The Norfolk Post

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1865.

All communications relating to business matters connected with this paper should be addressed to E. N. 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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THE AMERICAN POLICY.

Among the peculiarities of Americans which Europeans, and especially our cousin John Bull, do not understand, perhaps there is none to them more unaccountable than the ease and readiness with which we adapt ourselves to circumstances. When we are on the eve of a presidential election, the whole American people seem to be on the verge of a revolution. Excited orators from stumps and barrel heads, appeal to the people and cry for vengeance on their oppressors. Indeed, if one were to judge by these signs only, he would certainly think that the whole fabric of American institutions was to be at once overturned and the entire country laid in ruins. What, however, is the actual result? The next morning's sun after the election looks down upon as peaceable a set of people as the most Utopian dreamer could desire. The orator lately so inflamed, seats himself quietly down to his briefs; the champion of State rights, only yesterday a raging lion, is to-day driving the jack-plane in his shop; and the knight of the shillaly who was going to overturn by force of arms the successful candidates, is seen ascending the ladder with his hod as peaceable as a lamb. This is what an Englishman or a Frenchman cannot understand. In England, to say the least, the ebbing and flowing from such an ocean of electioneering excitement is felt for many a day among all classes.—The late election in England has been one of of the most exciting known to British history, though no serious questions were at issue. In France the small fraction of the crowd that gather around any of the polls in American country towns would be sufficient to set the *sans-culottes* building baracades and the French soldiery marching through the streets with carbines loaded and sabres drawn. When, therefore, our neighbors across the water look upon us, expecting, and perhaps hoping for a similar result, they see, instead of storm and tempest, the smooth calm of a summer's sea.

But if such is the case in a simple election abroad, it is not strange that foreigners should look with so much doubt on our ability to stand the shock of the most violent civil war ever known. Indeed the course of a large part of the English press has been based on this belief that the war would leave such a complete state of demoralization at the North and the South as to amount to a defeat, and leave to the government a barren conquest.—And there was, it must be confessed, great cause for alarm, not yet wholly passed by. The future, at times, has looked very black, and there are dark clouds still in the sky. The individual good sense of each American citizen has averted some evils; and the elasticity of our national character has risen as quickly as it had been depressed. We accommodate ourselves rapidly to the changed position. The press, that but lately was filled with letters from the battle-field, now records the deeds of the pen and the plough. Vast armies, whose numbers a short half-year since were as legion, have quickly and quietly melted away. The wild flowers of the forest, that but yesterday bent before the rude tread of armed men, have already arisen clothed with fresh beauty; and the forge, having ceased to turn out darts for Mars, hastens to engage in the more agreeable service of Flora.

Already, indeed, at times the past seems literally like a hideous dream—or, perhaps, resembles more the drama of a night. The scene shifts; the figures in glittering costumes play their part; the audience applaud until the house resounds with huzzas. Soon, however, the figures retire; the curtain falls; the lights are extinguished; and, instead of the plaudits of a delighted multitude, quiet and sombre shadows fall upon the deserted building. It remains for us now to justify the high reputation of our people by pursuing peace to prosperity. In former times we have passed from excitement into calmness, and the fury of the contest has vanished with its smoke. Let it be so now. The moment is critical, and the men who now desire to keep passion excited and hatred burning are the worst enemies of the country.

THE LADIES ON THE STREET.

Amid all the rare enticements of business speculations, who is there who cannot find time to give one thought to the "dear creatures" passing by his door? If there be any sinner so hardened in his heart that he does not feel a quicker palpitation, an electric thrill as "Heaven's last best gift" floats airily towards him, then we vote him a "horrid wretch," who is fit for nothing on the earth but to be an old, lone bachelor all the days of his life.

Like bright gleams of sunshine flashing through the waving tree-tops down into the dark recesses of the cheerless forest, is the dear, delightsome presence of the ladies on the street. Flashing around the corners, flitting along the square, gliding in and out of fancy stores and gay dry goods bazars, wherever they go shedding a benign influence upon all observers, and throwing a ray of light and love over the dismal labors of the day.

Like the coming of spring birds is their presence—cheering, gladdening, attractive. Who does not love to hear them chirping and chattering, and musically laughing on the street? They seem to be ever singing in sweet, though voiceless, melody, a choral song with the feathered minstrels whom God hath taught. And we, too, busy men, catch the inspiration. In our hearts the notes are ringing—

"I am so blithe and glad to-day!
My heart beside the bluebird sings,
And folds, serene, its weary wings,
And knows the hours lead on to May!"

Like a dream that leaves us happy is their passing through the streets,—like a dream, but ah! far deeper the impression which they make. Dreams come when mind and body are at rest. The ladies glide by when our being is on the rack. When the weary muscle aches and the brain is all in action. How the wrinkled brow relaxes and the hard-set mouth is softened into smiles by their coming on the street!

