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LINCOLN COURIER.

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Lincolnton, N. C.

TERMS FOR PAPER.

THE WEEKLY COURIER will be supplied at \$3.00 per annum, payable in advance; or \$2.00 for six months.

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CONFISCATION AGAIN.

LANCASTER, Pa., May 20, 1867.

Dear Sir:—Short as your letter is, I fear I cannot answer it without violating an injunction of my medical adviser not to suffer myself to become excited. You live in a region which was two or three times invaded by the armies of Jefferson Davis. In the counties of Bedford, Fulton, Cumberland, Adams and York they visited almost every farmer and other inhabitant, and plundered them of their horses, cattle, provisions, wagons and money when found, besides some detached cases. They laid in ashes one thriving village of 6,000 people, and turned the inhabitant houseless into the streets to seek shelter in fence-corners. No provision has ever been made, or is making, to reimburse the plundered citizens. By the law of nations, a government makes no compensation for damages done by an invading army, unless such government is victorious, when it always provides by treaty for the payment by the vanquished enemy. A government which neglects to make such provisions on behalf of its plundered citizens is basely negligent of its duty.

A quasi peace exists between the late belligerents, the terms of which are dictated by Congress, which is under the control of the Republican party. Nothing but the proceeds of the confiscation of a small portion of the property of the wealthy rebels can be applied to pay the damages inflicted by these marauders unless it be paid out of the treasury of the United States. A few republican meteors, always erratic in their course, are fitting trough and exploding in the republican atmosphere. They attract sufficient attention to enable them to assure the admirable rebels who inflicted this injury that they need fear no confiscation—that nobody of any note in the North is in favor of imposing such punishment for the sake of retribution of justice. They assure them that nothing shall be taken from Aiken's estate of millions—from Hampton, Davis, Orr, Faulkner, or from a thousand others, who are still worth their hundreds of thousands, to reimburse the loyal men of North and South who were plundered of their estates, and to aid your poor neighbors to rebuild their humble tenements.

It is scarcely to be endured that Congress for two sessions should sit indifferent to these sufferings and take no steps to enforce these rights.

These remarks apply to a large portion of Maryland, of West Virginia, Ohio, Indian and Missouri, as well as to the slave States. He who can patiently listen to that putrid humanity which we now see propagated, has more command of himself than I have. Indeed, it looks as if we were still to add to the burden of our taxation to defray the expenses of transportation and the oration of triumphant traitors. But I must stop, or I shall commit the fault against which I have been warned. With great respect, your obedient servant,

THADDEUS SEVENS.

The official agricultural report for April, says the prospect for an unusually early crop of wheat continues favorable.

FACTS FOR THE "RED STRING."

It is generally believed that the ultimate object of the red string secret organization is to parcel out the lands between the people generally, including negroes. There are doubtless many well-to-do small farmers who have gone into this organization, hoping thereby to better their condition. If they will examine closely the following facts taken from the census of 1860, they will soon see how woefully they will be deceived, to say nothing about the dishonesty of appropriating other men's property.

According to the census of 1860 there are in the State of North Carolina 23,762,969 acres of land, one-third of this is unclaimed swamp and mountain lands, leaving 15,841,980 acres of land that might be cultivated, to be divided equally between the inhabitants. The number of inhabitants in 1860 was 992,622. Divide the lands between them and it will give 16½ acres (about) to each inhabitant. So that a farmer who now owns a farm of 100 acres and is so unfortunate as to have a family of only three members, will have to give away more than one half of his present farm, should the red string programme succeed.

We clip the above from the Concord Independent Press. As we learn that there are some who profess to belong to this organization in Iredell, we commend the above article to their consideration. The colored people are warned to have nothing to do with any such organization by all the intelligent colored speakers whose addresses we have read, and who, at least, ought to have weight and be heeded by the freedmen in the State. It is not at all probable that there will be any confiscation of property, and if there should be, the land would be sold to the highest bidder, and not divided among the people, white or black. [Statesville American.]

