The Norfolk Post.

MONDAY, JULY 3, 1865.

All communications relating to business matters connected with this paper should be addressed to E. M. Brown, Norfolk Post. All communications pertaining to Editorial matters, and all correspondence intended for the paper should be addressed to John Clark, Editor.

Advertisers are requested to hand in their advertisements before six o'clock in the evening, previous to publication.

Newsmen and newsboys desiring papers will please have their orders at the counting-room the evening previous, before six o'clock.

Mayhew & Brothers, Booksellers and Stationers, are authorized agents to sell the Norfolk *Post*, and all orders left with them will be attended to the same as if left at the office of publication.

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CIVIL VS. MILITARY LAW.

The question regarding the collection of the licenses for the last year, when the city was under martial law, is now being tried before Judge Snead, and bids fair to give rise to some very vexatious and unjust litigation. The history of the matter is this:—When Norfolk was evacuated by the military power of the Confederacy, it was of course taken possession of by the military authorities of the United States, and martial law became *de facto*, and we might also say *de jure*, the law of the land, superceding the Confederate civil as well as military authorities. But, notwithstanding the right of the government to withdraw all power from the civil authorities, the policy of the commanding officer in charge of the forces—permitted by the authorities at Washington, too—allowed those authorities to exercise certain powers and perform certain duties not incompatible with, nor in conflict with, the duties and powers of the military.—Now, a civil government with only these conceded powers, could be looked upon only in the light of a farce—a very expensive luxury and grievous burden to be borne by the tax-payers—who were of course called upon to pay the salaries of the civil officers—Sheriffs, Mayors, Magistrates, and all their petty subordinates.

At first these civilians did exercise some authority—held courts, tried causes, and performed other functions which the nature of their several appointments demanded at their hands;—but in course of time, their duties were so abridged and powers so circumscribed by the general orders issued from time to time, that no functions were left them to perform, and the people having voted to suspend all civil authority, finally, in June last Gen. Butler, assuming that the military necessity existed, proclaimed martial law, and at once put an end to civil authority. In August last, an attempt was made to collect the licenses by the civil authorities, but was resisted on the ground that where there was no adequate protection from Government, taxation could not be enforced. In other words, that as civil government was a farce, and those claiming to be clothed with authority did not possess the power to guarantee them in their rights, they were not bound to pay the licenses claimed. As Judge Snead attempted to try these cases, and enforce his edicts, General Butler suspended him from office, and ordered that all licenses should be paid to military officers appointed for the purpose of collecting the same; and these taxes thus collected were appropriated for the use and benefit of the city of Norfolk. This is substantially the state of the case. The people refused to pay to the civil authorities, but were willing to pay to the military, because they knew the latter would and could afford them ample protection in their rights. We may allude to such instances as the following in which the citizens were deprived of rights after having paid for their licenses. General orders were issued prohibiting the sale of liquors, or intoxicating drinks, and those who had taken out licenses for such purposes became heavy sufferers; but civil authority could afford them no relief. They were consequently justified in refusing—when the civil collector called on them the next year—to pay, and in appealing to the military for relief.—This relief was granted them, and now it is sought to make them pay again these taxes which they paid to the military, and in the expenditure of which the city has been benefited.

The civil authorities had hardly been re-instated by the withdrawal of the military Provost Marshals, when proceedings were commenced against these recusing tax-payers. On Thursday, a case was tried before a jury, claiming the repayment of taxes; but the jurors failed to agree, and of course it will be submitted to another trial.

This an open and bold attempt on the part of the courts in the late rebellious States to denounce all the acts of the military during the rebellion, pronounce them illegal and wrong, and demand reparation from all parties acting under military orders that can be reached by their courts. The duty of the Government is plain, we think, in this case—and we call upon the President to interpose his authority and save the people from these acts of oppression and usurpation. The Government owes it to its own honor and dignity that it should sustain its own authority and the acts of its military agents during the rebellion, and not permit them to be discredited or nullified by these doubtful tribunals. If such things are permitted there will not be a dollar that has been collected for any purpose, a piece of property that has been used, a house that has been destroyed—but payment will be demanded for it and the demand enforced by some Southern courts. Let a stop be put to all such proceedings at once, by those who possess the right and power of doing so, and the people will applaud the act.

EVENTS IN CHINA.

