THE REPORTER. J. PEPPER, SE., | J. T. DARLINGTON,

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1877. THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

It has ever been urged by those who are in favor of the retail license system that no measure can be adopted which will result in even a partial suppression of the vice of drunkenness, or in any way tend to the improvement of society It is claimed that the more rigid the laws are in this respect, the greater will be the temptation to evade them, for men will buy, sell and use ardent spirits, let the eircumstances and conditions b what they may. It has been the pet theory of a few interested parties in this section that if the bar rooms were closed unlicensed retailers would become almost as numerous as locusts, and that either a jug, demijohn or runlet would be hidden behind every hill or secreted in every ravine surrounding Dunbury. But the experience of the pro-

week has thoroughly exploded this fallacy. Some of the oldest citizens of the county express positive surprise at the wonderful and satisfactory effect of the local prohibitory law, and assert that the present has been the most orderly Court ceasion they have witnessed in at least, twenty years. For once, no disgraceful street scenes have been enacted; no boisterous, abusive or blasphemous language has reflected upon our sivilization ; the nights have not been rendered hideous by the carousals and drunken orgies of the depraved, nor by the yells and pistol shots of the more desperate. A better behaved multitude never assem bled in Danbury, and possibly not within the State, on a similar occasion. And this great change is to be accounted for entirely as the result of prohibition.

But prohibition is regarded with gen eral disfavor by a large majority of people in this section. They regard it as curtailing their rights and privileges, and subjecting them to restraints that should not be imposed upon a free peo. ple. We are by no means in favor of general prohibitory laws applying to the sale of liquor or the abolition of any other right. We are not in favor o destroying or taking away a single privi. lege ever bequeathed to or enjoyed by our fellow citizens. These are things that should be surrendered only when they conflict with more important interests and then with positive reluctance. A liberty once surrendered may be gone forever. Arbitrary enactments never yet brought about a favorable reaction in public sentiment, and a permanent social or moral improvement. They may have the power to control for a time, but their effects are not often permanent or healthy.

Yet, while we do not favor harsh and extreme legislation in this direction, we do claim that the liquor traffic should be judiciously regulated. If "liquor is a good thing in its place," as is claimed, and a demon out of it, it must be equally true that it is liable to inflict injury, and when it does exert a pernicious and debasing influence upon society it becomes an evil, and as such should be restrained to certain limits. Is any liberty that hinges upon the existence of a retail groggery of such intrinsic value to a community that the people should be forced to listen daily to the horrid oaths and witness the many indecencies that originate therein? And have other by the votaries of intemperance, or should it be regarded as a persecution when the protection of law is invoked to save from wreck and ruin the civilization of our section ? We have never yet uttered a syllable or written a line in favor of prohibition in regard to the buying and selling of liquor ; but we have urged the abolition of the retail license system in this county, an I from the very best motives. No man's rights or liberties would suffer in the least if every retail drinking saloon in the State was closed. Those who buy their drinks now could purchase their quarts then ; but the advantage we con tend consists, first, in the fact that the number of liquor houses would become fewer, and, second, that those alone who bought liquor would drink it. It is a fact beyond dispute that, as a general rule, those who drink to excess, raise disturbances and disgrace society, never bear the expense of their dissipation, but depend largely upon the liberality of their friends There are men who halitually wait and lounge around barrooms in order to drink liquor that other men pay for. But when the retail trade shed, these men will find "the is ab winter of their discontent," for it is an admitted fact that there is no free whisky where there are no retail groggeries. Then, if the retail system is responsible for the volume of intemperance, it

should be abolished ; and if the traffic could be so regulated as to diminish temptation and abate the evil, should not the remedy receive the sanction of every philauthropist in the cousty? What right or privilege in destroyed

or surrendered in the matter ? Clearly as right whatever. We admit, regretfully, that men do have certain privileges," and these privileges some times seriously effect the dearest interests of society. It was Adam's privilege to eat the forbidden apple, and the result was that be and his wife were turned out of doors in peverty and nakedness It is now a citizen's privilege to indulge in the luxuries of the grogshop, and on this account thousands annually share Adam's experience. Rights should never be confounded with privileges, as privileges are often hurtful rather than

We, therefore, hope men will no long. er elaim it as their right to ignore the rights of others; to degrade and debauch society, to place temptation in the way of the unwary, to rob communities of their prosperity, and to spread poverty, vice and misery all around them. And we hope a better sentiment of duty and patriotism will not only deny this so-called right, but will prevent its exeroise. The closing up of bar-rooms has worked a miracle for Danbury, and would be of equal benefit to any other community.