FREEDMEN'S BUREAU IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Brevet Major General N. A. Miles, Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau for the State of North Carolina in his report for the month of April, represents a satisfactory condition of affairs in that State. The majority of all classes appear to be moving in their respective spheres with a determination of purpose calculated to produce good results. Notwithstanding much destitution prevails, there are encouraging prospects of its being materially decreased.—Crops bid fair for a large yield, and early fruits and vegetables will soon be available. The advancing spring offers many opportunities to labor; and there are but few localities where those so disposed cannot obtain at least a partial support. The donations from Northern philanthropists have enabled the bureau to reach cases of destitution unknown heretofore, or unable to be reached by the government. Farmers are working to the fullest possible extent of their resources, and large tracts of land, which have until now remained forests, or which have for many years remained idle, have been taken up.—As a general rule, contracts are strictly observed by both parties interested and complaints of wrongs or injuries are seldom heard. The educational work continues with unabated ardor, notwithstanding the season has arrived when many are called to the field of manual labor. The monthly returns show a much more gratifying result than for any corresponding period of the year previous.

General Miles also says:—
"The initiatory steps taken towards giving the colored people their rights of representation already gives evidence of its influence in the development of their manhood in a quiet manner, indicating their appreciation of their position, unattended by any evidences of elatedness, but with an earnestness of purpose characterized by moderation and proper reasoning."

QUERETARO CAPTURED BY THE LIBERALS—MAXIMILIAN AND HIS GENERALS PRISONERS.

NEW ORLEANS, May 27.—A dispatch, via Brazos, May 21st, to Major General Griffin, at Galveston, contains the following:
I have just received official information from Berriozabal and the United States Consul at Matamoras, that Queretaro was captured by the Liberals on the 15th of May. Maximilian, Mejia, and Castello are prisoners.

J. J. REYNOLDS, Major General.

MATTAMORAS, May 23.—The following was received from General Escobedo to-day:

CITIZEN, MINISTER OF WAR: At 3 o'clock this morning Vera Cruz was taken by our force, who surprised the enemy. Shortly after the garrison was made prisoners, and our troops occupied the place. Mean while the enemy retreated towards the Cerro de la Comuna, where our artillery caused him to surrender at 8 o'clock, A. M. Maximilian and his Generals, Mejia and Bastello, surrendered unconditionally. You will please give the President my congratulations on this triumph of the National army.—Escobedo reported from the interior that Juarez ordered the Archduke and his Generals to be shot.

MATTAMORAS, May 25.—The Liberal force which took possession of Queretaro has started for the capital.

Commodore L. D. Logan, of the Mexican navy, has been ordered by Berriozabal to command an expedition to Vera Cruz, and so completely end the struggle. The Liberals have taken possession of the steamer Gen. Sheridan for naval purposes.

CONFIRMATION OF THE FALL OF QUERETARO AND THE CAPTURE OF MAXIMILIAN.

The following telegram, dated New Orleans, May 26th, 1867, was received at the State Department:

Hon. W. H. Seward: I have this moment received the following dispatch by telegraph, via Galveston, dated at Matamoras, May 21st. I have the honor to transmit the following official letter:

"SAN LUIS POTOSI, May 15.

"General Berriozabal: My esteemed friend—Viva la Patria! Queretaro has fallen by force of arms this A. M. at 8 o'clock. Maximilian, Castello, Mejia and Miramon are prisoners. Yours, truly, "BENITO JUAREZ."

B. M. MARSHALL,
E. P. PLUMB.

QUEER STORY.

Mr. Meltzer, who lives on the west side of the Cedar River, about nine miles from this city, says that immediately after daylight yesterday morning, while feeding his cattle in the yard, he was astonished at the appearance of an immense structure, evidently a balloon. He describes the object to be a sort of aerial boat of mammoth dimensions, and supported by three immense balloons. It was quite low at the time it passed him, and he was able to distinguish several ladies and gentlemen looking over the sides. One of them halloed some words which he did not understand, and threw over board a flask of curious pattern.