Though Americans seem to have little concern with events occurring at the antipodes, they cannot be wholly indifferent to anything that affects the welfare of about one-half the human race, embraced within the limits of the Chinese Empire. The political convulsions taking place there, says the New York *Journal of Commerce*, are the throes of an empire of great antiquity, now in process of dissolution, as the direct consequence of the advance of Western civilization and commercial enterprise. The reigning dynasty congratulated itself a few months ago, when the rebel stronghold at Honkong was evacuated (the English General Gordon co-operating with the imperialists and breaching the walls with artillery), but they attached too much importance to that event. Instead of being dispersed, the Taipings are now as threatening as ever, and perhaps even more formidable. They seem to have lost nothing by the retreat to Changchow, in the province of Fuhkien, where some of the most productive tea districts are located. Though we hear little of active hostilities, there is reason to believe that within the last three months the insurgents have gained largely in numerical strength and in resources. Intelligence lately received of the capture of a city called Chauan, tends to corroborate the impression that a confederation of marauding chiefs has been formed, of whom the occupant of Chanchow is only one, and, perhaps, not first in importance. Furthermore, evidence is conclusive that the Taipings once more enjoy the favor of a considerable number of foreign adventurers acting in the capacity of officers, engineers, or manufacturers of arms and munitions. The latter are mainly disaffected mercenaries formerly in the Mandarin service, but are now animated by much warmth of hostility on account of old grievances still unredressed. Burgevine, for example, who succeeded the late American General Ward, as commander of the disciplined Chinese contingent of the Imperial army, lately arrived from his seclusion in Japan, and immediately repaired to Changchow. Having once before joined the rebel cause, and afterwards forsaken it, his course is somewhat vermicular, to say the least. Still more noticeable is the fact that General Rhode, who served with much distinction as Gordon's adjutant-general, and was also under Ward, is the leading mercenary at Changchow. Another detachment of foreign co-operators from Amoy are sending forward supplies of arms. One of the latter, named Butler, owner of the American schooner Garland, recently met with a serious mishap. Having successfully landed a cargo of arms at the Taiping stronghold, he was intercepted on his return by the Baron de Meritens (a French Imperialist, commissioner of customs and self-appointed military commander-in-chief) and put in irons, with directions that he should be sent to the American Consul General at Shanghai; but, while *en route* on an English steamer, was treacherously shot by the guard. The offender was taken into custody by the British Consul at Ningpo, and kept in prison regardless of the demands of the French authorities that he should be delivered up. A reason for this renewed manifestation of sympathy for the rebel cause, and co-operation of English and American adventurers in their behalf, may be the extraordinary zeal displayed by the French in regulating the affairs of the Chinese government. Another, beyond any question, is the stubborn refusal of the imperialists to recognize the value of their services and of the European system of warfare, compared with gingalls, stink-pots, and match-locks. An example of this folly is afforded by the present rebel invasion of Fuhkien. The fact was generally understood that the insurgents at Hangchow could not be dislodged except by the use of artillery, being strongly intrenched within three lines of stockades, besides the walls and minor defences. Notwithstanding this, a force was recently sent from Shanghai to commence the siege, supported by nothing except three or four guns, though two excellent corps of native artillery were available at Soochow. As an inevitable consequence, no material advantage has been gained thus far, and the insurgents have derived fresh confidence.

In the Hong Kong *Trade Report*, of 29th April we find a letter from Amoy, signed "Taiping," professing to give a full and impartial account of what the insurgents are doihg. The following is an extract:

The insurgents are strengthening themselves in every way they can at Changchow by raising stockades around the city and at the most important points. They drain the ground as much as they can, by opening canals, and small channels which are always closed at this season of the year to dam the water back for the paddy fields; so that as the rain falls, it will now be carried off into the main river, and the ground generally a swamp will be much firmer, and better adapted for the movement of their artillery, principally mortars of large calibre the handiest ordnance they could adopt for campaigning in such a country; the most easily manufactured, and most destructive in service. These they are having cast of both copper and iron; and from 6 inches to 10 inches calibre, by Eurepean artisans in their employ; and shells both conical and round are being cast in great numbers; some say they can turn out 150 of these destructive missiles daily at their works. Gunpowder is also being manufactured under European superintendence, many excellent samples of which I have seen, and if not so good in appearance, it is at least a good strong serviceable article for cannon. Small arms they are getting large supplies of from various quarters, and so long as they can raise the dollars to pay for such articles people will always be found to run all risks in supplying them. Some of the best of Gordon's old officers have joined them, and they now number some eighty odd foreigners at "Changchow." General Rhody, Gordon's late adjutant general, is in command; and they have zealous men daily instructing them in European tactics and mode of warfare; so that when the clash does come they will doubtless be found to acquit themselves as soldiers, and to give a good account of themselves; and will be found not to have idled away their time in dissipation during the long truce they have had of late; and M. le Baron, with all the force he may be able to raise against them, both naval and military, and the Mandarins, with the 10,000 rabble they expect from the north, 5,000 of which only arrived hitherto to reinforce the imperial army, may some day find themselves in a position they may wish themselves well out of again, if they are foolish enough to venture within gunshot of the city.