Like the odor of Spring flowers gathered by affection's hand, is their coming and their going, their voices and their glances, in the gloomy marts of business—the dull and crowded streets. They bless with a gentler feeling and fan fraternal love, till the coldest bosom catches a spark of the blessed emotions; and they keep the cares of business from cankering the soul.

Like message-bearing angels is their coming on the street; for they tell of rest and home; tell us of a higher sphere; of a better, purer life, and a holier existence; tell us of virtue, peace and love round one's own domestic hearth, where no rival dares to enter, whence the demon, Care, is banished. Tell of mercy and forgiveness; tell of Hope in full fruition; tell of loved one's up in Heaven—angel forms forever praising round the Great White Throne above!

Thus their presence is refining, elevating and reforming as they glide along the street. Let them come forth, then, in numbers, with their smiling happy faces and their bright and laughing eyes and their little winning ways, making graceful, soulful music of all the din and noise. Let them know they have a mission, a high and holy mission—on the street!

As a matter of interest and information to the numerous friends, and family connections of the late Colonel Ulric Dahlgren, U. S. A., we publish the official report of Captain Hoffman, of the recovery of the Colonel's watch, in connection with that of his remains, by the Richmond Union men:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY POLICE,
NORFOLK, VA., July 31, 1865.

It affords me great pleasure to have been instrumental in capturing and returning the accompanying relic of the heroic and renowned Colonel Dahlgren, to his relatives and friends.

This watch was taken from the body of Colonel Dahlgren, after he had fallen a victim to a successful ambuscade, by the Lieut. Hart, of the rebel cavalry. It was proudly shown in rebeldom as a very important relic, until Colonel Ould entered into negotiations for its recovery; then, fearing to be dispossessed of it, its captor concluded that it would be more safely concealed in other hands; it consequently changed hands several times. I received information which made it positive that the watch was in the possession of a certain gentleman, a resident of this city, but lately from Richmond. I arrested him in person, told him that I must either have the watch or himself, and convinced him that I would take no refusal.

I finally released him under a bond of $1,000, to produce the watch, which he said was in Matthews County, in his wife's trunk. Inside of 48 hours, the watch was placed in my possession, and by me turned over to Brevet Brigadier General O. L. Mann, Commanding Sub-District, Norfolk, Va.

Very Respectfully,
(Signed) W. HOFFMAN,
Captain 6th N. Y. Art'y,
Chief of Police.

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

MAYOR'S COURT.—This Court was occupied on Saturday principally in examining cases for violation of the ordinances, in running public and private vehicles without the proper licenses, and not being numbered and marked as the law directs.

FOR THE information of our numerous readers, and the public generally, we publish the report *in extenso* of the case tried in the Mayor's Court on Friday last, August 4th, of Gaskins *vs.* Deaby, for servant hire during the year 1862, upon warrant for debt on bond for negro hire for the above mentioned year.

"Defendant refused to pay hire after the occupation of Norfolk by General Wool, May 10, 1862, alleging, that the negro became so demoralized by the idea of freedom, that she would not work satisfactorily, though she remained upon his lot throughout the year, and refused to leave."

Wm. H. C. Ellis, for the plaintiff, made profit of the bond, and relied upon the decision of Chancellor Taylor, in George *vs.* Elliott, 2, Hening and Munford, as an authority fully sustaining the claim, to-wit: "If a slave, who is hired for a year, is sick or runs away, the tenant must pay the hire; if the slave die, without any fault in the tenant, the owner should lose the hire, &c." In this case, the slave did not die, or even run away. The evidence showed that she was insubordinate, but failed to establish the defendant's plea that she would not work.

Charles Sharp, for the defence:—"The decision in George *vs.* Elliott, is not applicable to the present case. It was adapted to a state of society which passed away with the Federal occupation of Norfolk; it was in conformity with the laws and customs regulating slavery which *practically* ceased to exist on the 10th of May, 1862—the relation between master and slave, after that time, being suspended if not annihilated, by the practice of the Government, which refused to sustain the owner or hirer—for war purposes, pronouncing the slave to be contraband.

To protect the owner from collusion between the hirer and slave, in case of a runaway, the hire was formerly demandable. In May, 1862, the demoralized slave became dead to the owner and the hirer. This case was analogous, not to that of a fugitive, for the hireling did *not* runaway—her refusal to work and the inability of the hirer to compel her beneficial service, amounted, in fact, to living death, so far as service was concerned.

This being a warrant, not an action at law governed by the technical rules of pleading and evidence, the plaintiff's demand is really founded on a claim for meritorious service—he is to recover what he deserves—if the defendant has derived no benefit from the services of the slave, he deserves nothing, and there should be judgment against him. Warrants are tried, under the act of Assembly, upon principles of law and equity. At law the claim is co-extensive with the benefit—here, then, has been no benefit, and, if there has been no beneficial use, there shall be no pay. This would unquestionably be the correct rule, if the bond was payable to a white man who negligently or faithlessly executed the work he had hired himself to perform. Farnworth *vs.* Gerrard, 1 Campbell Nisi Prius, 63. And, if the work done was wholly inadequate to answer the purpose for which it was contracted then defendant may be let into such defence, as well where the plaintiff declares in assumpsit upon a *quantum meruit*, as in debt or covenant upon a contract (or bond?) *to do the work for a certain price.* Basten *vs.* Butler, 7 East, 479.