Resumption of Specie Payment.

Secretary Sherman contemplates the publication, within a few days, of an official explanation of his financial poliey, so far as it relates to the execution of the Resumption act of January 14, 1875. In it, say dispatches which seem to be by authority, he will show that he intends to adopt no aggressive measures, and that the course he will pursue, instead of crippling the industries of the country or embarrassing its finances will promote the interest of both. His purpose is simply to execute, both in its letter and spirit, the act providing for the redemption of legal-tender notes on the 1st of January, 1869. The method adopted will be that authorized and provided by the law. In accordance with the provisions of this act the volume of outstanding legal tender notes is now being gradually reduced simultaneously with the issue of new national bank notes; but at the close of business on Thursday last in the. Treasury Department the amount of greenbacks still outstanding was \$61,494,404 in excuss of the three hundred millions the minimum contemplated by the act to be kept in circulation until January, 1879. To prepare for the redemption of this \$300. 000,000 of legal-tender notes in coin at the time fixed, the Secretary now contemplates the sale of \$100,000,000 worth of United States bonds at par in coin, the proceeds of which he will hold as a special redemption fund. The sale of \$5,000,000 of 41 per cent bonds, negotiated by the Secretary of the Treasury with the Syndicate last week, was the first of a series of sales by which it is proposed to obtain this fund.

The Famine in China.

Simultaneously with the dearth which is causing so much anxiety in India, a is raging in the north of China ; but while the care and energy of the Indian government reduce the distress in the former case to a minimum, people are dying by the thousands in China of chief distress are in the extreme North of Kiangsu, in Shantung, in Pechili and in Shanse ; and from Shantung especially the accounts which reach us, are heartrending. The whole tract of country in ques tion suffered last summer from severe drought, which nearly destroyed the crops; and the peasantry, having caten what little grain they had in store, or were able to gather are reduced now to the last stage of want. The picture drawn by Protestant missionaries in Shantung, and who are distributing the alms liberally contributed by the foreign communities in China, is terrible. Mr. Richard writes: "Having finished their corn, the people are now eating grain husks, potato stalks, and elm bark, buck wheat stalks, turnip leaves, and grass seeds which they gather in the fields. When these are exhausted they pull down their houses and sell the timber, and it is reported everywhere that many eat the rotten sorgum stalks from the roof, and the dried leaves they usually burn for fu l. Of their eating fuel leaves there is no doubt; thousands cat them, and is no doubt; thousands cat them, and thousands die because they cannot get even that. They sell their clothes, and children. Having no clothes let to protect them from the cold, many take refuge in pits built underground to keep themselves warm by the fetid breath of the crowd.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,) May 24, 1877. [From Our Own Correspondent.] For several days past there have eports that the troops had been ordered rom Louisiana and South Carolina. It is officially denied that such order has been issued, but their removal is only a question of a little time. Their "use

fulness" in the South ceased when they were ordered out of the State buildings The subject of compromising the noney claims of the Government against distillers who were charged with de frauding the revenue, will be referred to Congress by Secretary Sherman. This is an odd matter for Congressional action, but the Administration is in delicate position. First these distillers raised an enormous amount of money for the election, and aided materially in making Hayes President. Then the rincipal offender, in his efforts o be relieved, was represented by very close friend of President Hayes Pending Congressional action the Secretary of the Treasury will continue and a the courts against the parties, but this will be only to keep up appearances The strength of the Administration will be used in Congress to secure their relief. The amount involved is several millions of dollars.

Ingenious methods of getting mone to pay the army are being suggested. The law expressly forbids raising money for any such purpose, and the President is trying simply to do by indirection what he dares not do frankly and openly. The House of Representatives will probably look into all these transactions ever Congress meets.