This writer proceeds to speak of an instance of summary punishment for treachery, inflicted some time in March last, upon five villagers in the neighborhood of Hangchow. While an insurgent chief was reconnoitering with a few followers, he was attacked by an ambuscade of several thousand men, driven into a river, and most of them drowned or cut to pieces. In a few hours. 5,000 rebels returned, giving no quarter. Fearful was the slaughter. After enriching themselves with loot, the carnage was completed by lopping off 500 heads. While on the one hand we read of rebel boastings and triumphs, on the part of the government all appears to be disorder and recrimination. Prince Kung, the prime minister, for some reason unknown, is deposed from all his offices. The charges laid against him, in the edict containing his dismissal, are "favoritism, cupidity, inordinate, pretensions, and undue arrogation of authority." He is succeeded by Wenssiang, chief of the pro-foreign party. Bearing in mind that before this a bitter controversy existed between the imperial cabinet and Tseng-Kwo-fan, chief of the anti-foreign party, also that the Governor of Canton (his near relative) has been recalled, and we have ample material for conjecture in regard to the situation at Pekin. The inference clearly is, that either the old exclusive policy of the empire must yield to more enlightened statesmanship, or that the anarchy now witnessed will at no distant day be fearfully aggravated. Some of the signs just now are more propitious.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

FURTHER ROWS AND DISTURBANCES OF THE PEACE.—On Saturday night, we regret to say, the disposition to disorderly conduct in our city was renewed and quite a number of colored men were roughly handled or badly beaten in different portions of the city. On Church street there was a great deal of pistol firing, and Corporal Decker of Co. C, 104th Pennsylvania Volunteers, was badly wounded in the right arm and side, and is reported to be in a precarious condition. He was shot by a colored man. One negro was terribly beaten near St. Paul's Church, and the blood from his wounds, on his way to the police station stained the sidewalk with a purple stream of gore the entire length of Cove street. Five negroes were arrested during the night by Capt. McMahon, in charge of a patrol. We have heard that in several instances the soldiers attacked and knocked down colored persons in the streets, beating them most unmercifully, without provocation; and in almost every case the object of their wrath was a peacefully disposed and quiet person. These scenes are fast becoming a nuisance, and are deprecated by all of our citizens, who are anxious that the peace of the city should be maintained. We state but the truth when we say, that the attacks made upon the colored people are not countenanced or desired by the citizens of Norfolk; and the soldiers who commit them could not confer a greater favor upon the citizens than by abstaining altogether from such acts.

The people here have no animosity against the colored race, and are ready to protect them, as they have always done, against outrage. They know the simple-mindedness of the race, and the ease with which they can be governed and kept in order, and if the soldiers would but let them alone, and cease to agitate and excite them by acts of unprovoked violence, all would be well. The citizens have no fears or apprehensions so far as they themselves are concerned of any conflict; for they know the colored man, if left to himself, will remain subordinate to authority, and peacefully and quietly pursue the even tenor of his way. We, then, beg the soldiers to restrain their angry passions, and to cease to think that they are doing our people a great favor by the course they are pursuing. If anything were wanting to show the peaceful disposition of the colored race, the fact that they are equal in number to the whites in the city, and yet are not disposed to take advantage of their numbers, and seldom defend themselves when attacked, proves their orderly character. We reiterate, what we know to be the fact, from conversing indiscriminately with the white population, that they are satisfied with the present *status* and disposition of the colored population, and desire that they should be left alone, and allowed to solve the problem of labor and equality in their own way—which will be in a spirit of justice and kindliness towards a race against the great body of whom they have no vindictive feelings—no wrongs to avenge.

We learned last evening that Corporal Decker had his arm amputated, and was not expected to survive.

THE MISERIES OF THE MISERABLES.—The report book at the police station, showed some dozen arrests during Saturday night, principally of negro women, the disreputable inhabitants of Talbot street, and kindred delectable by-ways, for disorderly conduct and drunken disturbances of the peace. They await the action of Mayor Tabb. There was one white female among the crowd. We would like some of the Fejee Island tribe of philanthropists—the Mrs. Jelliby's—to visit Norfolk, and make an inspection of a few of our lanes and alleys, where the idle, the vicious, and the disorderly most do congregate, and judge for themselves of the amount of misery, filth, sloth and disease, that must be bred, created and engendered in these places. We think they would be willing to confess that charity should begin at home, and that there existed a real necessity of doing something, even by legal enactment, to put an end to such an "inhuman" condition of affairs. The misery of the miserables is truly sickening, and if some better police regulations with regard to cleanliness, and a prompt improvement of the condition of these people, be not adopted, it is difficult to predict what evils Norfolk may not be forced to meet and suffer. The tenement houses in New York are nothing to compare in the matters of vice and misery with those of Norfolk. We want a remedy, and a prompt one.

