

CROPS, &c.—Passing through portions of Wake, Johnston and Wayne counties during our recent excursion, we could not avoid the conclusion, that our farmers will barely make half their usual crop, even though the seasons should prove unusually favorable. The most that some of our farmers can do the present year will be to renew their fencing—generally destroyed—and to prepare as well as may be for making an average crop next year.

This State has been peculiarly unfortunate in this crisis; for though the actual destruction of property within her borders has not been so extensive perhaps, as in other States, yet the movements of two large armies in planting season were extremely disastrous to the agricultural interests of large sections of country, while indiscriminate foraging has reduced the farmers in many instances to absolute want. These have had to begin life almost *de novo*, and to replace from their crippled resources not only the stock and the agricultural implements essential to a proper tillage of the soil, but they have had to essay all this when the labor-system is in a state of utter chaos: The sudden abolition of slavery has transformed into wastes plantations that were once gardens. Bewildered by the novelty of freedom, able bodied slaves have ceased to work. Leaving the weak and the infirm, the women and children, as a burden to those who formerly owned them, the strong and stalwart have congregated in the towns, their definition of freedom embracing but two ideas; the one license *not to work*; the other, gratuitous rations from the U. S. Commissariat.

We copy the following from the Raleigh Progress of the 7th inst:

Our New Governor—The Policy to be Pursued in Reconstructing a State Government.—We had a short interview with Governor Holden on Monday afternoon, and from him learned the plans and intentions of President Johnson relative to the reorganization of a loyal State government in North Carolina. It is not the policy of the Government to allow those persons who have been notoriously disloyal and prominent in their hostility to the national authority to have anything to do with the reorganization of a State government. The enrolment of voters will be conducted by men of unquestionable loyalty, to be selected for that purpose in each county, and those leaders who were prominent in their adherence to the rebellion will neither vote or hold office, for the simple reason that for the present they are excluded from the Amnesty Oath.

Though the President gave the general outlines of the policy the Government desired should be pursued in the reorganization of the State government, the details and practical application of the system will all be left to Governor Holden.

But the people must not expect all this to be done in a day. It has taken years to pull down, and it will necessarily require considerable time to build up. In the first place, having no mails and no means of communication save through couriers, it will require some considerable time to make the necessary appointments in the several counties for the enrolment of loyal men; and after this shall be done, the enrolment must be made and the records returned to the Governor's office before an election will be held. This can probably be accomplished in time to elect delegates to a Convention in August, and if so, the body will assemble by the 1st of September at farthest; and then, having laid the groundwork, the work will go on rapidly and harmoniously. The Convention can arrange for the holding of an election for Governor, Congressmen, members of the Legislature, county officers, &c.; and after all these shall have been elected, and entered on the discharge of their duties, the new State government will be fully under way, and the military may be entirely withdrawn from our borders.

And as much discretion has been given the Provisional Governor, by the Government, in the discharge of his duties, Mr Holden will be mainly responsible to the loyal men of the State for the manner in which the work of reorganization shall be performed, and we bespeak for him the hearty co-operation of all true men in the performance of the arduous duties before him.

TENNESSEE.—A bill fixing the legal status of the colored people of Tennessee has passed the lower branch of the Legislature of that State. It guarantees the sanctity of the matrimonial relation among them, but forbids their intermarriages with whites. All laws in force for the benefit of married women and children are to apply to people of color, provided that colored children shall not be admitted to the schools with the whites. Colored persons may be witnesses in all State cases in court against each other, but not against white persons, and no contract between a white and colored person shall be binding unless made in writing and witnessed by a white person. Colored persons are subject to the same penalties for crimes as whites, with the addition that rape by a colored man on a white woman shall be punished with death. There are various other provisions in the bill; but these are the most prominent.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The government has rescinded the order requiring passports from travelers coming in the United States, excepting only those who are known to be, or who may be suspected of being, enemies of the government. The latch string is out for all honest men.

CONFISCATION UNDER THE AMNESTY PROCLAMATION—Its Very Limited Extent.—The law of July, 1862, and President Lincoln's proclamation consequent thereupon, imposed the penalty of forfeiture of the entire property, real and personal, upon every man who should continue, after sixty days, to participate in, or in any manner abet, the rebellion. It was a trenchant measure, of much the same character as the enactment of the Confederate Congress, ten months previous, which smote all sorts and descriptions of property belonging to "alien enemies;" that is to say, to friends of the Union. Were this law now to be carried out, it would make nearly every Southern man and woman houseless, landless, penniless; for nearly every Southern man and woman has in some way participated in the rebellion since that time.

The Amnesty Proclamation of President Johnson relieves all from this forfeiture, excepting those embraced within the fourteen categories specified. Its practical effect is to lift the liability to confiscation from nearly every Southern farm and plantation. Comparatively few of the owners of farms and plantations come within the range of the designated exceptions. The men who served in the Confederate Congress, and who filled the Confederate offices, were mostly lawyers or professional politicians, who had nothing to do with agriculture. The military officers above the rank of Colonel were mostly officers of the old national army, who had lived in garrison, and owned little or no real estate. The planters and farmers of the South almost universally remained at home without any official connection with the Confederate Government. This was in accordance not only with their own habits and disposition, but with the policy of that government;—one of its chief solicitudes being to secure for its great armies adequate subsistence. The only extent touches the planting and farming classes of the South, is that which excludes from the benefit of the amnesty all abettors of the rebellion who have taxable property valued at more than twenty thousand dollars. But the ravages of the war, the loss of slave property, the disorganization of the whole labor system, and the uncertainties of the future, have so greatly reduced all of the old agricultural values, that it is safe to say that not one in one hundred of the present landholders of the South has taxable property to the amount named in this proclamation.

There will be then, at most, but comparatively little confiscation of Southern lands. This fact, we doubt not, will give general satisfaction. The object of the original law was not retributive but restorative. It was hoped that the property-holders of the South would be influenced by the fear of ruin to take advantage of the sixty days grace presented by the President's proclamation, and return to their allegiance. Perhaps some such effect might have followed, had McClellan taken Richmond within the two months, as was then expected. But the Southern people could find nothing in his disasters to assure them of the ability of the government to reestablish its power. No Southern man, at that time, however personally attached to the old flag, could conclude from our method of conducting the war, that the rebellion would be overcome; and it is not at all strange that Southern property-holders did not withdraw from the rebellion at the time, in pursuance of President Lincoln's call and warning.—*New York Times.*

Directions for Administering and Recording the Amnesty Oath.—The following official circular has been issued:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 29, 1865.

SIR—A copy of the President's amnesty proclamation of this date is herewith appended. By a clause in the instrument the Secretary of State is directed to establish rules and regulations for administering and recording the amnesty oath, so as to insure its benefits to the people and guard the government against fraud. Pursuant to this injunction, you are informed that the oath prescribed in the proclamation may be taken and subscribed before any commissioned officer, civil, military or naval, in the service of the United States; or any civil or military officer of a loyal State or Territory, who by the laws thereof may be qualified for administering oaths. All officers who receive such oaths are hereby authorized to give certified copies thereof to the persons respectively by whom they were made; and such officers are hereby required to transmit the originals of such oaths at as early a day as may be convenient, to this department, where they will be deposited and remain in the archives of the government. A register thereof will be kept in the department, and on application, in proper cases, certificates of such records will be issued in the customary form of official certificates. I am, sir, your obedient servant.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

In Macon Ga, good bacon has sold as low as seven cents per pound, fresh beef at eight cents per pound. Corn meal at seventy-five cents per bushel, and eggs at fifteen cents per dozen.

