

We are pleased to report that, after an amicable conference between Gov. Perry and the Generals Meade and Gillmore, all impediments to the proper re-establishment of the civil authority within the State have been withdrawn by the military. The courts of justice and the magistracy will resume their functions, and the provost courts will be limited in their jurisdiction to those cases only in which the freed negroes shall be parties. But we refer the reader to the proclamation of his Excellency Gov. Perry. It also pleases us to add that the negro troops are to be withdrawn promptly from the interior of the State, and to be concentrated in garrisons along the coast. This information will be gratefully received by the whole body of our people, to whom the presence of these troops is a constant occasion of annoyance and offence. The necessity for their removal, however, has been made terribly apparent in the shocking crimes which have been lately committed, the full evidence of which has been furnished by the Governor to the United States Generals, who have pledged themselves to the prompt examination and punishment of the criminals. Even apart from the actual commission of crime, it is enough to know that the whole experiment in free negro labor has been mischievously impaired, if not wholly defeated, in all those regions where the black troops made their appearance in propinquity with the laborers. The effect was most pernicious everywhere, changing the whole character and conduct of the laborer, making him neglectful, insubordinate and insolent, and beguiling him off from the plantations, to the ruin of the crop. It is also intimated to us that, in most cases, it is to this source do the negroes owe the large numbers of firearms and the quantity of ammunition which they are known to possess in many quarters. Certainly, the withdrawal of these troops will be, absolutely essential to the good behavior of the negro laborer, and by their timely withdrawal we may escape those horrors of bloodshedding and other more fearful crimes, the enacting of which has already begun. We are pleased to learn from his Excellency Gov. Perry, that his despatches from the President embody his hearty approbation of all the steps that the former has taken; that he encourages his continued progress in the same direction, and assures him against any future interruption of, or interference with, his authority on any part.

We publish, a few days ago, the expressed hope and expectation of President Magrath, of the South Carolina Railroad, that the cars would be able to run through from Charleston to Columbia by the 1st proximo. As an augury promising to sustain this hope and conviction, we are pleased to announce that the train from below crossed the Congaree River, at 20 minutes to 5 o'clock, on the 31st ultimo. This we learn by a despatch from Kingsville in the Charleston paper, of Saturday last, addressed to the General Superintendent, Peake, by Mr. McKewn, one of the local superintendents. The bridge, then, is passable once more, and, with but fifteen miles of track to repair, we may reasonably calculate on the realization of President Magrath's expectation.

The cholera rages as an epidemic in Constantinople and Cairo, the deaths daily, in the former city, being 250, and in the latter, 600! The Demon of the Scourge is on the wing—is in the winds. Let the intemperate beware. They have ever been the chief sufferers.

The funded debt of the city of New York, represented by the bonds and stocks of the corporation on the first of February, was \$30,658,676.50.

FREEDMEN'S LABOR.—We had an interview, yesterday morning, with a couple of Broad-River planters, who report that the negroes are everywhere abandoning the plantations and repairing to the towns. They do not even wait to receive their proportions of the crop. We take it for granted that the military authorities, at the several garrisons, will see to this matter before we are utterly overrun. Already the negroes of this town are in each other's way, and hundreds fail to find employment, even where they offer their services for their daily bread alone. What condition of things will follow from this crowding of the towns, may be conjectured when the winter sets in, and when clothing and shelter and fuel shall be even more scarce than food.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF VIRGINIA.—For a synopsis of this instrument, the reader is referred to our first page, where we have abridged an article from the Richmond Times. We commend it to the perusal of all classes of our readers, and especially to the members elect of the Convention of this State. It may assist them in their deliberations on the several constitutional topics which are likely to arise during their session, and may inform them on all.

FIRE IN CHARLESTON.—The dwelling house of Mrs. Dallas—a brick house on Queen street—was destroyed by fire on Friday last, and so rapid were the flames that the inmates narrowly made their escape through the windows. The house was insured at W. B. Herriot's agency for \$1,200, as was also some tobacco to the value of \$600, on the same premises. The flames communicated to a building on the East, adjoining, belonging to the estate of Harvey, and occupied by one Irving Chester, a colored man. The building was saved, with the loss of its roof.

