting in any election. The bill requires, in addition to the proof before the Commissioner of two unconditional Union men, as to the loyalty of the applicant for a certificate, that he take an oath that he never did voluntarily aid the late rebellion against the United States. The Commissioner has the power to require counter-proof, and refuse the certificate. It creates, in short, a court to deprive the people of their rights and privileges, unknown to the Constitution and laws of the land; and no appeal is given to reverse or revise the decision of this court. Its decisions are arbitrary and final. The right of trial by jury is taken away. An inquisition is applied to the citizen to make him give evidence against himself upon oath, in direct violation of the Constitution. And no person can vote in any election in this State, except such as Gov. Brownlow's Commissioner may be pleased to register and give a certificate. No person can hold any office in the State who cannot take the oath prescribed in the 3d section of the Franchise bill.

Now, who are to be the Commissioners appointed to register the voters? Are they to be citizens or foreigners? Are they to be white men or negroes? The bill does not say. Without stopping to inquire whether Gov. Brownlow would appoint good or bad men, it cannot be denied that the bill confers upon him the power to appoint either citizens of other States, or negroes, if he should choose to do so.

The 7th section of the bill provides that it shall be the duty of the Governor, before any State or other general or special election, to issue his writ of election to commanding officers of regiments, battalions, or detachments of officers and soldiers, who may be in the service of the State, or the United States, wherever located; and the officers shall open and hold an election, and make returns thereof to the Secretary of State, and such votes shall be counted, etc. This violates the Constitution in this: no man, by the Constitution and laws of the State, can vote in any county or place, except the county wherein he has resided for six months next preceding the election. But, why the necessity of this 7th section? Have we any white citizens of the State in the military service of the State, or of the United States, at this time? Or, is it intended to confer the right of suffrage upon the negros of Tennessee who are now in the service of the United States? The language of the section is silent as to color.

The foregoing are some of the provisions of the Franchise Bill, which has occupied so much time in the House of Representatives at an immense cost to the people. It was attempted to force its passage through that body, under the "previous question," to avoid debate and amendment. If that bill becomes the law of the land, a large majority of the people of the State are robbed of their liberties and privileges—the whole power and control of affairs are lodged in the hands of the few. These are questions which ought to interest any man who loves a republican form of government, and who desires to leave that form of government to his posterity. We ask the majority in the House of Representatives to divest themselves of all passion and prejudice, and calmly survey the ground; to consider the Bill of Rights and the provisions of the Constitution; to study the principles and theory of our Government, and to reflect that its children, as well as the children of the rest of us, must live together, and be one people, after their fathers had passed away; and surely, after such mature reflection, not one of them can give his assent to the passage of the Franchise bill.

A Reliable Report.

A Washington correspondent of the Jackson *News* furnishes the following report of a conversation with the President:

Mr. Johnson—I believe that every one understands my policy except those who won't understand it.

Citizen—In all great epochs of history, when the Executive is right, the people are pretty sure to support him, as the exponent of a clear, well-defined policy, in preference to the uncertain and unsatisfactory course of a legislative body.

Mr. Johnson—Why, what does Congress propose to do? They have been in session four months, without having accomplished anything. They have no defined policy.

Citizen—Certainly, Mr. President, this is no question of privilege at all, that topic is entirely irrelevant; it is a simple question of policy.

Mr. Johnson—No one forces them to do anything. They are simply asked to complete the policy most beneficial to the whole country. Why do they not take some decided stand. Texas is now organizing her State government, if these gentlemen believe that the South is composed of subjugated territories, why do they not arrest the organization of Texas as a State. Why do they not oust her gubernatorial officers from their chairs, and declare Texas under Congressional rule.

Citizen—The inconsistency of acknowledging Mr. Lincoln's State organization of Louisiana, and the present refusal to receive her Representatives, must strike the common sense of the people with peculiar force.

Mr. Johnson—It was the same in Arkansas, and more so in Tennessee, which had organized a State government even as far back as 1862.