A (free) servant, hired for a year, who refuses to obey his master's orders, may lawfully be dismissed before the end of the year; the master is not bound to keep a useless and burdensome servant to the end of the year.—Spain *vs.* Arnott, 2 Starkie, 256.

In this case Mr. Denby endeavored to procure the removal from his lot of a burdensome servant, but she refused to go. But she was a slave until the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, and the plaintiff relies upon the old laws of Virginia, applicable to a state of society which began to pass away in 1862; and, in 1865, after slavery has died, he seeks the benefit of decisions and enactments intended to protect the institution when it was alive.

Here Equity interposes and demands that this case shall be tried upon the principles of law applicable to free labor.

In the case of the white laborer, when there is no beneficial service, there is no pay—let it be so with the former labor system of the South, after slavery was demoralized and rendered worthless by commotion, war, and the *vis major* of a government unfriendly to its existence."

Ellis, in reply:—"The evidence offered by the defendant has failed to support his plea. It does not appear that beneficial service was not rendered—it is shown that the hireling continued on the promises and performed some service; it is not proved that the defendant applied to General Viele for relief of any kind—his only complaint to the plaintiff was that she was not a good cook. Doubtless, the servant was less valuable to the hirer after May 10, 1862; but that was not due to *vis major*. Slavery was not abolished by proclamation until 1863, and, then, Norfolk was specially excepted from its operation. Slaves remained slaves in Norfolk throughout 1862, and this slave continued to be the servant of the defendant for a full year. Neither the act of God, nor the power of the United States Government operated to extinguish the contract—there was no irresistible force excited impairing the value of the services of the slave. The servant did not die, nor was she induced to run away, the military authorities did not intervene—she continued in service as a slave, and worked, perhaps, ineffectually, but still worked for the hirer as his servant; and the hireling, being a slave, could not sustain an action at law against the hirer for the hire. The plaintiff fully executed his part of the contract when he delivered the slave to the defendant, and took his bond; it was the misfortune of the defendant that, in time of war, when the servant was hired, she did not serve as well as in time of peace; it was not the fault of the plaintiff; possibly it might be the fault of the defendant; it was not due to any intervention of the government or army. In this case Equity would afford no relief. Equity follows the law, and is framed by the principles of law. Judgment should now be rendered for the plaintiff, and the defendant be compelled to resort to a Court of Equity for relief against the judgment, by way of injunction, as in George *vs.* Elliott.

But, upon the evidence adduced, the defendant is not entitled to relief [illegible] law or equity."

The Mayor intimated that if *vis major*, on the part of the Government, had actually rendered the services of the slave worthless to the hirer, he would probably decide to *abate* the plaintiff's demand; but such was not the evidence in this case—and judgment for the plaintiff was ordered.

HUSTINGS COURT, CITY OF PORTSMOUTH.—The case of the Commonwealth *vs.* Henry Smith, charged with the murder of Edward Haughton, was called, but upon motion of the Commonwealth's Attorney the case was continued until the next term of the Court, in consequence of the absence of important witnesses in behalf of the Commonwealth, which are absent on board the U. S. steamer "Chicopee."

MAYOR'S COURT, PORTSMOUTH.—Patrick Weld, charged with stealing money from the drawer of Mr. John Mahoney—charge not sustained and the accused was discharged.

Bridget McGee vs. Martin O'Brien, action for ejectment—defendants required to vacate the premises in five days, under bond of $100.

Amanda March, charged with buying in market to sell again during market hours, in violation of city ordinances—charge not sustained and accused discharged

MILITARY COURT.—On Saturday Gen. Mann presided at this Court. One case was disposed of which was of no importance to the public.

The immense amount of litigation that comes before this Court renders the presiding officer's duty not only onerous, but very confining, it will therefore be necessary for some officer to be detailed especially to attend to it, as it is hardly possible for the General of this district, or "any other man," to carry on the duties and requirements of this Court and attend to the functions and necessary duties appertaining to the command of this district.

MAN SHOT.—We are informed that one of the prisoners confined in the Hard Labor Prison, on Union street, was about 1 o'clock on Sunday morning, shot and killed. From the best information we are in possession of, it appears that the officer in charge while going his rounds to see that "all was right and secure," came across one of the prisoners in the yard with his ball and chain off. He (the officer) interrogated the man as to how he got them off, and the man not giving a satisfactory answer, he proceeded to investigate the facts, when he was set upon by the prisoner. At this state of the affair he drew his pistol and shot the offender. The affair will be investigated, when we hope to be able to publish the facts of the case as developed.