Mr. Meltzer says that he does not suppose anybody will believe his story, but he is ready to make affidavit that what he tells is strictly true. He says that the hull of the boat appeared ten or fifteen feet high, by forty in length, and fifteen or twenty feet in breadth. There were windows in it, through which the rays of lamps could be seen, and a flag floated from the stern. He could not see the design. The ladies waved handkerchiefs. He thinks he saw ten or fifteen persons altogether. One man was high up on the side of the center balloon, climbing a rope ladder. While he gazed at it in speechless wonder, a lot of sand was thrown overboard, and the ship rose with great velocity, sweeping rapidly in a westerly direction, and in twenty minutes' time was out of sight.

[Cor. Chicago Times.]

BREAK UP HELL ITSELF.—An old preacher in Western New York, who was being persuaded by some of his church-men, during the political excitement in that State, last fall, to join the Radical party, said:

"No, my brethren, I can't join that party, because all the Abolitionists in the country are in it; and Abolitionism, my brethren, has done a wonderful sight of harm among the people. It has hurt many shepherds and scattered many flocks. It got into the Methodist Church and broke that up. It got in among the Presbyterians and split them in two; and it got into the Government and broke the old Union to pieces. And, my brethren, I don't know of anything it is good for but to break down and break up. And if you have any enmity against the old boy, I advise you to send Abolitionism into his dominions, and it will break hell up itself in less than six weeks."

Fortune tellers and tilting hoops operate differently. The former reveals what the lady will be in the future—the latter reveals what she is at present.

PROVIDENCE R. I., May 27.—The will of Shubal Hutching, the leading merchant of this city, who died last week, bequeaths \$10,000 for the education and improvement of the negroes in the South.

CHURCH CATECHISM.—We cut the following "Catechism for Choirs" from the Evangelical Lutheran, published at Charlotte, N. C. Although prepared for another latitude, it may perhaps find application in this vicinity:—

1. What is the object of a choir?

Ans. To sing fine music, and display the beautiful qualities of the human voice.

2. How should the time of service be spent?

Ans. In the most interesting manner possible. Reading novels and flirting will answer very well, though these occupations may be occasionally varied by counting the number of people among the congregation who are asleep.

3. What should be the rule with regard to attending rehearsals?

Ans. If you are a paid singer, you will have to go, of course. If not, don't go unless you choose. The leader ought to be thankful for your services whenever it is your pleasure to give them.

4. How should the leader of the choir be treated?

Ans. Very much as you feel. It is pleasant to differ with him continually in the selection of music to be sung.

5. What should be done in case there is any trouble about the choice of seats?

Ans. Insist upon having the place you want at all hazards. It will be sure to produce an agreeable excitement, and may, perhaps, lead to a division in the church. It is an opportunity not to be thrown away.

6. How can your importance as a choir singer best be made manifest?

Ans. By remaining at home whenever the choir happens to be in a particularly weak condition, or, still better, go to church with "such a dreadful cold that you are unable to sing a note," and you can thus sit with the congregation and enjoy the discomfiture of the choir. Also, by ceasing to sing, in the middle of some passage in which your voice is most needed. This will have the additional advantage of keeping the leader in a healthy state of vexation.

7. Finally, What are the peculiar and ever-to-be-cherished privileges of choir singers?

Ans. To have uneven tempers, to catch sudden colds, to try the patience of ministers, to set congregations by their ears, and in every possible way to prevent the stagnation which long continued peace and quiet would be sure to produce in a community.

GOOD.—The Newberry, S. C. Herald, says that the self-examining society has propounded the following queries. As the questions affect the Press generally, and are of great interest at this period, we press it on the attention of the people embraced in this section. Other papers will please do the same:

Does it cost anything to print a newspaper?

How long can a Printer afford to furnish a paper without pay?

Do Printers eat and drink and wear anything?