Citizen—I am acquainted with foreign capitalists anxious to invest money in the South, and only awaiting the success of your policy.

Mr. Johnson—I feel sure that the South would soon regain her material prosperity, if political difficulties were fully settled.

The account of this interview was given to your correspondent by "Citizen" and is the only correct and verbatim report that has gone to the country. I may mention that the remark with reference to Texas is considered a very strong point, and the most practical issue which the Radicals have had presented to them.

The Queen of England in Love.

London Cor. Cincinnati Commercial.]

I had nearly written royal scandal—for to tell the plain truth, the talk that now floats through private society in London is little less. I am pained to say that this gossip involves no less a personage than Queen Victoria. It has for a long time been on people's tongues, but it has appeared at last in the newspapers. It is said that the Queen has taken a prodigious liking to a very good-looking but "ignoble" Scotchman named Brown, who was formerly a kind of out-door body servant to Prince Albert, and indeed bears a strong resemblance to the Prince. She so doats upon him that she constantly keeps him near her, at all her palaces, and in all her journeys to and from them. She consults her pet on all subjects, and takes his advice so absolutely that the rest of the royal household have become very jealous of him. The latest story is that she is going to Knight him. Marry him she cannot, for the law of the realm forbids her to marry one of her own subjects. It is very disagreeable, nay, it is worse than disagreeable, to mention these things of one who, as wife and mother and Queen, has so high a place in the reverence of the world.

I have refrained from speaking of these stories while they were merely talked of in private, but now they have become so notorious, and are so positively mentioned in English papers, that I can no longer regard them as empty tales.

Depraved Taste.

As incidents, illustrating the times and their fashion at the French Imperial Court, our readers may be glad, or sorry, to know that, at the late grand fancy ball at the Tuileries, the Count de Nieuwerkerke appeared and danced as Pontius Pilate. The Count de Choiseul—whose mother, the Duchess of Praslin, was murdered by his father, the Duke—dressed as old Time, capered after the well-known Countess de Castiglione, and, of course, failed to overtake her. But more conspicuous than all was the young Marchioness of Gallifet, as the Archangel Gabriel. She wore a short, gold-embroidered petticoat of white cashmere, with glittering gold scale-armour, fitting tight to the shape. Above her long, flowing, golden hair blazed a diamond star, which literally seemed to hang unsupported in the air. Her wings arched over her head, and reached to beneath her knees. As she danced, she brandished the sword of the archangel in her hand, and altogether, perhaps, made the master of the rout look as thoughtful as he is said to have looked.—*House Journal.*

A Missionary Adventure with Cannibals.

An English missionary, who describes life in New Zealand in the last number of *Hours at Home*, relates an incident that occurred to him on one of the South Pacific islands. While on a cruise he touched at a small island for fresh food, fruit and vegetables. Of these he obtained a full supply, and was about leaving, when a chief asked him if he would like some flesh food. Says the missionary, "thinking that doubtless they had hogs, I said yes. He gave a quick glance around him, as if he were looking for a messenger, and singled out and called to a fine young lad, apparently about eighteen years of age. The boy came and stood before him, and before I knew what he was about to do, and having my back turned to him, looking at the fruit, etc., I heard the sound as of a heavy blow, and looking quickly around found the still quivering body of the boy laid at my feet, with the words 'Hevi ano te kai?' (Is that food sufficient for you?) Horror stricken I denounced most bitterly the deed, and leaving all the provisions behind on the ground, returned sorrowfully to my ship."

Destitute Colored People.

It is reported that destitute negroes of all ages and both sexes crowd all the Southern cities. At New Orleans there are 75,000, and 30,000 are subsisting on public charity at Washington. The support of these unfortunate people, and their return, if possible, to habits of labor, are among the greatest social problems of the day. An appropriation of $25,000 for the support of the destitute negroes in the neighborhood of Washington, has just passed the Senate. What is above said of Washington and New Orleans is true also of smaller towns. Not long since Yorktown and Williamsburg, Va., were crowded with colored fugitives, supported by the Government, when the farmers and mill-owners in the adjoining county of Mathews were offering higher wages than white men get for the same work in Delaware, and yet could get no help from the towns.—*Phil. Ledger.*

Out of Temper.