GRAND ROW.—The vicinity of Church and Union streets, on Saturday night, between the hours of 11 and 12, was made hideous with the hootings of drunken brawlers. The interlude was kept up by a general and free fight, to all who felt inclined or inspired with fighting whiskey to take a hand. One man, a government detective, it is reported was badly beaten. The military patrol came along, and after much difficulty succeeded in suppressing the row, by arresting all parties concerned. About 16 of the offenders were marched to the guard house, where they were furnished lodgings for the night, some were discharged yesterday morning, the principals being retained in custody. As several of the liquor shops have been closed in the vicinity, it is more than probable that the whole affair will be fully and rigidly investigated before the military court.

ARRESTED.—A belligerent soldier of the 39th Illinois was arrested on the upper end of Main street, yestegday, for hostile and determined demonstrations upon the patrol. Rather a heavy argument with sticks had to be used by the police guard, before the offender was fully convinced of the very great and essential necessity of "peace and quiet." After the striking argument prevailed, the "Soldier Boy" submitted with a becoming grace, and was escorted to the guard house, where, it is to be hoped, he will have full time to repent of his folly, and the baneful influence of fighting whiskey.

RADKINS IN PORTSMOUTH.—This ubiquitious, and mythical individual, was around rather extensively on Friday night last in Portsmouth, and we hear of several instances of "sells." Radkins, or Paddy Miles' Boy, must have had something to do with that celebrated case of the "Leagued" freeholders. The town pump does say that a certain *Pepper* found his expedition North of very little avail. Oh! Radkins, Radkins, if ever you are caught, the League, and its Doyberry's, will "condemn you to everlasting redemption," if for nothing else, than to make an example of their disinterested motives and to sustain their magnanimous consistencies.

LONG LOOKED FOR, COME AT LAST.—On Saturday afternoon about 5 o'clock, we had quite a refreshing and copious shower of rain. During the night we had repeated showers. On Sunday morning the atmosphere was cool and pleasant, and all nature looked refreshed and invigorated. Our crops and cisterns needed rain, and we congratulate ourselves now upon the good and truly beneficial results of the refreshing showers of Saturday afternoon and night.

IMPORTANT TO TRUCKERS AND AGRICULTURISTS GENERALLY.—Baugh's Raw Bone Phosphate as a fertilizer, is said to be, by those experienced in such matters, superior as a stimulant, to the best Peruvian guano. For particulars see advertisement of M. Howell, agent, India wharf, near the Draw Bridge.

J. C. DAWSON & Co. have just received two hundred half barrels of Massey, Collins & Co.'s Ale, said to be the best beverage known to the civilized world. It is certainly very popular in Norfolk at this time, and with a good head and plenty of X. for all that are *ale*-ing.

WHAT does the *Old Dominion* resemble more than a newspaper? The lithograph of a *cole* mine.

THE WEATHER.—The Thermometer at Dr. W. E. Lewis' Drug Store, under the Atlantic Hotel, indicated the following state of the weather Sunday:

7 A. M.	80°
10 "	88°
1 P. M.	90°
4 "	88°
6 "	86°

FROM THE LAND OF SUNRISE, far off Asia, come the aromatic roots, of which Fragrant SOZODONT is composed. In this preparation the chemistry of the toilet has achieved its most remarkable triumph. Pure, unsullied teeth, and agreeable breath, and absolute exemption from all diseases that affect the gums, are the results of a daily application of the SOZODONT.

Ulric Dahlgren.

His Burial and Exhumation—New Revelations—Midnight Work of Union Men Securing the Body.

[From the Richmond Republic.]

The month of March, 1864, is memorable in Richmond for one of the grandest Union raids that up to that time had menaced the Confederate capital—a raid which was the immediate precursor of Gen. Grant's famous campaign from the Wilderness to James river. The history of this raid is too familiar to the minds of all of our readers to make necessary any recapitulation of it, even if it comported with our space. It is known that Col. Dahlgren, after the attack on Richmond on Tuesday, the 1st of March, did not succeed in forming a junction with Gen. Kilpatrick, and while pushing through King and Queen county, towards Gloucester Point, was killed on the night of Wednesday, March 2, near Walkerton. It is also known that his body was brought to Richmond, but what disposition was made of it by the Confederate authorities was kept a mystery at the time, and the facts, even to this day, have never been published. We purpose to give them to the public for the first time, vouching for their entire authenticity.