Much is being said in Republican apers of the fact that Mr. Tilden de lined to be present at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, in New York, ecently, at which meeting President Hayes was a guest. No remarks from Republicans, as Republicans, are in order. The meeting was not, ostensibly, in honor of President Hayes, and Mr. Tilden may have had excellent private easons for refusing to attend. Business, health, or the mere disinclination to be present would be sufficient reasons It is likely, however, that Mr. Tilden believes, with most of his countrymen, that Hayes was not elected President and is not, in either law or equity, entitled to the office. If he so believes, then, that, also, was a sufficient reason for his absence. I fail to see just grounds for party attacks on Mr. Tilden whatever may have kept him away. Let our Republican friends confin themselves to explaining Senator Conkling's absence. These meetings have heretofore been graced by that distinguished gentleman, and he has never before, I believe, pleaded other business as an excuse for absence. s an excuse for al

One of our largest Building Ass tions in which several hundred men of small means had invested their earnings, in preference to placing them in a savings bank or other depository, has just met with a loss of some \$20,000. through the dishonesty of its officials. By a defect in our laws the defaulters cannot be punished for their crime. This is one of the evils any community s liable to-if there be in the world ich a community outside of Washing on-which has no vote or voice in making its own laws.

Jefferson Davis was invited to be pres-

What Sherman Think 3.

Gen. Leach's Speech.

We publish on our first page the

much talked of letter of Gen. James

Madison Leach, and we stop to get our

breath, at the amagement, we felt in con-templating the magnificent amount of egotism and Leachism cropping out in

every line. We feel sorry for our friends

of the Raleigh Observer, for the awful,

terrible, overwhelming rebuke for their

audacity in publishing anybody's letter,

or communication reflecting on the

patriotism of this mighty man, who

rescued the State from Radicalism, and

now refuses to tell us whether he will

let it stay rescued or not. If any man

in the State can tell us what the Gener-

al is after, or what he proposes to do

outside of his own glorification, we must

acknowledge that he can see farther in

the grindstones than we have been able

to do. Does he propose to affiliate with

Holden, Tourgee, et id omne gewus? Does he think he can transfer the brave,

gallant, high-toned members of that

grand old party, which they profess now

to have such a high respect for, to the

leadership of Holden? If such a thought

ever entered the mind of any man, we

respectfully suggest to him to take up the

Raleigh Constitution, published during

the summer of 1876, and if he ever had

any respect for Gen. J. M. Leach, we

think any inclination he may have had

in that direction, would soon be removed.

We understand very well the game of

these new fangled Southern Rights

gentlemen, and we hope our readers will

not be deluded into any such trap .---

Surely no Southern Whig would prefer

to connect himself with a party led by

the infamous Holden, and officered by

such men as Tourgee, Keogh, Hester

& Co., to one led by the noble and

chivalrous, gallant Vance, and officered

by such pure, honest and accomplished

men as A. M. Scales, George Davis, D.

W. Fowle, &c. "Tell it not in Gath.

publish it not in the streets of Askelon'

that North Carolina Whigs have been

invited to a feast prepared by W. W. Holden, immaculate Governor who in augurated the Kirk war, and who for years prior to the war filled the columns

his lying sheet with all manner of

abuse and slander upon the noble men of that party. Would not the spirits of Geo. E. Badger, Willie P. Mangum, Wm. A. Graham and "a legion" of

others rise up and denounce any such coalition ?---and right here we would

ask every decent white man in the State Democrat, Old Line Whig or Republi

can, if any party controlled by such leaders as now control the Radical party

n this State even under the Dynasty

that paragon of bone:sy, who presides at the White House, deserves the respect of any friend of the South? Who are

those men that we must how the supl knee to? When the Chief Magistracy

is in the hands of an honestly electe

President, be he Republican or what

ice to see justice done in all sections of

not, and he uses the high functions of his

the country we are willing to give him our humble support, but when a man

decline the offer, and call upon our po-litical friends to close up the ranks of our party and propose to make unceasing

war upon administration which thrusts Fred Douglas, W. W. Holden, J. Madi

son Wells, Gov. Stearns and men of that ilk in our face as exemplars of the Re-

formers, who propose to do so much for the South. Why this wonderful cry

In reply to the toast to "The army and navy," at the recent dinner to President Hayes in New York oity, the Bummer Sherman said that "without an army the American people would be a mob," and a viler slander upon the American people was never uttered

But no matter how untruthful the statement may be and how absurd, yet coming from the General of the Armies of the United States it deserves notice If this be the opinion of the General of the Army the duty of Congress is a plain one. The army must be cut down to such a figure as to make it powerless for evil. An army, certainly a regular army, is sure to take its opinions, as well as its orders from the General commanding. "Like master like man" is to the full as true when applied to the army as when applied to other people. We may take it, therefore, when General Sherman openly proclaimed, and in the very presence of the Presi dent of the United States, that the Federal Government was held together only by the Federal army, and that without it the American people would be a mob, that he was but giving expression to the common sentiment, and belief in Federal Military circles. And yet this sentiment, so utterly subversive of the first principles of Democratic Government passed unrebuked by President Haves. Not even Marshal McMa bon, the Military President of France, could have held a more obstinate silence at a similar utterance from the Com mander-in-Chief of his army than did Mr. Haves at the deelaration of Gen.

Sherman. We say that the duty of Congress in the premises is plain. Let the army be cut down until its power for evil shall be so diminished that it matters not what sentiments such men as Sherman and Sheridan may entertain. The aristocracy of the federal army must be taught that it does not occupy the same position in the United States that the French army holds in France, as the force to be conciliated by any govenment that wants to retain power over the

mobocracy of the reople. But this is not quite the whole duty of Congress in the premises. Taking Sherman as a representative of the military idea of the country and remem bering that he is the product of West Point it will be the duty of Congress to consider very gravely how far the teachings of West Point are responsible for such undemocratic and un-American views of government, and if it be responsible in any degree therefor whether the American people will care any longer to propagate any such views.

We take it that the great popular heart in America is set upon witness once more the supremacy of the civil over the military in the conduct of our government. For sixteen years and who has been forced upon the country by one of the most gigantic frauds known to the civilized world, invites as to compound that fraud, we respectfully more the Radical party has day and night ceaselessly fought against this consummation so devoutly to be wished. For a time the military was supreme in all the land. As Mr. Seward boasted. he had but to ring a little bell and the most nowerful citizen would be cast into a dongeon. Peaceful citizens, quiet civilians were tried by military tribunals; in a word, the civil authority was dead. But the war ended and the people of the North would no longer submit to military rule among themselves ; in the South only was it permitted. But no ent at the memorial services on the 10th of May at Chattanooga. He could not mit to military rule, and accordingly, we find in the South, State after State throwing off the yoke, until now the eivil authority is everywhere supreme. The struggle has, indeed, been a long one and everywhere a hotly contested one. The Radical party and the federal government fought against us step by step until driven back to the last ditch in Louisiana and there finally over thrown. In Tennessee and in Virginia, in Georgia and North Carolina, in Alabama as in Florida and Texas, the return to a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, was resisted even unto the death, and resisted

about doing Huyes administration jus-tice? It is because he wants to buy Democratic Congressmen enough to elect Garfield Speaker. We suppose Gen. Leach knows something of this man

the South.

The Sabbath of American Politics.

The most urgent need of this country just now is a rest from politics-a period of national repose-some intermission of excitement, of party struggles and of party animosities. Nations need repose now and then quite as much as individuals : for what are nations but aggrega. tions of individuals? What would come of individuals and of society, if they had not the blessed Sabbath day for rest and meditation? A continued state of activity and exertion works untold evils, and what is true of the individual finds its counterpart in political parties and in nations.

It has been well said that "the best political condition is that which gives us the least politics." The writer from whom we quote goes on to say that the business of politics as carried on in this country is far from being profitable to the people or conducive to the general welfare. "Wherever a community is found to be engrossed in politics, with political topics appermost, political dissussions always rife, and party spirit rampant and bitter, there, we may be sure, one of two things equally deplorable will be found true. Either past mistakes or follies have brought about business prostration, financial depression, and the disasters of hard times, for which all sorts of political quacks and empirics are urging political expedients and makeshifts as remedies, or prosperity has engendered the idleness which is so fruitful of mischief : and the abandonment of honest industry for political inventions is the beginning of a downward progress.'*

None will doubt that the country is prosperous when its citizens are so fully occupied each with his own individual pursuit or occupation that he has little time and less inclination for wrangling over political principles. That, it has been wisely said, is not a condition of health which sits the whole community on debating over the policies of parties and the functions of government. Sound men do not spend their time discussing their constitutions or wrangling over the merits of competent doctors or rival specifics.

The country is best off ; there is more prosperity, more enjoyment in life, more real happiness around the hearths ones of the people, where there is a truce between parties, a lull in political excitement, and a general turning of the public attention to all the things that pertain to a state of perfect national repose tension of our lines of inland and ocean communication, the cultivation of our fields, the planting of orchards and vineyards, the planning of our livers with fish, and the development of the hidden resources of our hills and forests. These are objects more worthy the attention of our people just now than subjects of po-litical discussion. If it be possible, let us have a rest

from politics-a breathing spell-a time for devotion to material, educational and religious interests-a season for enjoy-ment, r freshment and reinvigoration. before the next campaign opens. The Republican party is broken and demor-alized; let the Democratic forces be furloughed awhile; and let every man who did battle for his country in the last conflict of parties now unlace his armor for a rest. If the present season be not for a rest. If the present season be not a sort of Sabbath day in American pol-itics, it will be the fault of demagogues. —Raleigh News.

Sewing Machines.

ccept, but wrote to the committee of the Chattanooga Monument the following beautiful letter, which deserves to be

treasured up : "When your children's children shall ask what means this monument, let them be answered : It was reared by a grant ful people to commemorate the virtues of those who died in defense of the altars and hearthstones of Tennessee. In memory of the men who gave their formes and their lives that their children night be what their fathers had left hem, free and independent citizens of sovereign States, thus hoping to trans mit to an endless posterity the blessings of that liberty which belongs to those whose governments exist only by their consent and exercise only delegated the evening principles to sustain which their blood was shed may be there which their blood was shed may be there-by revived and supported. Sanctified by the sacrifices made in their behalf, shall they not be endeared to those for whom our hereas died? Your act, therefore, may not be regarded as a mere tribute to departed worth; it is also homage to truth, and contains the highhomage to truth, a d contains inc.

"What though we fail? We feed the high traditions of the world, And leave our spirit in our people's breast

And yet in the face of all this history General Sherman has the assurance declare in the very presence of the American President that without an army the American people would be a mob! It certainly is high time that the Bummer had his wings elipped — Raleigh Observer.

in vain.

The Asheville Citizen says: By a sweeping order from U.S. Marshal Douglass all the Deputies in his District are to consider themselves dismissed on and after the 30th of June, the close of the fiscal year of Judicial Department. This will be a cause for rejoicing in many quarters, only one thing remain-ing to make this joy complete, and we understand this is to be done-the re-moval of Douglass himself at the same

everything in his power to have him elected Speaker of the next Congress, and how does he expect to do it when there is an acknowledged 1 emocratic majority of 8 or 10? Of course by trying to buy enough to change the political complexion of the House. Will it be done? We wait for some Old Line Whig to answer.—Reisdsville News.

The Sunday School World for May appears in a neat cover, into which is packed the usual number and variety of valuable articles found in this excellent Sunday School monthly-Rev. Chas. S. Robinson, D. D., treats of "Lesson Helps ;" Rev. George E. Post, Syria, of "The Fig Tree;" Rev. Wm. Ormiston, D. D., sketches the character of "Elisha;" Mrs. W. F. Crafts explains "The Kindergarten," as applied to Sunday Schools; Rev. Mosely H. Williams shows "How not to keep scholars ;" Rev. Edwin W. Rice writes of the "The Pro phetic Books." Added to these are Dr John Hall's Lessons, Mrs. Knox's "Primary Talks;" Lessons Applied ; a Bible Concert Exercise, and the usual Editorials, making an interesting, varied and valuable amount of reading for the Sunday School worker which he would find it difficult to procure elsewhere at three times the cost of The World.

Five revenue officers were shot last week, in Lee county, Va., while in he discharge of their duties. One was mortally wounded.

We referred yesterday to the reduction in the price of sewing machines We are glad. The various companies have enjoyed a tremendous monopoly and hundreds of thousands of people have been made to pay the most ex-orbitant prices The New York World gives the cost of a first-class sewing gives the cost of a first-class sewing machine, retailed at \$70, as but \$15, the profit to the manufacturer \$13.50, or nearly one hundred per ceat to be divided among agents, appro-priated to the expenses of sub agencies, or absorbed in interest and costs of collections. This leaves an opportunity for a reduction of at least one-half, and the public should not be satisfied with less. As a contemporary just's says seving machines, instead of depending on the pertinacity of agents, often running into an encroachment on private rights, should become one of the regular arti-cles of trade, and if sold with a fair living profit only, their sale would be largely increased and they would find their way into thousands of families, from which their cost has hitherto shut them out. Thus far prices have fallen but twen-

ty-five per cent. They will some down at least fifty per cent. more, so do not buy now. A hundred doilar machine will be bought for fifty dollars before six months.

The monopoly has been immensely profitable One company paid eight hundred thousand dollars in ten years for the right to use the "needle-plate." Inventors should be allowed certain privileges, but a strictly useful inven-tion should be entitled to no such great privileges as the sawing machine ventors have had.- Wil. Star.