PUBLIC LEDGER.

Office, No. 13 Madison Street.

LARGEST CITY CIRCULATION.

MEMPHIS:
Saturday Evening, June 16, 1866

STARTLING NEWS.

Our dispatches this evening inform us that the European peace conference has broken up, and that war is inevitable. Gold has gone up to 56, and cotton declined half a penny. This news is indeed startling, and particularly unwelcome to us who are not reconstructed. The next intelligence will probably announce the opening of hostilities.

PUBLIC LEDGER.

Our city subscribers complain of the lateness of the hour which the PUBLIC LEDGER is delivered to them. This is on account of the delay we meet with in getting our dispatches. Our friends must not blame the carriers, as the fault is not theirs. It takes time after our forms are closed to print the immense number of papers taken by the carriers. We are assured that our dispatches will arrive earlier hereafter.

THEN AND NOW.

About this time of the year, 1864, the brick building, on the corner of Third and Court streets, was occupied by the Federal Provost Marshal, his assistants and guards. To that point great streams of people, dressed in every variety of style, with the pale country gray predominant, poured. This great current sweeping on, met one as great coming away. Upon each face, from the rosy hue of sixteen to the pale and sallow cast of seventy, were written the same characters. Being interpreted, they meant subjugation, sorrow and famine. They were from the country, and in some instances, more than a hundred miles away. The drag net of war had passed over the land, and left nothing upon which to live. Stung with hunger and tortured with indefinable apprehensions, they resolved upon the desperate expedient of a visit to Memphis, through the Federal lines, to procure the means of subsistence. The experiment proved, in some cases, successful, but frequently otherwise. Their real difficulties, taking the place of distant apprehension, began when they passed the pickets and beheld the tall tops of the buildings of the conquered city. That moment the sharp, malicious, cunning eyes of the detectives were upon them, and dogged every step they took, until the last which carried them beyond the lines and once more into the open, ravaged and desolated country. In hundreds of cases, whole teams, besides the miserable pittance they had managed to procure, was ruthlessly taken from them. Many were the traps set to catch them, and these rarely failed. We have seen pale, sickly, almost dying women, stand for days in the rain, cold and storm, at the permit office on the corner of Main and Jefferson streets, struggling in vain to get their "papers through." Around them swarmed detectives, permit brokers and pick-pockets, then holding high carnival here. How frightened these poor country victims appeared in the midst of these terrors, no one who saw them can ever forget. Their natural protectors were away around distant camp fires or struggling and dying upon the battle field. Upon every face was written despair. The brawny soldier, with his threatening musket, kept them out on the street waiting for the happy moment that should relieve them from the horrors of their situation. The sudden resolution to give all over, was quelled by the quick-coming thought of the starving ones at home. If, at last, the permit was secured, the trouble was not half over. They then went to the office of the Provost Marshal, where they encountered new delay and vexation in procuring a pass to let them out of the lines. That obtained, the poor broken heart began to revive; but alas! the detective's eye had never left them through all their days and nights of horror. If they had been tricked into purchasing something contraband of war, and it did not appear upon the permit, they were thrown, probably, into the Irving Block, and their property confiscated. This was war.

How has all changed! The office of the Provost Marshal has ceased to be a terror, and close by its side, occupying the ground where the guard's quarters stood, now stands a church. The late place of terror is as harmless as the green Pantheons of the peaceful forests, where the birds teach music, and the flowers give lessons in beauty.

The wanderer has returned. The scarred soldier who went away on the 4th day of June, 1862, marching to the thunder of PORTER'S guns, has returned. On the spot where the pale, weeping woman and the tottering, heart-broken old man stood, and the grim, blue, bayonetted guards paraded, we have beheld, during the past month, another scene than that of sorrow. The beauty and gallantry of the city—for four years stigmatized as the "secesh women," and the "chivalry,"—have gathered there to greet one another, and to forget, in the presence of each smiling face, each flowery wreath, each bursting rose, and those sacred shadows that decorated the walls, that they had ever been startled by the roll of a hostile drum, or turned pale at the sound of the coming battle. Beautiful, those gatherings were. Sweet, those smiles came and went, keeping step to the hours and wearing the minutes as dear, if they were fleeting, moments. May it ever be thus. May we know no more those sad years of war and alienation. May our battle-fields, when their scars have disappeared, incite not to war, but remain forever to us true and faithful monitors of peace. The song of the humble, but happy, Christian now rises from the place where the heavy tramp of grim guards mocked the aspirations of religion. Ah! beautiful is peace, fluttering back on its white wings over the fields and cities and hamlets, once torn and mangled by remorseless war! May it reign forever.

