PUBLIC LEDGER.

Office, No. 13 Madison Street

LARGEST CITY CIRCULATION.

MEMPHIS:
Monday Evening, Nov. 5, 1866

TAXING THE NEGROES.

The negroes of the South are the property of the Radicals. Not by a bargain or sale have they passed into the hands of new masters, but by conquest. The men who once owned property in them, are not allowed to govern the individual in whose person his dollars and cents have been extinguished. The moment the war ended, Congress took possession of the negroes of the South and locked them up in a bureau for safe keeping. When the financial interests of New England required the production of cotton, they were allowed to make contracts with the plantation owners, subject, of course, to the approval of the key holders of the Bureau. Under the belief, founded upon total ignorance of the negro character, that they would, in a state of freedom, rush frantically into the fields and produce fabulous mountains of cotton, and thus at one stroke enrich themselves, a tax of three cents on the pound was resolved to be levied. It was not doubted that the freedmen would pay it without a murmur. Time passed—the "man and brother" did not come to time, and many of the great plantations of the South grew up in persimmon and sassafras trees. Where the "man and brother" once turned up the furrow, and afterward gathered cotton, he now hunts opossums and slaughters rabbits. The three cents tax absorbs the profits of those who have labored, and, under the most favorable contracts, it is impossible for them to pocket profits at the end of the season. The supply of cotton will be limited, but that inexorable tax sticks to every pound of it. The negroes being the real producers, are, of course, the greatest sufferers. The effect of the tax on the landed proprietor is a different question, and is not now discussed. The point we make has reference only to the "man and brother." He has great occasion, surely, to be grateful to his white masters of the North.

WHY THEY RESIST.

The Radical meeting in Baltimore assigned the following reasons for resisting:

First. We are a law-abiding people, and it is our purpose and desire to maintain the law, and not to resist.

Second. We propose to maintain and defend our rights under the law and in a lawful manner.

Third. We hold that in case of any doubts in the construction of law, those doubts are to be determined only by the constitutional interpreters of law, viz: The courts which are created for that purpose.

Fourth. We demand, as a right, that this question in controversy between the Governor of the State and the Police Commissioners, a question in which, as citizens, we have a deep interest, shall be submitted to the decision of the courts, and if it is submitted we believe there will be none.

PONTOTOC, MISS.

Gen. McMackin, the founder of the town of Pontotoc, in Mississippi, gives the following information about the first days of that place: "In one month after I laid off the town, I sold eighty thousand dollars' worth of lots. In two months I put up a hotel; good log houses, with brick chimneys, to accommodate four hundred persons with board and lodging; stable room and lots to accommodate four hundred horses. In three months after the laying off of the town, there were forty-five stores and twenty-three groceries. Property changed hands to the amount of $300,000 per day for four years. Such a place was never seen before by the eyes of man, and will never be seen again."

OUR RIGHTS.

If the South should ratify the constitutional amendment under the pressure of radicalism, in less than ten years the circumstance would be referred to by the Jacobins as evidence of the cowardice of the Southern people. They hate us now—they would then have contempt for us. They will be satisfied with no concession, and it is best to make none. If we kneel now, we will be required to lie down hereafter. No more concessions to the Jacobins. Our rights are our own, not theirs; and, by the memory of the past, let us claim them.

NATIONAL BANKS.

The Comptroller of the Currency announces that bonds have been received for deposit with the Treasurer of the United States to an amount sufficient to secure the entire three hundred million dollars of the circulation of the national banks authorized by law, and no more can be received. The limit has been reached, and hereafter it will be useless to forward bonds, to apply for an increase of capital, or for the organization of new banks or to do anything with the expectation of getting circulating notes.

☞ John J. Wise, Esq., of Norfolk, a brother of Gen. H. A. Wise, died in that city on the 25th inst. Mr. Wise had been a great sufferer for a number of years from paralysis, and was unable to serve himself in any manner. He had a number of gallant sons in our army, one of whom lost a foot in defense of Petersburg.