A TIMELY IMPROVEMENT.—Our town clock, in the cupola of Christ Church, has resumed its duties, which had been suspended during the war, urged thereto by the skill and handicraft of Mr. Geo. A. Rowe, the enterprising jeweller, who has opened his new store in the building recently erected on Main street by the Kimberly's. Singularly enough this clock has appeared to be in a rebellious mood ever since the "Great Rebellion" was inaugurated. The "hands" could not "strike," but they persisted in refusing to move round the dial plate, and were aided and abetted in their treason by the clapper and the weights, which for weighty reasons failed in the performance of their "works." But the times are changed now—*tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis*—and so has the town clock. We trust the repairs made by Mr. Rowe will not prove merely temporary; and think the city authorities, by a timely appropriation for that purpose, should insure the works of the clock from again becoming sadly out of joint. The clock is now regularly striking the hour, and goes so far as to regulate the sun. Our people can rely upon its correctness, and set their repeaters and patent levers accordingly. Mr. Rowe has our unreserved and undivided thanks, and should receive some substantial acknowledgement from the City Fathers for repairing and keeping in repair this clock, which is no small task.

P. S.—The clock has stopped again, How are you, "town clock?"

A STORM.—When it rains in these parts it does so in earnest and to some purpose. We have seldom seen a heavier falling of the waters than that with which we were visited on Saturday last. The wind was very high too, and the torrents of water were driven through the streets and against the houses in blinding drifts, drenching all who were unfortunate enough to be abroad and without a shelter. An immense quantity of water fell within one short half hour, and the cisterns, which had become very low, were pretty well filled, thus affording great relief to the people, who had begun to feel some anxiety in regard to a failure of the supply of water; for we have to depend entirely upon the clouds for that necessary beverage and agent of cleanliness. The lightning, during the storm, was very vivid, flash succeeding flash with continuing rapidity, and the thunder crashed with a force that fairly shook the earth. It is seldom we witness an electric display of the elements so fearfully grand. We heard of no damage being done, but the city was washed pretty clean of its accumulated filth and the atmosphere was cool and pleasant during the remainder of the evening and night, and yesterday it continued at a comfortable temperature.

MR. HORACE GREELEY, of the Atlantic bar, gives it as his opinion that the best thing to do this warm weather, is to take a mild mint julep, and to take it coolly.

LUDICROUS, BUT DANGEROUS.—The steamship Creole came to our wharf yesterday, loaded down with veterans home ward bound. They covered her decks from stem to stern thickly as blackberries in June, meaning nothing invidious by the comparison, for they were all white. As the vessel was leaving the wharf, a fat citizen, about the size of three barrels of lager beer, made a desperate effort to jump aboard, but missed and went under. He soon emerged, and appeared on the surface spouting and floundering like a young whale calf. A rope was thrown him, and after being dragged for some time, he was finally brought forth dripping with brine, even as a mackerel.—He felt better when on deck, but was decidedly wet.

This incident had scarcely been got through with so happily, when overboard went a soldier—a true representative of the 'Green Isle.' He caught very quickly and fortunately to the fender, and held on crying out lustily, "Arrah, be after throwing me a rope, and be d——d to yez." A rope with a noose attached was thrown to him, which he at once proceeded to adjust around his neck. Some gentlemen ashore called out to him to put it under his arms or he would be strangled. "Be the Lord," said he, "I'd rather be hung than drowned and if yez can only save my life by hanging, I'll forgive yez." He was finally induced to put the rope under his arms, but as he was being pulled up a bottle of whiskey, which he had all the while kept a tight hold on, got away from him and was floating off. "Save the fishkey! save the fishkey! and never mind me; if that bottle's gone I might as well be a dead man." The spectators laughed, and Pat and the whiskey were both saved. After he got safely on board he shook himself, and, taking the bottle, looked lovingly at it, saying: "Be garrah, but ye had a narrow escape, me darlin."

CLEANING THE CITY.—On Saturday the city received a general cleansing, so far as the streets required it, in more ways than one. After market hours the garbage around the market and the filth which had accumulated in the gutters, was carefully swept into piles and then carted away. But this is not all that is necessary if the health and cleanliness of Norfolk would be preserved during the summer. Cleaning in this manner is something after the fashion of a man dressing in fine, clean outer-garments, while his underclothing is left in quiet and undisturbed possession of filth and uncleanliness. The backyards and lanes generally, are in a very unclean condition, and need the special attention of our new authorities. They are reeking and festering breeders of malaria, deadly when inhaled into the lungs, and breeders of all the ills that flesh is heir to. What we require is good police regulations in this respect, and a system of inspection of hidden places that will be perfect and inexorable. The police of a town or city should be as perfect in regard to cleanliness as that of a military camp, and should be enforced by heavy penalties. In self-defence the people should be forced into cleanliness.

REDUCTION IN FARES.—The readers of the *Post* will see, by referring to our advertising columns, that a reduction in fare has been made to City Point and Richmond on the "New Line." There are no finer steamers in this trade than the City Point, Capt. Talbot, and Dictator, Capt. Deering. Their officers are clever and obliging gentlemen, the servants attentive, and the boats swift, safe and reliable in every respect. Mr. H. V. Tompkins, the courteous agent at the wharf, will furnish all information in regard to the line. A similar reduction will be made in regard to the Baltimore boats—the George Leary, Capt. Blakemore, and James T. Brady, Capt. Landis. These are also fine boats, and not surpassed, in any respect, by others arriving at this port. The route by way of Baltimore is considered the safest and most expeditious to the North.