RAILROADS IN TENNESSEE AND GEORGIA.—The work on the railroad between this city and Atlanta is progressing with great rapidity. Trains can now run to Kingston, and in a few days will be able to run to Cartersville, only a small piece of trestlework over Petit's Creek being yet to complete. On the Atlanta end the negroes, captured by Gen. Wilson during his raid, have been set to work under the supervision of some 50 overseers, and have repaired that portion of the road as far as the Chattahoochee River, while another lot of them are on this side of the river. The telegraph line is working to Cartersville and will soon be completed to Marietta. Parties are employed in carrying passengers in wagons from Atlanta to Dalton, charging them \$15 for the trip.

Gen. Wilson has granted to a firm named Lockhart, Lee & Co., the privilege of gathering together all the machinery and materials that can be found in Atlanta, and the firm is busily engaged in repairing and putting in good order the rolling stock of all kinds, belonging to the different railroads which centre there.

The President demands Indemnity from England.—The Memorial Diplomatique [Paris] of the 4th ult., makes the important announcement that President Johnson has instructed our Minister at London to "require of the English Government a prompt decision as to the indemnities due the United States for losses caused to Federal citizens by Confederate cruisers, such as the Alabama and others, constructed and equipped in English ports since the beginning of the war."

The Memorial adds that this demand has been several times made by the United States, but that its justice has never been conceded by the British Government, which has rested its refusal upon the opinions given by the law officers of the crown; that "Mr Lincoln had nevertheless persisted in the demand, renewing it a short time before his death; and that Mr Johnson, far from abandoning this demand, has revived it, accenting it with more vigor and energy than ever." It is the opinion that the demands will be acceded to by the English Government.

The Madrid Epoca, of two days later adds: We believe, finally, that England will end by satisfying the United States, and recognizing the justice of the reclamations which we believe cannot in the main be contested, even if they do not in amount fully reach the sums mentioned in this connection.

The London Standard says that "so long as the Confederate States were able to hold their own and give employment to all the forces of the North, it was not convenient for the U. States to push matters in making demands of England.

A NATIONAL BANK.—Such an institution is much needed in this region, and will prove of incalculable benefit in restoring business generally. Our people have ample securities, but are utterly devoid of money with which to resume their occupations. With a healthy bank in our midst, having ample capital to loan on undoubted security, we shall soon have prosperity again.—*Wilmington Herald.*

This is just what we need in this region, also; and we have no doubt it could be easily and speedily obtained by an energetic combination of our leading business men. Indeed we have heard something of a movement said to be already on foot toward the opening of such an institution in Charlotte. We do not know how far it has progressed, or what measure of success it has met with, but we trust it will be prosecuted to a successful issue, because we believe that here as well as in Wilmington, it would prove of incalculable benefit in restoring business generally.—*Charlotte Bulletin.*

An Auctioneer Caught in His Own Trap.—Smith, the auctioneer, is a popular man, a wit and a gentleman. No person is offended at what he says, and many a hearty laugh he has provoked by his humorous sayings. He was lately engaged at a sale of venerable household furniture and fixings. He had just got to "Going, going, and a half, and a half,—going!" when he saw a smiling countenance upon agricultural shoulders winking at him.

A wink is always as good as a nod to a blind horse or a keen sighted auctioneer; so Smith winked, and the man winked, and they kept winking, and Smith kept "Going, going," with a lot of glass ware, stovepipes, carpets, pots and perfumery, and finally the lot was knocked down.

"To who?" said Smith gazing at the smiling stranger.

"Who? Golly!" said the stranger, "I dunno who."

"Why, you sir," said Smith.

"Sho! Me!"

"Yes, yes," said Smith; "you bid on the lot."

"Me?" "I'll be goll darned if I did," insisted the stranger.

"Why did'nt you wink, and keep winking?" quoth the auctioneer.

"Winkin! Well I did—so did you wink at me. I thought you were winkin' as much as to say—keep dark, I'll stick somebody on this lot of stuff; and I winked, as much as to say—I'll be goll darned if you don't, mister."