☞ The Washington *Republican* facetiously claims to be the instrument of converting Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, to the Christian faith, which he has lately professed in open church. The editor says: "We have always administered wholesome truths to 'Henry,' and we are glad they have done him good."

☞ The pardon of Gen. McLaws has been announced. He will now be enabled to perform the duties of the office of Clerk of the Superior Court of Richmond county, Ga., to which he was elected in January last, but for which he was hitherto disqualified by reason of his being unpardoned.

☞ There have been several large failures at the North within the last two or three days. The New Bedford (Mass.) *Evening Standard* of Thursday says that the failure of George A. Simmons, an oil dealer, for $250,000, is announced, and states that his liabilities to parties in that city are $100,000.

☞ A lunar rainbow appeared in Staunton last Friday night, stretching from the northeast to the southwest of the horizon. It is supposed by some to have been created by the heavy fall of dew. Not a cloud could be seen, but the fall of dew was very heavy.

☞ It is said that the Government of Cuba has purchased of the United States two monitors, at an expense of $2,000,000, and as the Government has no available funds, two wealthy merchants of Havana, Trulueta and Baro, have gone security for the amount.

☞ As Beast Butler was driving from his hotel in Columbus, Ohio, to the depot, a man in great haste ran from the sidewalk into the street, stopped the carriage and exclaimed, holding up a dirty spoon: "Here, General; here's something you dropped."

☞ A Boston paper states that Prof. Shaw has discovered a mode of combining two different bodies of heat in such a manner as to produce cold. A pair of offended lovers is a case in point, but whether its the Professor's case has not transpired.

☞ "Oak Hill," in Fauquier county, the former residence of Chief Justice Marshall, and "Blenheim," in Albemarle county, the seat of the late Andrew Stevenson, are advertised for sale in the *National Intelligencer*.

☞ Danville, Va., has been infested for some weeks past with numerous partridges, single and in gangs, that stray through the yards, gardens and other inclosures of the citizens, fly through the streets, and even enter the stores.

☞ A Radical triumph is announced in the populous county of Sumner. The registered vote, the reader will be surprised to hear, did not exceed over 140. This is the manner in which Radical triumphs are won.

BALTIMORE.

The Police Imbroglio—Comments of the New York Press.

New York, November 2.—The *Tribune* has the following comments on the Baltimore difficulty:

Governor Swann concluded the trial of the police commissioners Wednesday night and removed them Thursday morning. To-day we print his decision in full with wonder that so elaborate and long a document could have been so speedily prepared. It looks very much as if the decision was made before the trial was ended. The Governor has made but a brief review of the evidence, and there is no connection between his argument and the act of removal. We have carefully examined the evidence on the part of the government with that of the defense and cannot see how any respectible lawyer could conscientiously say that the charges had been proved.

From the first it is apparent that Governor Swann had made up his mind that the commissioners should be removed, and no evidence in their favor could have changed him. His own words have made it plain that the trial, over which he presided, was a farce and a mockery; and that they were not summoned to Annapolis to be tried but to be condemned.

The *Times* remarks: Throughout the preliminary state of the affair, and in the midst of much excitement, the conduct of Gov. Swann was eminently proper. The threats of demagogues he met with a quiet declaration of his resolve to do his duty. The denial of his authority elicited cothing but an affirmation of his right and of his desire to know no partisanship in the conduct of the inquiry. Some of the remarks with which he opened the trial sound somewhat at variance with his profession of strict impartiality. An announcement of a purpose to act without reference to legal technicalities sounds unpleasant in connection with a case which should be governed by the form as well as the spirit of law. His avowed intention to limit the proceedings to a day's inspection of requirements that might be developed during the trial certainly looked one-sided. While the assurance that he should act promptly in accordance with his decision tended to excite an apprehension that he had already in some degree made up his mind without waiting for formal evidence.

The *Sun* says the order of the Governor will be carried out and a new police department will be organized. The Governor's decision in the case is authoritative and can be legally set aside only by the Judiciary. It matters not whether there was sufficient evidence or not to warrant his action. He has acted in accordance with his lawful authority and the police commissioners have no right to defy his decision. The only course which they can properly pursue is to peacably give up the police department and then seek redress for their alleged wrongs in the courts. They have no justification whatever for defying the order of the Governor, and the attitude which they have assumed will gain them but little sympathy.