THE KILLING OF JAKEMAN.—The parties who were arrested and have been in confinement on the charge of being engaged in the killing of young Robert Jakeman, at Chenoweth's Restaurant, election night, had a hearing on Saturday before the Court and were bound over in the sum of $800 each for their appearance at Court for trial. The fact of their being admitted to bail in so small a sum, would seem to indicate that either the evidence against them is very slight or the act was not without some justification. The names of the accused are Thomas F. Edwards, and O. M. Dearborn. As we have no desire to either defeat the ends of justice or prejudice the case of the prisoners, we refrain from giving the rumor of evidence on the preliminary examination which kind of evidence is ever *ex parte* and unreliable.

THE STEAMER YAZOO, CAPT. G. W. COUCH, arrived at her wharf at 9½ P. M., yesterday, with passengers, and freight to J. M. Renshaw & Co. Consignees—Sherman Brothers, C. A. Smith, E. P. Tabb & Co., Sargent & Wheelock, G. W. Hadden, George Langster, B. W. Conant, W. Heins, E. Ullman, J. E. Thompson, N. A. Thompson & Co., R. R. Parker, J. D. Ostrom, American Soap Company, J. Weisel, Huyck & Veagry, Rice Brothers, M. A. & C. A. Santos, G. N. Cromby, W. R. Hudgins, Marston & Meek, S. B. & Co., B. & H., M. & L., Adams' Express Company, L. Hamberger, E. Plato, S. G. Tuttle, Seldner & Co., R. R. Smith & Co., E. E. Staples, E. Campe, L. E. Wise, R. R. Cobb & Co., C. N. Gregory, A. L. Seabury, Broughton & Co., Dickenson & Elvers, William Mehegan, Captain Bloodgood, B. F. Bockover, A. Legrain, E. M. Brown, J. J. W., N. A. T., A. G. N., M. G. & Co., B. & Co., M. & W.

STREET WALKERS.—We do not see the philosophy of yielding up Main street to colored strumpets. Perhaps the "oldest inhabitants" can explain. From sundown until midnight, crowds of saucy, vulgar, profane and horrid monstrosities crowd the walk, swearing and shouting as they go, and accosting sailors and soldiers and citizens and urging them to go with them to their dens. Clear them out, Mr. Policeman, clear them out.—These women will not work—"the bird that can sing, and won't sing, ought to be made to sing—if they can help it; but they should be forced to do so. They have had four years of *liberty*; a little restraint will do them no harm now.

EXCURSIONISTS.—The old Massachusetts, formerly well known in these waters as a reliable government transport, paid us a flying visit yesterday *en route* from Baltimore to Richmond, with an excursion party of some fifty on board. She had been newly painted and thoroughly repaired, and looked altogether lovely. We trust the excursionists will have a pleasant time of it, and not get ruined amid the ruins of the Confederate Capital. Aside from the burnt district there is considerable "blue ruin" in those parts.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—Two colored servants of the Atlantic Hotel—Jefferson Davis (formerly the body servant of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston) and Thomas Glover, were robbed on Saturday night about 11 o'clock, corner of Queen and Monroe streets, by *soldiers* who commanded the men to halt, and then examined their pockets. Davis was robbed of $2.50, and Glover of a pistol. The soldiers cursed their victims heartily and then ordered them to "track."

WELL GUARDED.—The city was well guarded in all quarters last night, and thoroughly patroled by the military authorities, and consequently there was no renewal of the disturbances of the previous night. Col. Mann is apparently determined to see that we have peace and quietness, and our citizens will thank him for the course he is adopting to secure such a result.

CALIFORNIA WINES.—The imbibers of these wines represent them to be superior in quality and flavor to most other wines now extant. We take their word for it, and suppose they are. Henry P. Wooster, No. 12 Campbell's Wharf, is the agent in this city for these wines, representing Perkins, Stern & Co., of New York and Boston.

"A PERFECT BRICK"—By reference to the advertisement of Bradford & Renick, it would appear that the force of this familiar saying has been realized. Great results are promised by this new invention for the manufacture of brick. It may be well for our brick-making readers to give it a trial.

ROBBED ON A STEAMBOAT.—T. Jones, on his passage down from Richmond, in the steamer Thomas Colyer, yesterday, was robbed of his watch. Look out for thieves, gentlemen.

ALL THAT'S BRIGHT MUST FADE, is not applicable to a fine set of teeth brushed with Fragrant Sozodant. Its protective, preservative and beautifying properties will preserve the whiteness, soundness and natural polish of good teeth throughout life. And when unsound, it will arrest decay, and remove from the breath the taint which decomposition generates.