An English weekly gives the following paragraph a prominent position:—"An American pirate is said to have put to sea under the Fenian colors. She is a large vessel, and her departure from New York is known to the authorities very well. These pirates will have about as much chance as any other American vessel manned by Yankee pirates would have. There will be a yard arm for them all, and we trust no Exeter Hall sentimentalist will attempt to weep over their destruction, and bring the captain to discredit if he does his duty in this case, as ex-Governor Eyre did in his. If the American Government have allowed this vessel to proceed to sea, knowing her character, the contempt of the whole civilized world is her due." You don't say so?

Distribution of Troops.

By a report transmitted to Congress, it appears that on January 9th there were 103,936 troops in the service of the United States, of whom 41,744 have since been ordered to be mustered out of service. This is not the whole of the United States army, however, as on January 9th it consisted of 26,587 regulars; 57,590 white volunteers, and 65,736 colored volunteers—total, 149,943. Of the 103,936 soldiers in the Southern States, on January 9th, the following were the number in each State: Texas, 29,248; Missouri, 10,890; Tennessee, 10,684; Alabama, 10,623; Mississippi, 10,193; Louisiana, 10,153; Arkansas, 8,567; South Carolina, 4,768; Virginia, 4,641; North Carolina, 3,106; Georgia, 1,063. There were no troops in Maryland, Florida or Kentucky.

Northern Periodicals in Alabama.

Alabama does not seem anxious to have Northern literature introduced within her borders. Her Legislature has passed a tax law compelling all news dealers to pay an annual license fee of ten dollars. If, however, they sell any newspaper or periodical published outside the limits of the State, they are to be taxed fifty dollars. This law is conceived in much the same spirit that animated a certain Governor of Virginia, who declared to his great joy, that there were no schools within his jurisdiction. Alabamians who wish Northern journals can evade the law, however, by procuring them through the mails. The Post-office is an institution that the Alabama Legislature cannot tax out of existence.

"America" in a Ball Room.

At a fancy dress *fete*, given in Paris, ladies represented the continents of the world, and, says a correspondent: "America was certainly the most effective costume. That immense continent was personated by the beautiful, delicate-looking Miss Carter, who wore a white dress with a sky-blue satin *peplum* over it, the latter studded all over with silver stars. Her coronet was composed of diamond stars, doubtless to recall the stars on the United States flag. America was always followed by another beautiful young girl, very simply dressed, to personate, it was said, but I know not with what truth, a released slave."

Important to Widows.

We clip the following statement from the Georgia *Federal Union*:—"We have good authority for saying that all men over the age of sixty-five, who took no part in the war, and all widows (at the time General Sherman's army injured their property,) will be re-imbursed by the United States Government for damages. The assessor is already at work in the neighboring county of Hancock, ascertaining damages, so far as respects the two classes of our people above named. This will be gratifying intelligence to many of our afflicted and suffering people."

Marriage of a Nun in Italy.

The Italian papers mention that a marriage, in accordance with the new civil law, and without the intervention of the Church, has just been celebrated at Secli, in Sicily, between a barrister Guglielmus Caruso, and a nun of the order of St. Theresa, named Maria Pisani, known as Sister Maria Annunziata. The parents of the bride not only gave their consent, but a dowry also. All the principal families of the neighborhood, together with the local authorities, were present at the ceremony.

THE TRADE OF GREAT BRITAIN.—In the year 1865, the trade of Great Britain was very large. 44,510 vessels, with 12,164,253 tonnage, entered inwards with cargoes from abroad, and 48,181 vessels, with 12,817,442 tonnage, cleared for outward voyages. This is an increase over the returns for 1864 of 861,957 tons inwards, and 647,862 tons outwards.