The *Post* says as follows: To push matters to extremes, to make a dead lock, to appeal to arms and threaten with violence, force and bloodshed, when an affair can be conducted peaceably, when the Courts are open and their decision will afford all necessary remedies, all this is to inflict a serious injury on the State and society, and to help make free governments difficult, and, in the end, impossible. Governor Swann has not done wisely to run to Washington with his complaints, as though the Federal Government were a king or a dry nurse to the State of Maryland, and the Governor was only an agent of the President. It is not the part of a Governor of a free State to begin a trial with a threat of bayonets, and enforce his own construction of a disputed point at law with United States regulars. We take it for granted that if the police commissioners refuse to give up their office, Governor Swann will instruct those he has appointed to take the case to a proper Court. He cannot do otherwse without committing violence and most flagrantly contradicting his own repeatedly asserted opinions.

The *World* remarks:

Baltimore once more draws breath. The new commissioners of police appointed by the Governor of Maryland have established their office, amidst the general acquiescence and applause of a community relieved from the terrors of impending anarchy and restored to the rule of reason and order. If now the maddened partisans who, in other States, did their atrocious worst to fan this incipient mischief at Baltimore into a lurid and fatal blaze of civil strife shall persevere in their madness; if, in the reckless pursuit of partisan victory, they shall continue to fan the flame, the passions which, but for the courage of the constituted authorities, had even now once more cut off Washington from the nation, and this time by a Radical rebellion.

FROM MEXICO.

Matamoros, Oct. 26.—It is not thought here that Mejia will attempt to occupy the border, as it could only be done at a large expense of blood and treasure, and with no corresponding advantage. Canales is still in possession of the town. Tapia is about three leagues out with 1800 men. Negotiations for the surrender of the city have been in progress the past few days, and they closed yesterday without any practical result.

Col. Findija, of Ortega's staff, arrived in Brownsville yesterday. He has been closeted with prominent Mexicans who are friends of Canales and supporters of Ortega. Canales this morning expressed his determination to hold the city at all hazards against Tapia and Cortina. This is probably the result of the arrival of Col. Findija, and it is generally believed here that he will shortly pronounce in favor of Ortega.

The forces of Tapia and Cortina will be combined for an attack, which will be detained some days on account of the bad condition of the roads.

Advices from Monterey state the fact that Gen. Trevino was at Elcedral, in the State of San Luis Potosi, on the 11th ult., and on that day issued a proclamation to the people of that State. It is thought he will be able to oppose any force which Mejia can bring against him.

Gen. Tapia has issued a proclamation to the people of Tamaulipas, in which he announced himself as the representative of the supreme government, and intimates his intention of attacking Matamoros at an early day.

From a private letter dated October 10th, I learn that Donay is in Mathulea with 1500 men. He has offered for sale his carriage and horses, and is packing up for a journey to the City of Mexico. It is said the retreat from that place will commence on the 15th.

All the Liberal forces have left Saltillo. Under Ferrand and Navarajo a new campaign has been inaugurated.

An intercepted dispatch from San Luis Potosi to Mathnles, showed that Jeanin gros wrote on the 15th of September that he was marching on Queretaro, leaving Donay at San Luis, and that later Donay started to join him.

THE ARREST OF CONOVER.

New York, November 2.—It will be recollected that some time since the report was circulated that Advocate General Holt had, by unworthy means, urged the preferring of the charges against Mr. Davis, published a phamplet in which he detailed at length the circumstances under which the charges were made. From this account it appeard that S. Conover, alias C. A. Dunham, volunteered to find a man who had stated that he knew sufficient about the case to warrant such a charge being made; whereupon Mr. Campbell, alias J. A. Hoare, was named as the person alluded to. That in order to obtain the attendance of the said Hoare, sums of money were advanced at various times to the aforesaid Conover, and that Hoare did appear before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives and testify accordingly.