When intelligence was received in Richmond of the death of Colonel Dahlgren, messengers were dispatched to bring it to the city for identification. It reached the city on Monday, March 7, by the York river railroad, where it was examined by large numbers of persons. His death had been caused by a gun shot wound in the head. The little finger of one hand had been cut off on the field where he fell by some one anxious to secure, with the least trouble, a valuable diamond ring. That night the body was carried to General Elzey's office, in Belvin's block, and the next day, having been placed in a common pine coffin, of the kind then used for the burial of soldiers, which in turn was placed in a box, was transferred to Oakwood Cemetery, a mile east of the city. The hearse used on this occasion was a four mule street wagon, and the attendants consisted of a Confederate officer of inferior rank, and two soldiers. Arriving at Oakwood, which was the burial place of all soldiers who died at Chimborazo, Howard's Grove, and other hospitals in the eastern portion of the city and suburbs, the negro grave-diggers and other attendants about the cemetery were driven off and ordered to absent themselves until notified that they might return. One of the negroes, now living in the city, having his curiosity excited, secreted himself in the woods near by, determined to see what was to be done. The two soldiers dug a grave, placed the box in it, and covered it up. They then shouted to recall the attendants of the cemetery, and getting into the wagon, returned to the city. The only circumstance in the proceedings that struck the negro as unusual was the mystery observed and the circumstance of the box, no corpse ever having been brought there before except in a pine coffin; but there having been a great deal of talk as to what was to be done with the body of Col. Dahlgren, he at once decided that this could be no other than the corpse of that officer. He, however, kept his opinion to himself at that time.

The question, what had been done with the body of Dhalgren? was the subject of inquiry and conversation for many days in Richmond, to be revived from time to time up to the day of the evacuation.—And there were many stories on the subject—that it had been burnt, sunk in the river, &c. A city paper of that day announced, with a solemn and knowing air, that it would never be found until the trump of doom should sound. A number of Union men of the city, believing it possible that it might be recovered, were anxious to secure and preserve it for the family of the deceased.—Prominent among them was Mr. F. W. E. Lohman, a grocer, doing business near the New Market. Mr. Lohman at once begun his inquires and investigations—which, in the then state of popular feeling, it was necessary to conduct with great caution—determined at whatever cost and risk, to ascertain its fate.—After nearly a month's patient and untiring inquiry, he, with the assistance of Mr. Martin Meredith Lipscomb, whose business it was to attend the interment of all the Union prisoners who died at this post, made the acquaintance of the negro grave-digger whom we have mentioned as being the sole spectator of the burial of Col. Dahlgren. They found him at Oakwook, pursuing his regular business. When first approached on the subject, the negro was very much alarmed, and protested he would have nothing to do with the matter. But after repeated assurance by Mr. Lipscomb, whom he knew well, that he might rely upon Lohman and that no harm should befall him, he consented, on Mr. Lohman's giving him a hundred dollar note, to point out the grave. This he did by walking near and casting a stone upon it, while Lohman and Lipscomb stood at a distance. He was afraid to employ any other method lest he might excite the suspicion of the superintendent of the cemetery or some of the attendants. The grave lay among thousands of those of Confederate soldiers. Subsequently, after a great deal of persuasion and the promise of a liberal reward, the negro agreed to meet Mr. Lohman at the cemetery on the night of the 6th of April, at ten o'clock, and exhume the body.

The appointed night having arrived, Mr. Lohman, his brother, John A. Lohman, and Mr. Lipscomb, started for the cemetery in a cart drawn by a mule. The night was dark and stormy, and well suited to conceal their movements. The party left the city at 9 o'clock, and reached their destination about 10, and there found waiting for them the grave-digger and two assistants. The negroes being assured that all was right, began their work of exhumation, the three white men remaining with the cart outside the enclosure of the cemetery. The heavens were hung with their deepest black; no object ten feet distant could be distinguished, and no sounds broke upon the loneliness of the place save the howling of the winds and the chopping of the resurrectionist's spade. Once the mule, snuffing the tainted air of the city of the dead, attempted to break away, but was quickly quieted by a firm hand.

In twenty minutes from the time the negroes began their work they approached the cart, bearing between them the coffin, which, being badly made, fell to pieces as they rested it on the ground. It was then discovered that the body had not decomposed in any perceptible degree. Mr. Lohman satisfied himself of the identity of the corpse by passing his hand over it. The little finger, torn off to secure the jewel it bore, and the leg lost in battle were missing. He paid the negro, with whom he had contracted, fifteen hundred dollars, and placing the body in the cart, the party started on their return. The mule, alarmed as animals frequently are when drawing a dead body for the first time, became difficult of management, and with the darkness of the night, made the first part of the expedition one of no little peril. More than one hour was spent in reaching the gas lights of the city on Church Hill. It was part of the plan to convey the body to the house of Wm. S. Rowlett, a Union man, living on Chelsea Hill, a half mile northeast of the city there to remain until a metallic case could be procured for it. From Church Hill, Mr. Lohman drove down Broad street to Seventeenth street, thence up Seventeenth street to its northern terminus, and thence up the hill to Mr. Rowlett's, reaching the last place at 2 o'clock on the morning of the 7th of April. Here the body was wrapped in a blanket, and Mr. Lohman came to the city in search of a coffin, which he obtained by the aid of Mr. Lipscomb. On his way into the city from Rowlett's Lohman notified a number of persons of Union sentiments, among whom were several ladies, where the body had been placed, and they hurried out to see it. Several of these persons had seen Col. Dahlgren while he was exposed at the York River Railroad depot, and immediately recognized the body as his. The metallic coffin having been procured, and the body placed in it, the two Lohmans, at noon on the 7th, set out with it, concealed in a wagon loaded with young fruit trees, for the farm of Robt. Orricks, a Union man, living in Henrico, two miles from Hungary station.