TO WHOM DISLOYAL?

The Cincinnati *Enquirer*, though at times led to imprudencies that rather injure than benefit the cause of reconciliation, is the most pointed of all the public journals. For example, it says:

The people of the South are disloyal. To whom are they disloyal? Are they disloyal to themselves? There is no appearance of it. Disloyal to each other? By no means. Disloyal to their own institutions? The proof of such disloyalty is entirely wanting. Disloyal to the General Government? Since the conflict of arms came to an end, there are no *acts* to justify such a supposition. Disloyal in sentiment? Why should they be loyal in sentiment to a Government which is over, but not of them; whose manifestations in their sight are those of power at once arbitrary and irresponsible? If the people of the South were disposed to acts of disloyalty to the Government, they would have no inclination to become a part of it. The people of the South professed a desire to separate themselves from those of the North in the matter of government; and if we did not before believe they were sincere, we have reason to believe it now. They will be slow to cherish affection for those who thwarted them in their wishes; and the absence of this affection is counted as disloyalty.

And this, in reference to the report of the Reconstruction Committee:

The committee treat the conquest as conclusive of questions of right. We conquered the people of the South; therefore, our right to govern them according to our own will is absolute. Had the people of the thirteen colonies been overcome by the arms of Great Britain, this—according to the doctrines of the committee—would have sanctioned all past, and justified all future misrule. It would have extinguished the native right of free agency in the people, not only in respect to their National relations, but to the domestic policy, and left them in the condition of human entities, perhaps, but of political non-entities.

AMERICAN RIFLED CANNON.

The London *Standard* argues that England, thus far, has met with poor success in her attempts to manufacture improved artillery, and that journal goes on to say: "Already the Americans have made fifteen hundred 15-inch guns, which have been tested to be perfectly safe for a thousand rounds with spherical shot of 440 pounds, and powder charge of 50 pounds. They have also 20-inch guns, throwing round projectiles of 1080 pounds, with a powder charge of 100 pounds. These guns have been tested to 800 rounds. Two American turret ships are armed with these 20-inch guns, and from the nature of their armament would be more than a match for the whole of the English iron-clad fleet combined."

A LITTLE QUARREL.

A city of Mexico letter says: "It is rumored that MAX and the amiable CARLOTTA have had a 'little quarrel.' It seems that MAX, after dinner one day, took CARLOTTA aside, and, after telling her she was just the kindest 'little' woman in the world, asked her to lend him a 'trifling amount of two or three hundred thousand dollars out of her own purse.' This delicate insinuation 'the dear little CARLOTTA' listened to with great good humor, and then, patting MAX on the cheek, said, 'No you don't,' and she did not lend it to him. Then MAX, taking umbrage, and a friend or two, went to Cuernavaca. This little piece of scandal is going the rounds, and for 'effect,' as we can plainly see."

SATIRICAL.

A cotemporary thus pleasantly satirizes a class of writers not unknown amongst us: "Picture of Peasant Girl Stirring the Fire. A rare specimen of simplicity. The figure is remarkably graceful, but the poker is rather too stiff. A curvilinear declination from a right line toward the line of beauty would have given to this useful kitchen utensil a much more picturesque effect. DOMENICHINO, SALVATOR, ROSA and MICHAEL ANGELO would have avoided this defect. The chiaroscuro of the tongs, in subdued shadow, is a wonderful effort of art. The shovel, on the contrary, lacks depth and buoyancy."

MILITARY CONSPIRACY.

Letters from Madrid give some particulars of a military conspiracy which has lately been discovered in that capital. An attempt was made on the night of the 24th ultimo, by nearly the whole of the garrison, to make a pronunciamento, which it was hoped would be supported by a popular insurrection. The Government received timely information of the conspiracy, which it prevented from assuming a serious character, by immediately arresting a great number of officers who were implicated in the affair.