THE RUSSIAN EPIDEMIC.—Copies of the following letter addressed to the Department of State have been forwarded to the collectors of several ports:—

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
PORT MAHON, May 31, 1865.

"*Hon. W. Hunter, Acting Secretary of State to the United States:*—

"Sir: I have the honor to inform the department that, from various sources, information has been received here that the Russian plague is extending westward more rapidly than is generally supposed. Some of the faculty call it contagious, others do not.

"I would respectfully suggest that all cargoes arriving in the United States from Russian or Turkish ports be subjected to a rigid scrutiny before landing, especially bedding, clothing, rags, &c. The disease is said to be the same as that which visited London over a century ago.

"I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

"H. B. ROBINSON, Consul.

Official Circular of Secretary of the Treasury McCulloch.

DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS FOR THE RENEWAL OF TRADE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 27, 1865.

The various rules and regulations heretofore prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury in regard to the above named subjects having been rendered nugatory in whole or in part by the changed condition of affairs in the Southern States, and Executive orders and proclamations, and the War Department having assumed charge of freedmen, abandoned lands, &c., under the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1865, the following instructions as to the duties of officers of the Treasury Department in the premises are prescribed, and will be regarded as in full force and effect immediately on receipt thereof by any officer whose action is in any wise affected thereby:—

First—All restrictions on commercial intercourse in and with States and parts of States heretofore declared in insurrection, and on the purchase, transportation and sale of the product thereof, are removed, except as to the transportation thereto or therein of arms, ammunition, articles from which ammunition is made, gray uniforms and gray cloth, and except also those relating to property heretofore purchased by the agents or captured by or surrendered to the military forces of the United States; nor will any fees or taxes be charged or collected except those imposed by the customs and internal revenue laws; and the supervision necessary to prevent the shipment of the prohibited articles will be exercised only by the regular and ordinary officers of the customs, acting under the revenue laws of the United States.

Second.—Subordinate officers discharging duties in regard to commercial intercourse under the regulations referred to, will consider their official connection with this department terminating with the 30th inst. without further notice.

Third.—Agents for the purchase of products of the insurrectionary States, on government account, will close their official business east of the Mississippi river with the transactions of the 13th inst., and west of it with the transactions of the 24th inst., returning to sellers all property or money received or collected since those dates respectively, and using such despatch in the premises that their connection with the department may, if possible, terminate with the 30th inst.

Fourth.—Officers of this department charged with the duty of receiving and collecting, or having in their possession or under their control, captured, abandoned or confiscable property, will dispose of the same in accordance with regulations on the subject heretofore prescribed, at the earliest time consistent with the public interests, and will refrain from receiving such from military or naval authorities after the 30th inst. This will not be considered, however, as interfering with the operations of the agents now engaged in receiving or collecting the property recently captured by or surrendered to the forces of the United States, whether or not covered by or included in the records, &c., delivered to the United States military or Treasury authorities by rebel military officers or cotton agents. Those so acting will continue to discharge the duties thus imposed until such property is all received or satisfactorily accounted for, and until the amount so secured is shipped or otherwise disposed of under the regulations on the subject heretofore prescribed; and they will use all the means at their command with the utmost vigor to the end that all the property so collected, captured or turned over shall be secured to the United States with the least possible cost and delay. After the 30th inst., the duty of receiving captured and abandoned property, not embraced in the above exception, will be discharged by the usual and regular officers of the customs at the several places they may be located in accordance with the regulations relating to the subject; and officers heretofore performing that duty will give them all the aid and information in their power to enable them to carry out the same.

Fifth.—Officers of this department charged with the care or supervision of, or having in their possession or under their control, any abandoned or confiscable lands, houses or tenements, will turn them over to a duly authorized officer of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, so far as they may be required or demanded by the same, together with all moneys, books, records and papers arising from or relating to the property so turned over, taking proper vouchers or receipts therefor. This rule will also govern the actions of all agents of this department connected in any way with the care of freedmen, &c., so far as it may be applicable; and all persons asking for any information in regard to the property so turned over, or for the release of the same, or for the release of any moneys or proceeds arising therefrom, will be referred to the Commissioner of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, at Washington, to whom communications on the subject should be addressed.

Sixth—Officers of this department having in their possession, or under their control, any moneys whatever arising from fees collected under the commercial intercourse regulations, except those collected for the benefit of freedmen (which will be disposed of under section five) or from the sales of captured, abandoned or confiscated property, will forthwith deposit the same with the nearest assistant treasurer, designated depository or deposit bank, keeping the amounts from the different sources separate, to the credit of H. A. Risly, Esq., Supervising Special Agent, &c., taking therefor receipts quadruplicate, which receipts must show whence the sums were received, one of which will be retained by the officer so depositiug, one forthwith sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, one to the Commissioner of Customs, and one to Mr. Risly, at Washington.