Hoare subsequently admitted that his statement of the whole affair was false and without any foundation in truth. It appearing that the whole story had been served up by Conover, the committee recommended that he be arrested. Accordingly Judge Advocate Turner, of Washington, ordered the arrest to be made, and, upon Conover making his appearance in the city, he was arrested by United States Marshal Murray and sent on to Washington yesterday.

Knox County.

They perpetrate some funny jokes on justice in the Knox county Circuit Court. Witness the following account from the *Commercial*:

Two negroes were put on trial this week for horse stealing. They were found guilty, and were sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary. Their counsel applied for a new trial. Judge Hall granted it. Attorney General Thornberg then remarked that he would not take the trouble to again go over the evidence and at once discharged the negroes.

Another negro was charged with breaking into Peter Scott's house and attempting to violate his daughter, was tried and convicted. A new trial was asked for and not granted. Attorney General Thornberg then stated that if a new trial had been granted in this case he would have turned the negro loose, and would not have prosecuted any man who would have shot the negro at sight on the street.

Wise and Phillips.

The New York *Evening Post* says of the recent speeches of Henry A. Wise and Wendell Phillips:

"Mr. Wise's remarks appear to us the most practical and useful. Mr. Phillips' breathes only threatening and slaughter; Mr. Wise gives at least some good advice to his hearers and readers. He told the young men of Virginia that old things had passed away, and that it is now their duty not to sit down in sullen gloom, not to abandon their State or the country, but to labor to make Virginia what she will become—'greater, stronger, grander than was old Virginia.'

"Mr. Phillips had only abuse for all men but the few reckless impracticables who think with him, and urged a policy which is repugnant to common sense."

Salt Lake Vidette.

St. Louis, Nov. 2.—The Salt Lake *Vidette*, of the 3d, has the following in pencil on its margin: Things begin to look bilious; a squad of soldiers are now guarding our office. This is signed by Goldrick. The Mormons are committing all sorts of outrages on the Gentiles in every direction, rioting at their own sweet wills. A few days ago they caught the heavy editor of the *Vidette*, and made him promise to leave town within a specified time. He says they forced him to give the promise, and that, therefore, he shall not keep it.

Views of a Reconstructed Irishman.

Montreal, November 2.—Hon. D'Arcy McGee made a speech last night before the Canadian Society, and said that if he had the ear of the Irish people he would say: "Consider the prosperous condition of Scotland. Consider the example of Scotland. Cease to pursue the impossible and impracticable. Try, by way of novelty, something that contains the elements of success." To the imperial statesmen he would recommend the familiar American word "reconstruction," and a generous policy towards Ireland.

☞ The Fredricksburg *Herald* says that town, which formerly shipped flour by the hundred thousand barrels, is already importing flour from Baltimore. The receipts of wheat this fall do not exceed ten thousand bushels, of which six or seven thousand were sent off early in the season.

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE NOON DISPATCHES

COTTON AND GOLD QUOTATIONS

Baltimore, November 5.—Judge Barton, Assistant Justice Court of Appeals, appeared in court this morning, and in answer to his inquiries relative to the writ of habeas corpus in the case of the new commissioners and sheriff, which was issued by him Saturday evening, had been served, he was informed they had been served this morning, but the prisoners were not forthcoming, owing to the warden of the jail. The counsel for prisoners contends that the writs should be returned immediately unless unavoidable impediments are presented. The prisoners not appearing at eleven o'clock, their counsel announced that they had prepared a petition that His Honor would command the deputy sheriff to produce the warden, together with the prisoners. The counsel for the old commissioners thought that such a return would be made by one o'clock as would render further proceedings here unnecessary.

Kansas City, November 5.—A fight recently occurred near Baxter Spring, between a party of surveyors under Cols. Phillips and Gass and a number of desperadoes, in which Gass was killed and Phillips mortally wounded. Gass was the Democratic candidate for State Auditor. Phillips was formerly well known as a correspondent of the *Tribune*.

New York, November 5.—Gold, 48; Sterling, dull at 9¾ for sixty days; Cotton firmer, 39 to 41c.