At 4 o'clock that evening, they reached Orricks's, and buried the body under an apple tree, in a field, avoiding the grave-yard for fear of exciting inquiry, which might lead to discovery.

The rest of this story may be told in a few words. Orricks, some months after the second burial of Colonel Dahlgren, succeeded in getting through the Confederate lines; and seeking an interview with Commodore Dahlgren, informed him of what had been done to secure the body of his son. The corpse of the soldier laid in this its second grave until the evacuation of Richmond, when an order having been sent for it by the War Department, it was again disinterred by the two Lohmans and sent to Washington.

It has been our object to lift the veil of mystery from an obscure and interesting event. In doing so, we have confined ourselves to facts strictly relative to the secret fate of Colonel Dahlgren's body from the time of its arrival in Richmond, which, until after the capture of the city, remained, to all except the few individuals named by us in the course of our narrative, one of the most impenetrable mysteries of the war. Many Confederate officials knew that the body had been deposited at Oakwood, but they were ignorant to the last that it had ever been removed. It has at length found its last earthly resting place.

The Colored Virginians in Convention.

They Make an Eloquent Appeal for Their Rights.

The delegates to the Convention now being held in the Lyceum building, corner of Washington and Prince streets, Alexandria, by the colored people of Virginia, met on Thursday morning 3d inst., at ten o'clock. The platform occupied by the officers of the Convention was tastefully decorated with a large and handsome American flag.

The meeting was composed of the delegates and a goodly number of spectators, some of the latter being white persons of both sexes, who listened with interest to the proceedings of the Convention.

The President, R. D. Beckley, of Alexandria, called the meeting to order, and announced that the Rev. Jordan Smith, of Manchester county, had been selected chaplain.

The chaplain commenced the exercises with a fervent prayer.

The roll of delegates was called and the absentees noted.

Coleman Cole, Samuel Kelsoe, and Edward Covington presented their credentials as delegates from Lynchburg, and Addison Washington as the delegate from the counties of Amherst and Nelson, and took their seats in the Convention.

The chair announced that John Davis, of Richmond, and Henry Malvern, of Alexandria, had been appointed sergeant at arms to the convention, and they accordingly took their stations.

The thanks of the Convention were voted to Capt. J. D. C. Lee, U. S. A., for kindly tendering them the use of the American flag.

The editor of the Baltimore *Communicator*, Mr. George T. Cook, colored, was announced and introduced to the Convention by the President, after which he was escorted to the platform.

No business for the Convention having been prepared by the busines Committee, Mr. John Cary, of Yorktown, delivered an interesting address, thus occupying the time until the chairman of the committee appeared and laid before the chair the following papers, which, after a slight amendment of the last one were adopted by the Convention:

APPEAL.

We, the delegates of the colored people of the State of Virginia, in Convention assembled at Alexandria, Va,. to act and advise what is thought best to be done for the interests of the colored people of the State, and to give expression of our feelings and desires, do hereby appeal to the conscientious, sympathetic, and just judgment of the American people, solemnly declaring that we desire to live upon the most friendly and agreeable terms with all men; we feel no ill-will or prejudice towards our former oppressors; are willing and desire to forgive and forget the past, and so shape our future conduct as shall promote our happiness, and the interests of the community in which we live; and that we believe that in this State we have still many warm and solid friends among the white people, and that this portion of them will do all they can for our improvement and elevation, that for this they have our kind thanks and our constant prayers that the Lord of Hosts may bless them, and strengthen them, that they may strive to give us, as a people, that which is just and right before God and the civilized world.

But, while we are free to acknowledge all that we have said above, we must, on the other hand, be allowed to aver and assert that we believe that we have among the white people of this State many who are our most inveterate enemies, who hate us as a class, and who feel no sympathy with or for us; who despise us simply because we are black, and, more especially, because we have been made free by the power of the United States Government; and that they—the class last mentioned—will not, in our estimation, be willing to accord to us, as feeemen, that protection which all freemen must contend for if they would be worthy of freedom; and that, while we confess that the state of things which now exist was not of our making, yet we believe it was the intention, and is the will of God, that it shall be as it is, and for which we give Him our everlasting thanks.