General Beauregard, of whom we have heard very little for the past two months, was in New Orleans on the 22d, and registered his name at General Banks' headquarters as a paroled rebel officer.

TRIAL OF JEFF. DAVIS.—The Judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia have determined to try Jeff. Davis, on the indictment found last Friday, before a full bench, Judge Carter presiding. There is reason to believe that the trial will take place on or about the 19th of this month, unless the defendant can make a showing of necessity for postponing the hearing for a few days. The trial cannot occupy more than three or four days in the impaneling of the jury and presentation of evidence; any further prolongation will depend on the length of arguments of counsel.—*New York Herald.*

Gov. Brown of Georgia has been released on parole at Washington.

The military commission has found Benjamin G. Harris, member of Congress from Maryland, guilty of the charges of persuading rebel soldiers not to take the oath of allegiance, but to get exchanged and go back and continue the fight. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and a forfeiture of all political rights. The President has approved of the finding, but remitted the sentence, and the prisoner has been released.

It is understood that the mission of General Sickles to Bogota was for the purpose of obtaining grants of land for the purpose of settling them with blacks from the United States, and that the late President, who authorized the mission, was willing to give fifteen millions of dollars for adequate territory.

KENTUCKY.—A resolution was introduced in both branches of the Kentucky Legislature to reconsider that rejecting the Constitutional Amendment abolishing Slavery, but was refused permission to be entered. The vote, however, showed a large accession of strength to the ranks of its friends.

CHIRO, Thursday, June 1.

Trade has fairly opened with the people of Northern Alabama. Two steamers have gone below from this city, laden with merchandise for that section, which sells readily at satisfactory rates, money being found there in unexpected abundance.

EXHUMED.—It is surprising to those who have been in the city since its occupation by the union army, and who formed a very unfavorable estimate of the amount of articles of trade here, to witness the cart and dray loads of cotton, rice, &c., now being stored in the warehouses for shipment to the northern market. Where it comes from no one knows. Ten days ago all kinds of vehicles for hauling could be found in idleness on the streets, but since the removal of restrictions on trade not one is to be seen—all busy hauling.—*Wilmington Herald.*

THE NATIONAL DEBT.—We have now the official figures, from the hands of Secretary McCulloch, showing us the aggregate of the national debt as it was known to exist on the 1st of the present month. The following are the details:—

Total indebtedness	\$2,685,205,750
Interest, both in gold and paper	124,638,874
Amount bearing interest in coin	1,108,113,842
—Interest	64,480,489
Bearing interest in lawful money	1,058,476,371
—Interest	60,158,384
Amount on which interest has ceased	786,270
Amount bearing no interest	472,829,276
Legal tender notes in circulation	659,160,569
Fractional currency	24,667,000
Uncalled for pay requisitions	40,000,000
Treasury notes over	25,000,000

It thus appears that we have already a debt of over two thousand six hundred and thirty-five millions, which before the fiscal year, in 1866, will no doubt be swelled to three thousand millions, with an interest of one hundred and fifty millions in gold and currency to pay annually.—*New York Herald.*

CIRCULAR IN RELATION TO THE SHIPMENT OF COTTON, &c.

Headquarters Department of North Carolina,
Raleigh, N. C., May 30, 1865.

General Orders No. 68.

All seizures of Cotton or other products, of private property of whatever kind, are prohibited.

All restrictions upon the purchase and shipment of the products of the country have been removed. All persons, except those in the military service, are authorized to purchase and ship to market, and other products without restriction. The Government tax of twenty-five per cent. upon Cotton will be paid at the sea port from which the shipment is made.

The Quartermaster's department will afford all possible facilities for the shipment of cotton and other products over the military railroads.

All commanding officers are required to enforce the prohibitions of this order, and to encourage people to send products of the country to market. They will also give purchasers and shippers necessary protection as far as practicable.

By command of Maj. Gen. Schofield,
J. A. CAMPBELL, Asst Adj. Gen.