SPECIAL PROVIDENCE.

A Connecticut deacon was attaching a very poor and feeble pair of oxen to a very large load of wood. A neighbor asked him how he expected to get so large a load to market with so poor a team. The deacon replied that he expected to have some assistance from Divine Providence. His neighbor asked him whether it would not be as well to dispense entirely with the oxen, and *let Providence draw the whole load.*

OH, FOR A LODGE.

"Oh, for a lodge" in some shady park, glorious and graveled, with musical fountains, and singing birds, and bright flowers, in the neighborhood of Louisville, during these hot days. A park, City Fathers, a park! If you have a spark of the fire of humanity, or a drop of the sweet milk of charity about you, give us a park!—*Louisville Journal.*

Come down here, Mr. PRENTICE, and cool your poet brow amid the shades of our Memphis park—the prettiest "spot" of earth this side the original Eden.

SAVAGE ISLAND.

Savage Island was thus named by Captain COOK because of the barbarity of the inhabitants. A Baptist missionary, Mr. LAWES, reports that he "found there a people prepared of the Lord for, by the efforts of a native teacher left there, the people had been constrained to cast away all their idols; and now in that Savage Island there are one thousand and seventy church members."

A FREEDMAN KILLED.

We learn, says the Jackson *Clarion*, that Mr. Jo. KIRKLAND killed a freedman named ESSEX WHITFIELD, at Brandon, on Tuesday night, by stabbing him with a knife in the throat, severing the jugular vein. We are not informed of the particulars. The provocation must have been very great, for Mr. KIRKLAND is known to be a peaceably disposed young man.

☞ The Pall Mall *Gazette* gives currency to a rumor that the Emperor NAPOLEON has written to Emperor MAXIMILIAN, asking him to give over the administration of Mexican affairs to the French authorities as guarantee for the payment of the interest on the 3 per cent loan, and adding, that unless this is done, it will be necessary to recall the French troops.

☞ At a festival given at St. Joseph a few days ago, the pictures of STONEWALL JACKSON and Gen. LEE were raffled off at enormous prices. The hall was decorated with red, white and red. Choice cakes were named BEAUREGARD, JOHNSTON, etc. Dixie was the favorite piece of music.

☞ At a raffle for a benevolent purpose, which came off at Sedalia, Mo., on Thursday night last, the bachelor editor of the *Times* won a handsome quilt. Whereupon, he concludes he is as well prepared for entering the state of matrimony as was the young chap who owned a cow and calf.

☞ The Radicals still style the Southern people rebels. Is the man who wants to trade with rebels any better than a rebel? These superlative loyalists, these political angels, should be ashamed to be caught fingering rebel money and eating rebel bacon and greens.

☞ In a conference of negro preachers in South Carolina, one of the preachers was charged with having two living wives besides the one at present with him. The colored bishop ruled that he must not "preach" until he shall be relieved by Providence of his difficulties."

☞ A Montreal special to the New York *Herald* states that in the final fight near the line, only forty of the Governor General's body guard were engaged, and that the Fenians were driven across the line with several killed and sixteen captured, who were taken to Montreal.

☞ A Missouri cotemporary advises the people of his county to take the matter of catching robbers and thieves into their own hands. He says Gov. FLETCHER'S appointees are too busy hunting up preachers, and criminals of that class, to fool away their time on thieves.

☞ The Springfield (Massachusetts) *Republican* says: "Not one removal and appointment in New England, as far as we know, has been made by the President for opinion's sake; and not one in opposition to the wishes of the members of Congress representing the State."

☞ The French Legation in Washington received information that French troops are to be concentrated at various points, under orders not to make any more hostile demonstrations. Seventy-five per cent. of the troops will go to France in October.

☞ The investigation of the British invasion of Vermont is being vigorously pushed forward, and the disclosures so far leave but little doubt that the English troops captured and killed one or more Fenians on the soil of Vermont.

☞ Another new bonnet is out—a common white handkerchief passed over the top of the head and tied under the throat, with a wreath of roses in the shape of a horse shoe on the top. So says Madame Demorest for May.

☞ Here is the pithiest sermon ever preached: "Our ingress in life is naked and bare; our progress through life is trouble and care; our egress out of it we know not where; but doing well here, we shall do well there."