Seventh.—All officers above referred to, except proper officers of the customs acting exclusively under the revenue laws, will, after they have closed their official business, as above directed, and sold at auction to the highest bidder the furniture and property remaining on hand, and accounted for by the proceeds of the same, forthwith systematically arrange the books, records, papers, &c., of their late offices, that they may easily be referred to and examined, pack them in secure and waterproof boxes and forward the same, so marked as to indicate their contents, together with their respective resignations, addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, Washington City. HUGH MCCULLOCH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

The Amherst (Mass.) Express has an advertisement of a pew for sale in the Congregational church in that town. The present owner says: "The man that owns the pew owns the right of a space just as long as the pew is from the bottom of the meeting-house to the top or roof, and he can go as much higher as he can get. If a man will buy my pew and sit in it on Sundays, and repent and be a good man, he will go to heaven, and my pew is as good a place to start from as any pew in the meeting-house."

THE NEWS.

Judge Miller, of the United States Supreme Court has rendered a very important decision. He discharged a man who had aided in securing fraudulent exemptions, and who was indicted therefor, on the ground that that provision of the draft law was void, as it did not fix a certain term of punishment. The penalty provided was imprisonment during the existence of the rebellion, and the Court held thai it was impossible to ascertain any definite length of time of imprisonment under such a law. There were twenty-five or thirty cases to be tried for the same offence, and this decision releases them all.

John Connell and Nicholas Bradley on Tuesday last entered the banking establishment of Conklin Brothers & Co., Cincinnati, at noon, and while Mr. J. B. Conklin was there alone, assaulted him with a slung shot, intending to commit a robbery. They were defeated by Mr. Conklin, and were subsequently caught, though one of them discharged a revolver while he tried to escape, wounding an officer, Emanuel Auchey, in the wrist.

Two hundred and fifty freedmen's teachers are now employed in Virginia alone.

Major General Saxton has arrived in Washington from South Carolina.

Mosby, the guerrilla chief has received the same terms of parole accorded to General Lee's army, and has settled down at Culpeper, where he has opened a lawyer's office.

The colored people of Washington will have a celebration on the Fourth, on the grounds adjoining the White House. Major General Hunter is to deliver the oration, and the Rev. John Pierpont the poem.

The Government expenses during the past year amounted to three and a half millions per day.

The Treasury Department has now cash enough on hand to pay all the coin interest on Government securities falling due prior to next February.

Judge Campbell of Alabama, Alfred Rhett of South Carolina, and S. R. Mallory of Florida, are among the recent applicants for pardons.

The Government is making arrangements to send to Atlanta a sufficient quantity of supplies to relieve the necessities of the people in that section, who, for some time past, have been reduced to the last extremities by famine.

J. B. McFerrin, D. D., the well-known book agent of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and one of the most prominent Methodist Episcopal preachers in the Southwest, has received a full pardon and amnesty.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, between Baltimore, Washington and the West, which has been under military control during the war, has been restored to the management of the Company.

The Commissary General reports yet in Federal hands about ten thousand prisoners, exclusive of the officers above the rank of captain. He thinks they will all be released within ten days, though they are not likely to be all sent South in that time.

Governor Bramlete of Kentucky has addressed the citizens of Louisville in favor of the constitutional amendment prohibiting slavery.

A land slide on the Redwood River has brought to light a coal bed which is three feet thick, three hundred and fifty feet wide, and nobody knows how long. It makes quite an excitement in that region, but will probably prove to be drift coal. This coal mine is about one hundred and ten miles west of St. Paul, and is within a mile of the Minnesota River.

The State Department has sent circulars to all the cities, giving the substance of information recently received from our Minister in Russia, respecting the plague, which is spreading Westward with great rapidity. Precautionary measures are suggested, and the attention of the authorities is urgently invited for the immediate adoption of sanitary improvements.

The first train on the repaired Orange and Alexandria R. R., was started on Friday. The entire road to Richmond, via Gordonsville, will be in operation in ten days.

The romantic atfachment between Lord Hood and the Princess Mary, was the subject of considerable gossip some months ago. The dream of an alliance between royalty and an inferior nobility has now vanished, the fashionable papers having announced that his lordship is to be married to Miss Edith Ward, a daughter of a gentleman of fortune.

A fair is now in progress in Milwaukee for the purpose of raising a fund to secure for invalid and impoverished Wisconsin soldiers a comfortable home.

A Grand Jury in East Tennesse has unanimously declined Judge Trigg's order to indict Governor Brownlow for executing some law of the United States while he was Treasury Agent. Judge Trigg held it to be unconstitutional.

FAREWELL ORDER OF GEN. MEADE TO THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.—The following order of General Meade to the Army of the Potomac was published yesterday in Washington:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, June 28, 1865.

Soldiers: This day, two years ago, I assumed command, under the orders of the President of the United States. Today, by virtue of the same authority, the army ceasing to exist, I have to announce my transfer to other duties and my separation from you.

It is unnecessary to enumerate all that has occurred in these two eventful years: from the great and decisive battle of Gettysburg, the turning point of the war, to the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House.

Suffice it to say that history will do you justice; a grateful country will honor the living, cherish and support the disabled, and sincerely mourn the dead.

In parting from you, your commanding general will ever bear in memory your noble devotion to your country, your patience and cheerfulness under all the privations and sacrifices you have been called upon to endure.

Soldiers: Having accomplished the work set before us, having vindicated the honor and integrity of our government and flag, let us return thanks to Almighty God for His blessing in granting victory and peace, and let us earnestly pray for strength and light to discharge our duties as citizens as we have endeavored to discharge them as soldiers.

GEO. G. MEADE.
Major-General U. S. A.

Arrivals at the Atlantic Hotel, July 1.

J B White, N C; Lieut Leonard, 13th N Y Arty; T C Wootten, Portsmouth; A M Willett, P A Co, Va; Jno A Segar, Fort Monroe; Geo Welsh; Jno A Branch, U S A; Mr Rogers; A McHaffey, Baltimore; Jno C Taten, N C; Thos Brisco, Baltimore; Jos V Nash, Baltimore; Jno Lenzberg, Baltimore; Willis S Coclar, 103th Pa Vol; S M Evans, 103th Pa Vol; L S Dockey, 103th Pa Vol; Logan Hurst, N K Co, Va; O D Huyck, City; Henry Smith, Md; A Bais; S D Adams, 13th N Y Arty; Jno Pretlow, North Carolina; A P Cherry, North Carolina; R S Thompson, Petersburg, Va; W W Madison, S Carolina. J. H. White, T. T. Cropper, Richmond, Va.; John H. Nudd, Portsmouth; Miss Dunnill, F. Marine, New York; B. F. Billips, city; D. H. Sullivan, Troy; Major Kalt, Dr. D. Larkey, New York; A. L. Fallett, E. B. Briggs, Georgia; William T. Joynes, Petersburg, Va.; N. C. Robertson, Baltimore; H. L. Deckel, New York; Myers Newman, Wortz, Baltimore; John B. Langley, city; Charles F. Pretlow, P. N. Murphey, North Carolina; J. R. Ware, G. W. Harrison and wife, Virginia.

MEXICO.

THE ALLEGED FIRING UPON FRENCH OFFICERS AT MATAMORAS BY AMERICAN TROOPS—"DIPLOMATIC" CORRESPONDENCE.

[From the Matamoras Commerce, June 13.]

On Sunday evening, the 11th instant, at half-past 5 o'clock, two officers of the Foreign Legion, coming from Santa Cruz, dismounted from their horses, and at the moment of remounting they were fired on from the Texas bank by a man placed there as sentinel. On being informed of this affair, the commander of the French troops addressed the following letter to General Brown, commanding the troops at Brownsville:

MATAMORAS, June 11.

GENERAL:—One of your soldiers, stationed above Brownsville, fired on two of my officers when coming from Santa Cruz.

You have no diplomatic character, no letter of credentials—nor I.

I therefore write to you simply as a private individual, in order to express my utter contempt for the wanton offense committed by one of the men for whom you are responsible.

BARON DE BRIAN
Commander of the Detachment of the Legion.

[General Brown paid no attention to this delicate note, it seems, whereupon the belligerent De Brian favored him with another letter.]

MATAMORAS, June 15, 1865.

MR. BROWN: The epaulets of a general are sacred in his sight. They represent a career full of dignity, and honored by arduous service. They are the crowning reward of forty years of self-denial and devotion. All the European generals, and many in the New World, have these glorious claims; thus the commandant has felt happy and honored by being placed at the service of his excellency General Mejia. If these officers who reckon on many years of service, and can point to such brilliant records, should receive from any subaltern a letter, in more or less violent terms, they would treat it as so much waste paper. The cowardice or rascality of him who would have had the impudence to write it, would deserve nothing more.

But, if a man, taken out of some shop, one knows not which, is improvised a general from one day to another, and without even the most trifling military exploit in his history, pretends to claim a superiority over persons who have seen twenty years of service and campaigns, why then, in truth, but little notice should be taken of him, unless one might cause himself to be aroused once or twice at night to have a hearty laugh over him. In fact; to feel vexed at him would be disgraceful to so many officers, who, the world over, respect the military hierarchy, and who form a kind of brotherhood among themselves. The levelling method of proceeding must be used, a method which those persons abuse, when they endeavor to place themselves on a footing with those who have grown grey under the harness, after nobly devoting their whole life. This is the reason why the commandant who reverences military services, and will never permit them to be prostituted, has written somewhat cavalierly to Mr. Brown, as an individual.

BARON DE BRIAN,
Commander of the Detachment of the Legion.

AN IMPERIALIST PAPER'S COMMENTS ON "MR." BROWN'S COURSE—A "LIVRET" SUGGESTED.

In order to let the readers of the *Commerce* know what would be