We have ever been a people of docility and obedience, though we have felt for years that the condition of slavery was a curse upon us, imposed by might and not by right, yet we have submitted without any act of ours to avenge ourselves upon those who had so long oppressed us, as a race of men. Many of them treated us as brutes of the field. In all this we confess we see the hand of an all-wise God, who has seen fit to hold the passions of His African children until He saw fit to stir the passions of the two sections of the country—that both North and South should suffer for the sin of slavery. This having been done, it has left us in a state of chaos and disorganization; and while we sympathize for the condition of the country, we do believe and recognize in it the hand of an all-wise God, and believe He will do all things right.

In this state of chaos and disorganization are we assembled here to-day, to appeal to the citizens of the State of Virginia and to the Government of the United States for that protection which we so much need, and for which freemen in all ages have contended. We, in our present condition, are without protection, so far as the laws of the State are concerned, and but for the strong arm of the military, we feel that we have nowhere to look for that protection which is essential for the safety of our persons or our property, our wives or our children; for while we had in our former owners their protection, we have now in them none, and we are left to the assaults of the vile and vicious to do with us as they please, and we are left without redress.

We claim, then, as citizens of this State, the laws of the Commonwealth shall give to all men equal protection; that each and every man may appeal to the law for his equal rights without regard to the color of his skin; and we believe this can only be done by extending to us the elective franchise which we believe to be our inalienable rights as free men, and which the Declaration of Independence guarantees to all free citizens of this Government, and which is the privilege of the nation. We claim the right of suffrage:

1. Because we can see no other safeguard for our protection.

2. Because we are citizens of the country and natives of this State.

3. Because we are as well qualified to vote who shall be our rulers as many who do vote for that purpose who have no interest in us, and know not our wants.

4. Because our representation as heretofore felt in Congress was not in accordance with our own wishes, and therefore, we feel that it is right and our privilege to vote for the man who shall so represent us.

5. Becouse we believe that the time has come when the colored people are to be felt as a power in this government, either for good or evil, and that there is no way so calculated to make him subservient for good as to make him a good and loyal citizen.

6. Because we believe it will be the means of restoring the balance of power which shall harmonize the conflicting elements which are now so rife in the South.

7. Because we believe that if the white men will look at the subject in its proper light, they will see the necessity of granting us this privilege, as they will find in us friends that will ever vote for men who shall be true to the State and loyal to the United States, and because nothing short of equality in law will ever secure to us the wants which every freeman needs and must enjoy if he will be at peace at home and in the community in which he lives. With these considerations we do most respectfuly and earnestly appeal first, to the citizens of Virginia that they give ear to our humble petition, that in the reconstruction of the laws of this State, they do, in the prayers of this convention and before a just God, so harmonize their laws as there shall be no distinction before law on account of color, and that every man may expect justice before the tribunals of the State, and then shall righteousness go forth as brightness and truth, as a lamp that burneth.

OUR WRONGS AND RIGHTS.

As a branch of the human family we have for ages been deeply and cruelly wronged, and by a people with whom *might constituted right*. We have been subdued not by power of ideas but brute force, and deprived not only of many of our natural rights, but debarred the privileges and advantages freely accorded to other men. We have been made to suffer well nigh every cruelty and indignity possible to be heaped upon human beings. We have been taunted with our inferiority by people whose statute-books contains laws inflicting the severest penalties on whomsoever dared to teach to us the art of reading God's word. We have been denounced as incurably ignorant, while at the same time debarred from taking the first step towards self-enlightenment and national and personal elevation. We have been declared incapable of self-government by those who refused the right of experiment in that direction, and have been denounced as cowards by men who first refused to trust us with a musket on the battle-field.

As a people we have been denied the ownership of our bodies, or a right to our *wives*, our *homes*, our *children*, and the *products* of our *labor*. We have been compelled, under pain of death, to submit to injuries deeper and darker than the earth ever witnessed in the case of any other people.

We have been forced to silence and inaction; to look on the infernal spectacle of our sons groaning under the lash; our daughters ravished; our wives *violated*, and our firesides desolated; while we ourselves have been led to the *shambles* and sold like beasts of the field.

When the nation in her hour of trial called her sable sons to arms, we gladly went and fought her battles, but were denied the pay accorded to others, until public opinion demanded it, and even then it was tardily granted.

We have fought and conquered, but have been denied the benefits of victory.

We have fought where victory gave us no glory, and where captivity meant cold-blooded murder on the field, and no *black man flinched*. We are taxed, but denied the right of representation; we are practically debarred the right of trial by jury, and institutions of learning which we help to support are closed against us.

Such being our wrongs, we submit to the American people and to the world the following declaration of our rights, asking a calm consideration thereof:

"All men being born free and equal, no man or government has a right to annul, repeal, or render inoperative this fundamental principle, except it be for crime; therefore we ask the immediate repeal of all laws operating against us as a separate class of people.