Three cargoes of railroad iron have reached Charleston within a few days, designed for the South Carolina Railroad, the officers of which seem resolute to make up for lost time, and are pushing upwards with steam impulse and race-horse fervor. We hope to see them soon, panting, puffing, snorting and blowing, at the well known station on Bridge street.

RIOT AT CHESTER.—The Darlington Southern, of the 26th ultimo, has a statement that a riot occurred at Chester C. H., in this State, on the 12th, between colored soldiers and citizens. We give the statement as it appears in the Southern:

It appears that on the day named, (12th,) many of the citizens from all parts of the District had met on special public business, and among them many who had been in the Confederate army. Colored troops who were stationed there took every opportunity of insulting them by jostling against them, or saying something very offensive. Eventually, the parties insulted were forced to resent the indignities put upon them, and a general fight took place between the citizens and the negro troops, in which three of the latter were killed, and many on both sides wounded. As soon as the riot was quelled, the Provost-Marshal sent the troops from town.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE IN REGARD TO SPECIFIC LEGACIES IN GOLD.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue today decided that while under the terms of a will the legatee can demand of the executor the delivery of gold, he cannot be held to receive a legacy of money merely; for in such case the executor would be discharged by a payment in currency. It must, therefore, be treated as a specific legacy, the clear value in currency of which at that time the legatee received it would be taxable. When an allowance over and above the valuation of a specific legacy on which the tax had been paid is afterward realized by the sale of such specific legacy, such advance is regarded as neither taxable legacy nor income.

By the will of the late Marchioness of Londonderry, which places all her property at compound interest for the next twenty-one years, the then Earl Vane will be the richest man in England.

WILLINGTON, ABBEVILLE DISTRICT, August 30, 1865.

Editor of the Phoenix—SIR: I propose to address you one or two letters on a subject, which, while it serves as a topic of speculative and political discussion to the people of the Northern States, is, to us of the South generally, and of this State most especially, one of life and death. The system of labor—with which we have lived in a prosperity sufficient for our own wishes, and certainly with a degree of order, freedom from crime, and happiness enjoyed by few civilized communities—has disappeared before the sentiment of the age and the fortunes of war. Regrets are not only idle but mischievous. The habits and memories of our past system of life, pleasant though they be, serve only to blind our judgment and hamper our energies. Any attempt to resuscitate the past relation of the two races who inhabit this country will fail; any attempt to substitute one of a similar character, even if partially successful, will be but a piece of patch-work, galling the poor jades who carry it, wasting our time, our strength and our energies, without any adequate result. Facts are stern and uncompromising reasoners, and the sooner we recognize them the sooner will we be in a condition to make the best available use of what small resources we still possess. It may be unpleasant to snap all at once the well defined, useful and kindly relation, in which we formerly stood to Cuffee; but if we don't, Cuffee will, and in most places has very summarily done so already. We must recognize that he is now free, with all the motives of self-interest which freedom develops, with all those of self-indulgence implanted by his nature, and with very little if any of the intelligence, capacity or energy, which civilized freedom requires. Although he may, in many cases, recognize that his former condition was materially better than that he now actually enjoys, yet he is not willing to return to it. Experience would seem to have proved that the condition of slavery, though under certain circumstances it may improve the inferior races of mankind, is not agreeable to any; and that even the savage, improved and semi-civilized as a slave, frequently looks back with regret to his state of barbarous freedom. Besides, "hope springs eternal in the human breast," and our African brother has an artesian well of it constantly bubbling up in his bosom. What though he dine to-day on a roasting ear of corn, filched from a neighbor's field, in the faded mirror of the future he sees himself feasting on bacon, molasses, rum and tobacco, without a care and with the barest modicum of labor.

But to ourselves, the first and most important care in commencing a new career is to obtain a clear and accurate idea of our actual bearings and start with a definite purpose. Unfortunately, we must patch for the present; the two races are here, and the relation between them must be defined, in order to diminish the probability of actual collisions dangerous to the security of society. For this purpose the most liberal regulations seem the most safe, and the most likely to attain our ends. The privilege of voting and of acting as jurymen cannot safely be entrusted to the negro. It is very possible that he would, if left alone, not abuse the power for any definite purpose whether of race or otherwise; but designing and unprincipled men, appealing to the hostile feeling already exhibited, would make tools of them for their own selfish purposes and to the detriment of society at large. But in every other matter it would seem really wisest to leave them perfectly free from special legislation, without any attempt either to bolster them up or pull them down. Summary jurisdiction should be given magistrates for the strict enforcement of all contracts not above a certain pecuniary value, and stringent laws thoroughly enforced against vagrancy. But such laws need not even mention the negro; pride of race alone will keep us from subjecting ourselves to their penalties and thus leave them for whom they are really designed. While, by thus acting, we take away from those who pretend to so great an affection for the black man and to so great an estimate of his ability as to consider him superior to the white, all shadow of an excuse for abusing us of injustice. One thing is certain, if, as some fanatics claim, the negro is equal or superior to the white man, no partial or class legislation will long prevent him from asserting that position. On the other hand, if, as the

experience of the world for centuries past attest, he is inferior, that inferiority will be only the more readily and quickly exhibited, by placing him fairly and solely on his own resources; in the competition with the white man. Disabling statutes, by defining his status, will really serve to prop him up, just as his well defined position as a slave served for his protection, and by withdrawing him from actual personal competition with white labor, actually gave him an advantage over it. The white mechanic did not enter into competition with the negro, when his triumph would be certain, but with the wealthy capitalist who owned negroes, where the contest was too unequal to be maintained. Indeed, so undoubted is the superiority of our race in every quality necessary for civilized life, despite the injury which our ideas and habits of industry have received by so long communication with the black race, that I feel the most perfect confidence of our triumph in the struggle, whether merely moral or physical, which seems inevitable—and that upon anything like equal terms of liberty to both races, every attempt to advance the negro to equality, antagonism, rivalry and competition with our race, will only the more surely and promptly accelerate his destruction. I speak not of acts of violence; it seems inevitable that occasional emeralds will occur; and as in the past, so in the future, they will commence on the part of the negro; the blind effort of misguided ignorance to reverse the decree of Providence by an exhibition of brute force. But I do not speak of this; I allude to the sure, steady, and even more rapid strides of poverty, disease and starvation, encountered in an unequal contest with a race superior in every mental and moral quality. While, however, such measures of expediency, as are above suggested, will be necessary in our present legislation, it is all-important that we should recognize their purely temporary character. We are not to put faith in them as calculated to establish a permanent system of labor. It is indispensable, that while constructing from the debris of the shattered wreck, a frail and uncertain raft, for present use, we should provide a more noble and stately ship for the future; or, to drop all metaphor, it is a matter of life and death, that we should direct our energies to that policy, which alone can now restore us to prosperity, the encouraging of white immigration. Without it, we enter upon a future more gloomy even than the terrible present. With it, we move with confidence to the attainment of a prosperity, greater, in a material point of view, than that formerly enjoyed, and more stable, because more in accordance with the humors of the age. Of this, of the obstacles in the way of immigration, of their removal, and of our duties in respect thereto, I propose, should it meet with your approbation, to speak in my next letter. CAUCASIAN.

ELECTION OF A CATHOLIC M. P. IN ENGLAND.—Only one Catholic was returned to the late Parliament by an English constituency, and he represented not an open constituency, but the Duke of Norfolk's borough of Arundel. So positive has been this exclusion that the advocates of a representation of minorities have given it as an instance of the grievances they would remedy, and have said, plausibly though incorrectly, that the English Roman Catholics have not been represented at all. It is satisfactory to find that religious zeal does not in all cases urge the British electors to vote against a Papist. The Bridgnorth people, in returning Sir John Acton, have not only shown themselves superior to the prejudice that has hitherto prevailed, but they have placed in the House of Commons an accomplished man, and one of the most thoughtful and judicious among the members of his Church. *London Times.*

THE OATH OF OFFICE.—Under the Government of the United States, by an Act of Congress passed in 1862, no man can hold office save he take the following oath: I, —, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have never sought, nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever, under any authority, or pretended authority, in armed hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended Government authority, power or constitution, within the United States.

Local Items.

To insure insertion, advertisers are requested to hand in their notices before 6 o'clock p. m.

Dr. Wm. P. Geiger was yesterday elected Alderman for Ward No. 3.

POSTAGE STAMPS.—Our citizens are informed that they can be supplied with the above article by applying at this office.

We are indebted to Major Meighan for copies of late New York and Virginia papers.

GOV. PERRY'S HEADQUARTERS.—We are gratified to state that, after the 7th inst., the headquarters of his Excellency Gov. Perry will be in Columbia—to which place all communications for him must be addressed.

It will be seen, by reference to Mr. H. E. Nichols' advertisement, that he has removed his insurance office to a more central locality—corner of Assembly and Washington streets. We would urge all who desire to put themselves on the safe side of accidents, to give him a call.

STATE CONVENTION.—The election, yesterday, for members of the State Convention, passed off quietly, in this city, with the following result. The returns from the country boxes will be received to-day:

Wade Hampton..... 304	F. W. McMaster..... 205
A. R. Taylor..... 141	John Caldwell..... 139
Wm. Wallace..... 133	J. P. Carroll..... 121
J. G. Gibbs..... 105	W. F. DeSausure..... 84
W. A. Harris..... 32	

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published for the first time this morning:

Jacob Bell—Citation.

Medical College of the State of S. C.

Wm. Cronenberg—Cabinet Maker, etc.

Durbee & Walter—Cottage for Sale.

Apply at this Office—House Wanted.

A. Palmer—Old Copper, etc., Wanted.

Gov. Perry—Proclamation.

“ “—Headquarters at Columbia.

“ “—Notice to Attorney-General.

E. E. Jackson—New and Desirable Goods.

Mons. and Mad. Dovilliers—Music, &c.

Public Sentiment in South Carolina.

Provisional Governor Perry, of South Carolina, made a speech recently, at Greenville, in which, after giving a circumstantial account of his interviews with the President and leading members of the Government at Washington, he said:

"In conclusion, let me say to you, fellow-citizens, that I am well pleased with all that I saw and heard at Washington in reference to the Southern States. Let us now do our duty, take the oath of allegiance, elect good and wise men to the Convention, reform our State Constitution, abolish slavery, equalize the representation of the State in the Senate, give the election of Governor and Presidential electors to the people, and all will be well."

This was good advice; he told his hearers, also, that he had pledged them to do all this, to the President.

"I told him that the people of South Carolina accepted the terms of his proclamation, and were disposed to return to their allegiance to the Union. That from having been the most rebellious State in the South, I was satisfied South Carolina would, henceforth, be one of the most loyal of the Southern States. That she would reform her Constitution and abolish slavery, give the election of Governor and Presidential electors to the people, and equalize the representation of the State. I gave it as my opinion that the disunion feeling of the South had originated in the parishes."

Upon this, a morning journal says: "Although no man has better opportunities than Governor Perry for forming a correct estimate of the state of public sentiment in South Carolina, these positive statements must be taken, we fear, with some grains of allowance. That a strong under-current of Union sentiment exists in that State, we do not doubt, but a conversion so radical as that indicated above would be little short of miraculous."

We do not see why Mr. Perry's words should be doubted. He is not, to judge from his first speech, a kind of man to set his face boldly against a strong public sentiment; he is more inclined to follow what he thinks the current. But he speaks out squarely now, after having traveled over the State and taken pains to acquaint himself with the public sentiment.

South Carolina, before the war, was in the hands of a few wealthy families. The people had but the slightest share in the government of the State. Governor Perry tells the President that he believes they will readily reform their institutions in such a way as to make them more democratic, and take the political power from the few and give it to the many. Is this improbable? Is it not highly probable that if they understand the proposed change they will almost unanimously vote for it?—*New York Evening Post.*

The Czar agrees to complete the telegraph line to America to the boundary of his dominions.