☞ We are now in the midst of the heated term, when the shady side of the street is much sought after.

"The sun in its perpendicular hight,
Looks down on the depths of the sea,
And the fishes beginning to sweat,
Cry, Hang it! how hot we shall be."

☞ "An immense quantity of modern confession of sin, even when honest, is merely a sickly egotism, which will rather gloat over its own evil than lose the centralization of its interest in itself."

☞ Why does the present Congress not amend the Constitution so as to put to rest forever the question of the right of a State to secede? Do they think that secession may be a good thing some day?

☞ A Western critic, in speaking of a new play, says: "The unities are admirably observed; the dullness, which commences with the first act, never flags for a moment until the curtain falls."

☞ A Western editor, in answer to a complaint of a patron that he did not give news enough, advised him, when news was scarce, to read the Bible, which he had no doubt would be new to him.

☞ A young man named DALE, while on his way to get married at Titusville, Pennsylvania, on Monday, was shot dead. His rival for the hand of the lady is suspected of committing the deed.

☞ A rumor is circulating in Germany that, in case of a war there, General MCCLELLAN, who at present sojourns at Dresden, will be appointed commander-in-chief of the Saxon army.

☞ Professor TISCHENDORF, the biblical critic and discoverer of the "Codex Sinaiticus," has received from the Emperor of Austria the cross of the order of Francis Joseph.

☞ The Berlin Cathedral is doomed to destruction within two years. A much larger cathedral, according to plans approved by the late king, is to be built on the same site.

☞ Hail stones weighing from half a pound to a full pound, fell recently in Yavastoa and vacinity, Texas. Three miles east the storm made sad havoc with the crops and trees.

☞ A duel was fought at West Point, Ga., a few days ago, between Mr. M. P. KENNER, of Marion, Ala., and the Hon. Mr. LUMPKIN, of Ga., without serious result.

☞ Gen. SCOTT'S coffin was made by BROWN, of Grace Church, New York. The required length of the coffin was six feet nine inches.

☞ Old STEVENS says the rebel States fought themselves out of the Union. But did not the Northern and Western and border States fight them back into it?

☞ Old STEVENS talks familiarly of the "penitentiary of hell." That's right. Let every man discuss his favorite institution.

☞ Since the dispersion of the Legislature, we suppose Nashville feels as people feel after a storm has swept over them.

☞ Well, we are all disfranchised. But can't we become naturalized, like any other foreigners, and thus acquire the right to vote?

☞ The native people of Tennessee are now foreigners and aliens, and the foreign population have become natives.

☞ THAD. STEVENS' disease is dropsy of the chest. Is it curable?

Mississippi News.

From the Holly Springs *Reporter*, of yesterday, we condense the following items of Mississippi news:

We are informed by R. S. Smith, Esq., that during the great hail storm on Sunday, the third, he picked up and measured one of the stones which fell upon the brick payment in his yard. Although a fragment had been broken off by the fall, and the stone had remained sometime before being picked up, it measured in circumference six and one-eighth inches. Mr. S. lives in the western suburbs of the city, and a little east of where the storm exhibited its main violence. Mr. S. says the one measured by him looked small by the side of others he saw afterwards.

The annual commencement exercises at the State University will begin on Sunday, the 24th. On that day, the Commencement Sermon will be preached in the University Chapel by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Wilmer, of Alabama. The various exercises will follow in regular routine, during the 25th, 26th, 27th and 28th. The latter day will be Commencement proper. At night, a grand ball will be given by the students at the Steward Hall.

The citizens of Oxford have gone to work earnestly in the matter of educating the blacks. A large meeting was lately held there, in which the best men of the town participated. The Rev. Dr. Waddell, Chancellor of the State University, was chairman. We are glad to see that our people all over the country, are awakening to the importance of this work. One truth is becoming impressed upon the Southern mind—if the negro must remain in our midst, he should do so as our friend, and under our influence.

By referring to our advertising columns, it will be seen that Gov. Humphreys has issued his proclamation offering a reward of two hundred dollars for the arrest of Reuben Mims, the freedman who murdered the freedwoman, Lavinia, in this county, several weeks ago. Three hundred dollars are now offered for his arrest.