If so, how do they get it?

Do I owe for my paper?

Is not this particular time a first rate time to call and pay up?

A HARD LOCK.—Prentice, of the Louisville Journal, is rather emphatic in expressing himself about such men as lead and rule the Radical party. He says:

"If men may be judged by their enemies, how can we too highly esteem President Andrew Johnston, whose bitterest enemies are General Butler and Mr. Ashley, of Ohio, who ought to be in the blackest penitentiary of the earth, and Governor Brownlow, who ought to be in the reddest penitentiary in hell."

FOWL PROCEEDING.—The editor of the Sandersville Georgian advertises for one thousand chickens. He says he is getting ready to feed the Methodist preachers at the approaching District Convention, which is to be held at that place the last of this month.

A young gentleman, named Henry Turu, recently married his cousin of the same name. When interrogated as to why he did so, he replied, that it had always been a maxim of his, that "one good turn deserves another," and he had acted accordingly.

QUOTATION OF GOLD.—The quotations of gold as given in the money articles of the daily papers convey no fixed idea to the common mind; the information needed by the generality of the people is, what is a paper dollar worth? We have been furnished with the following, which those who care to do so, can cut out for reference:

When gold is quoted at \$1 10, a paper dollar is worth 91 cents, nearly.

When gold is quoted at \$1 15, a paper dollar is worth 87 cents.

When gold is quoted at \$1 20, a paper dollar is worth 83½ cents.

When gold is quoted at \$1 25, a paper dollar is worth 80 cents.

When gold is quoted at \$1 30, a paper dollar is worth 77 cents, nearly.

When gold is quoted at \$1 35, a paper dollar is worth 74 cents.

When gold is quoted at \$1 40, a paper dollar is worth 71 cents.

When gold is quoted at \$1 45, a paper dollar is worth 69 cents.

When gold is quoted at \$1 50, a paper dollar is worth 66½ cents.

A SINGULAR FACT.—The grain trade of America seems now completely reversed. Formerly the western States fed the Atlantic seaboard and exported large quantities of grain to Europe and California. Now the United States receives supplies from both Europe and California, and it is actually recorded that European wheat imported into New York is being shipped from that city to the West. Last year Illinois growers had hard work to get forty-five cents a bushel; now they have to pay about seven times that sum for it.

The schism in the Presbyterian Church is in the way of being healed. Commissioners of both the Old and New Schools, after a week of conference in New York have agreed with remarkable unanimity, upon a plan of union, which will be submitted to the next General Assemblies.

We used to read articles headed "Progress of the cholera." Now we read a good many headed "Progress of Wilson." Diseases are said to be getting worse and worse in the world.—Prentice.

It is truly wonderful, how the people of the beautiful Shenandoah valley have rallied from the prostration of the war. Between Harper's Ferry and Staunton, distance of one hundred and thirty miles, they had been devastated almost as thoroughly as the valley of the Elbe from the thirty years war of Germany. But, without fences to their fields in numerous cases, these Virginians have raised their annual crops, and without fences still to a great extent, there is a good prospect that they will have the finest and largest wheat crop this year that was ever known here, the whole length of the valley, and indeed throughout the State. The season is backward, but it has been very favorable to wheat, grass and fruit, and the farmers are also putting in a good crop of corn.

CONDITION OF THE SOUTH.—A newspaper correspondent, writing from a Southern city says:—

In the old flush times a passenger on a river boat accosted a little negro boy with an inquiry usual at that day:

"Who do you belong to?"

"Don't know, sir, answered the boy.

"Why don't you know?"

"When I come aboard I belongs to Massa Sam White, but last night he went me on two little par, an' de clerk ob do bote he win me. Dan Kunnel Smiff he beat de clerk on bluff, an' he had me last, so I dunno, massa, who I belongs to till de game close."

The South is in the same situation.

Never trouble trouble till trouble troubles you, for troubles rarely trouble people who never trouble themselves about trouble.