"That as natives of American soil we claim the right to remain upon it, and that any attempt to remove, expatriate, or colonize us in any other land against our will is unjust, for here we were born and for this country our fathers and brothers have fought, and we hope to remain here in the full enjoyment of enfranchised manhood and its dignities,—As citizens of the republic we claim the rights of citizens; we claim that we are by right entitled to respect; that all due attention should be given to our needs; that proper rewards should be given for our services; that the immunities and privileges of all other citizens and defenders of the nation's honor should be conceded to us. We claim the right to be heard in the State Legislature, in all the courts of the country, and the hall of Congress. That, emerging as we are, from the long night of gloom and sorrow, we are entitled to, and claim the sympathy and aid of the entire Christian world. We invoke the considerate aid of mankind in this crisis of our history, and n this hour of trial"

These are a portion of our rights as men, as patriots, as citizens, and as children of a common Father; and that we may realize and retain them, this is our purpose. We confide our cause to the just God, whose benign aid we most solemnly invoke.

Considerable debate ensued, which was participated in by Messrs. Brooks, Washington, Walker, Williams, Davis, Lee, Scott, Jones, Carter, Keeling, Marshall and others.

Just before putting the question on adopting the "appeal," a member proposed three cheers for the flag, which were given with a will, after which "Rally Round the Flag" was sung by all present, both white and colored.

Rev. Mr. Garnett, of Washington, here proposed three cheers for Mr. Beckley, President, and Mr. Cook, Vice President, the authors of the two papers adopted by the Convention. These were heartily and cheerfully given.

The hour of 2 p. m. having arrived, the Convention adjourned, under the rules, to 3 p. m., after a benediction by the chaplain.

During the afternoon session the Convention was ably addressed by Dr. Geo. T. Cook, after which a discussion arose on the propriety of ascertaining the wealth, the kinds and number of trades, the number able to read, and the number who can read and write, of the colored people in the State of Virginia.

THE NEWS.

THE GENERALS TO REPORT IN VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.—The following is a list of the general officers who are to report in Virginia and North Carolina:

"To report for duty to Major General A. H. Terry, commanding Department of Virginia—Major General John Gibbon, Brigadier and Brevet Major General J. B. Ricketts, Brigadier and Brevet Major General N. A. Miles, Brigadier and Brevet Major General A. T. A. Torbett, Brigadier and Brevet Major General N. M. Curtis, Brigadier and Brevet Major General J. W. Turner and Brevet Major General S. S. Carroll.

"To report for duty to Major General J. M. Schofield, Commanding Department of North Carolina—Major General George Crook, Major General J. Kilpatrick, Brigadier and Brevet Major General T. H. Rugen, and Brigadier Gen. M. D. Harlin."

THE LATE ROBBERIES AT CAPE MAY.—The Delaware *Gazette* states that among the sufferers by the late robberies at Cape May, were Robert D. Hicks, who lost $75; Colonel Fenlin, proprietor of "The Cottage by the Sea," $1,000; another gentleman $1,750, and still another $3,000 and a quantity of jewelry. The perpetrators of these robberies cut the telegraph wires, and made their escape from the Island. The affair naturally creates much excitement among the visitors at the Cape. A few nights ago a colored man, with a dirk and revolver, was caught under a bed at one of the hotels, and furnished with lodgings in prison.

THE QUESTION OF PARDONS.—A Washington telegram to the Philadelphia *Inquirer* of Thursday says;

"Since the election in Richmond and the action of some of the leading rebels in North Carolina, the President has ceased to sign any more pardons for the present. The conduct of some who have been pardoned is doing great injury to the worthy portion of the Southern people, a majority of whom would resume their allegiance and faithfully act up to it."

The Siamese twins are now giving exhibitions at Petersburg, Va. They lost nearly all their property in North Carolina during the war.

C. G. Jordan has been appointed master house-joiner at the Portsmouth (Va.) navy yard.

The Southern papers report Bishop Soule, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in feeble health.

Mrs. Rebecca Cathers, a native of Ireland, died in Cecil county, Maryland, on the 24th ult., aged 103 years.

Gov. Curtin has been hastily recalled from Saratoga by the death of his youngest child.

General Kelly, late of the army, was married at Cumberland, Md., last Tuesday, to a daughter of Col. R. Bruce.

It is reported that Gen. Butler, who is now in Washington, is about to be assigned to a new command.

Ex-Governor Wescott, a rebel refugee at Montreal, favors the extension of the suffrage to the freedmen of the South.

The Lower House of Brazil has negatived, without discussion, the bill for abolishing the holding of slaves by foreigners.

The receipts from internal revenue on Wednesday were over $2,000,000.

Forty sharks were caught near Bristol, R. I., last week.

Ex-Governor Wickliffe, of Louisiana, is in Washington on a pardoning mission.

Nine million dollars worth of cotton arrived at New York in July.

Gideon J. Pillow is said to be making Union speeches in Tennessee.

Francis J. Smith, of Richmond, has been appointed State Treasurer of Virginia.

Arrivals at the Atlantic Hotel Aug. 6.

R F Goodmand, Poughkeepsie, N Y; Mrs Heukle and 2 children, Dr. J J Wise and mother