Our city still shows signs of improvement. Our streets are blocked up with carts and laborers, and heaps of building material, and ground is continually being broken in some new place.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention, lately in session at Jackson, adjourned to meet in Holly Springs on Thursday, before the third Sabbath in May, 1867.

Murder at Lake Station.

We have a statement from "Many Subscribers" at Lake Station, to the effect that on Sunday last a Mr. E. W. Lacey, of Smith county, was brutally murdered near Lake Station by a freedman, named Mark Burnes, formerly the slave of Matthew Burnes, near Trenton. From the particulars as we gather them, it appears that this black scoundrel, some time since, violated the person of a white woman, fled the county, and went to Kemper, where he was lately arrested by Lacey and Burnes, with a view to handing him over to the civil authorities for trial. When near Lake Station, however, he found an opportunity for attacking his captors, and in a short time dispatched Mr. Lacey by breaking in his skull with a large cudgel, and after inflicting several severe blows upon young Burnes, effected his escape, and is still at large. The said Mark has a mark on his chin, as if having been kicked by a mule; full negro complexion; twenty-eight years old, and medium hight. We are not surprised to hear that "the citizens are bitterly enraged" by this outrage, and we hope that no efforts will be spared to bring the black fiend to a certain and summary death.—*Jackson Clarion.*

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE NOON DISPATCHES

COTTON AND GOLD QUOTATIONS

NEW YORK, June 16—11 a.m.—Cotton—Liverpool dates to 7th received—report sales of four days of 45,000 bales, at a decline of ⅛d. Conference dissolved and war inevitable.

Gold excited—opened at 53¾—now 56

From New York.

NEW YORK, June 16.—The steamer City of Paris, from Liverpool, the 6th, has arrived. The steamer City of New York was off Liverpool when the City of Paris left, with the City of Limerick, from New York, in tow, owing to her machinery being disabled.

The proposed conference had been abandoned, owing to the demands of Austria; and all negotiations had been broken up. The neutrals and armed powers must now negotiate between themselves or commence the war, all hopes of peace having nearly vanished.

Paris Bourse, very flat at 62.

Cotton dull and declining, 39@41c; gold 155¾; exchange nominal, 8 11 16

The steamer's mails leave for the South this evening. Four steamers for for Europe to-day, take out $2,080,000, in gold.

The failure of Ogrid & Masterman's bank, in London, has caused great depression in the money market there. Their liabilities are very heavy.

FOREIGN—It is believed that hostilities will be commenced in the Elbe Duchies, and that Austria's great move will be to seize Silesia.

Prussia will probably commence the war, and has sent circulars to the neutral powers, charging Austria with flagrant breaches of the treaties.

The Prussian army comprises 452 battalions of infantry, and 320 squadrons of cavalry, and 1086 pieces of field artillery. The Italian volunteers number 95,000 men. The Austrian army is 950,000 strong, 550,000 of whom it is supposed will operate against Prussia, and 250,000 against Italy, exclusive of the reserve. It is expected that if Prussia seizes Holstein, the Austrians will cross the frontier.

Spain's force has been augmented to 850,000.

The *Times* declares that all hopes of peace have vanished.

The Government Reform bill, in the British Parliament, met with a division, and the indications are that the Government will withdraw it.

Prince Frederick Charles was to leave Berlin on the 7th for the headquarters of the Prussian army in Silesia.

A Florence, Italy, dispatch, of the 6th instant, says there is great excitement in the city, owing to the forced loan, and the refusal of the municipality to co-operate in collecting it. A large number of persons have fled from the city to avoid conscription.

From Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL, June 4.—Cotton very active during the week, and advanced ⅛d., but a dull time prevailed yesterday and continued to-day, and the improvement was lost. Sales to-day, 25,000 bales, including 5000 to speculators and exporters. The Manchester markets are active and unchanged.

Per steamer Brannan, we have dates to the evening of the 6th. Sales of cotton, 4000 bales, including 1000 to speculators and exporters; market very dull and ⅛d lower; middling upland, 13@14d; breadstuffs, dull; provisions, inactive.

The crisis continues, and war is considered inevitable.

Flour firm, 6d@1s higher. Pork inactive and unchanged.

From London.

LONDON, June 6.—Breadstuffs steady. Sugar quiet. Coffee in fair demand. Tea quiet.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS