

# WESTERN DEMOCRAT.

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## NORTHERN ITEMS.

Governors Vance and Letcher are yet confined in the Capitol prison, and have not yet applied for pardon, although it is expected they will do so.

The Mexican Minister is confident that the French will be driven out of his country before the close of the present year.

Mrs Patterson, daughter of President Johnson and wife of one of the new Senators from Tennessee, will arrive in Washington this week, to preside over the domestic arrangements of the White House.

Of the 300,000,000 of banking capital authorized by the National Bank Act, and the amendments thereto, of the last Congress, only 67,000,000 remains to be taken up.

In order to secure a loyal feeling in the South, it is proposed that the land warrants given to soldiers surviving the late war, be located in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, in abandoned lands or confiscated estates.

The report of the special commission sent out to examine charges against Gens. Banks and Hulbert is said to be very damaging to their characters as officers and gentlemen and fully justifies the removal of both.

The Log Cabin in which Mr Lincoln resided when he split rails and learned to write and studied law, is to be exhibited at the great fair in Chicago.

Henry S. Foote, lately of Mississippi, is on his way to California, where he has children residing.

Some of the Sutlers who followed the army and rushed into Richmond with their wares, in anticipation of doing a tremendous business, on the supposition that the Southern people had plenty of good money, are closing out, one by one, and returning to the North, wiser, if not richer men. The wholesale commission houses established since the evacuation are doing well.

John Mitchell, formerly assistant editor of the Richmond Enquirer and Examiner, and who lately connected himself with the N. Y. News, was arrested in New York week before last by order from Washington, and put in prison.

Generals Hallecks and Stoneman have written letters to the War Department in reply to the strictures upon them made by General Sherman. General Halleck is understood to throw all the responsibility of his action in the premises upon Lieutenant General Grant, and General Stoneman to claim that by acting upon his own judgement he compelled the fugitive Jeff Davis and his party to take up a line of march which resulted in his capture by the troops sent out to head him off.

Mrs Stephen A. Douglas has given a brilliant entertainment in Washington, the first public reception since the death of Mr Douglas.

A large number of negroes, who followed the Army of Georgia to Washington, have made application to return to their former homes.

More than 1,800 claims for damages by the war have been filed at Washington, amounting to over \$50,000,000.

In the Washington city election the conservatives voted in greater strength than since the war began, and elected the ticket which they preferred. They polled large majorities against all who participated in the recent meeting for the banishment from the city of those who left during the war.

**GREENBACKS.**—It may not be generally known that, by Act of Congress, United States Treasury Notes—generally termed "greenbacks"—are legal tender for all dues except import and export duties and the interest on the public debt. Gold and silver can only be rated as articles of merchandise. This should be understood by one and all.

The judges of the supreme court of Pennsylvania have delivered an opinion affirming the constitutionality of the legal tender act, on the ground that the clause of the constitution authorizing congress to "coin money and regulate the value thereof, and of foreign money," does not constitute a prohibition of the issue of paper money instead of coin. The court held that the words of the constitution should not be construed literally, but according to their spirit, and cited the authority given to congress "to declare war" in the same instrument as not being sufficiently comprehensive to authorize it to make and carry on war if interpreted literally.

## SOUTHERN ITEMS.

Gov. Watts, of Alabama, who was arrested a few days ago at Macon, Ga., has been released from arrest, and has returned to Montgomery.

The military authorities at Chattanooga, Tenn., have issued an order prohibiting all paroled officers and men of the late Confederate army from visiting any places of public resort or amusement in that vicinity.

A vessel has arrived at Norfolk, with corn, from Hyde County, North Carolina, and the captain reports that there is plenty of corn there but no money. Some of the corn had been in store since the war commenced.

Howell Cobb is reported to have remarked, when he heard of Gov. Brown's arrest, "Yes, d—n him! he'll go to Washington a prisoner, and be sleeping with Andy Johnson in less than a fortnight."

The choicest cotton is selling at Vicksburg at twenty-five cents.

News from Jackson, Mississippi, is to the effect that the country thereabouts has already far more merchandise than the people have money to pay for. Good bacon was selling at ten dollars per hundred pounds, and lard for the same by the wagon load, showing that there has heretofore been a general concealment of property of the edible kind.

A correspondent writing from New Orleans says:

"In a short time twenty-five thousand Southerners, from Texas, will be in Mexico. The sympathies of the leading men of that party will not be with Maximilian."

Gen. Dick Taylor's Louisiana plantation, near New Orleans, which had been confiscated, was sold a short time since for \$9,000. It comprises 2,500 acres, with all the improvements—sugar house, mills, engines, dwellings, &c.

**THE INDICTMENT OF GENERAL LEE.**—A Washington correspondent writes: "The indictment found against Lee, by the grand jury of Eastern Virginia, is a most nonsensical proceeding. The bill could not be issued on the authority of the General Government, for the latter is pledged not to molest Lee; while further, it does not recognize the proceedings of the court which has brought the indictment. Nor can the grand jury act thus for the State, for Lee has not committed treason against it. He took up arms in obedience to a call of the State, in her defence, and how then can he be indicted for treason against the State? So silly is the action of the grand jury, that I find every one is laughing at it.

The status of the general officers paroled under the terms of agreements between Grant and Lee is becoming a question of some importance. Already the Grand Jury at Richmond has found indictments for treason, against Lee and several others. It is claimed that convictions under these indictments are necessary to make valid the confiscation of their property under the laws. On the other hand, it is contended that any and all prosecutions against officers thus paroled are barred by the terms of their surrender. The matter has been submitted to both the President and the Attorney General; but for the present both decline to take it under consideration, believing that the defence should properly be presented in the courts which may take cognizance of the indictments.

**Important Decision of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.**—The United States Stamp Act held to be unconstitutional.—The Milwaukee Sentinel of Friday says:

In the case of Jones and others vs. Keep, our Supreme Court decided Wednesday that the law of Congress requiring stamps to legal processes, in the commencement of suits or otherwise, is unconstitutional, and that the law in this respect is void, and the stamp on legal papers is not necessary. This decision was made by Chief Justice Dixon and Judge Cole. Judge Downer dissented. We have not yet seen the written opinion of the Court, but we presume it proceeds upon the ground that the imposition of a tax upon any proceedings or processes in a State Court is an invasion of the right of the State to regulate proceedings in its own courts; that if Congress can tax these proceedings at all it can lay upon them a tax which would practically amount to a prohibition, and can thus practically legislate the State Court out of existence.

Reliable information has reached the friends of John C. Breckinridge at Lexington, Kentucky, that he has arrived safe in Cuba. How he got there they refuse to say.

## LETTER FROM B. F. MOORE, ESQ.

RALEIGH, June 17, 1865.

To the Editors of the Standard:

In your paper of this morning you have transferred to its columns two letters addressed to the New York Herald, by its Raleigh correspondent, bearing date 4th of June, inst., which after noticing as "one of the most unpleasant features of the history of North Carolina, the scrambling among the politicians at this period for office," the correspondent proceeds, in connection with my name, as follows: "B. F. Moore, the most formidable of the rival candidates of Mr Holden, and the leader of the rival delegation to Washington has also withdrawn. The two delegations fused in Washington, and Mr Moore, so the understanding is, has the promise of the State Senatorship or Supreme Court Judgeship."

In the first place, it was an error in the correspondent to call the two parties of gentlemen, who visited Washington, delegations. Gov. Holden was invited thither by the President himself, and he associated with him the respectable gentlemen who accompanied him. Within a few days afterwards I received through Gen. Schofield, a telegram from Washington, that ex-Gov. Swain, Wm. Eaton, jr., and myself, would be acceptably received by the President, in behalf of the State. I was no party to the telegram to which this was a reply.

So soon as convenient, we repaired to the city. Gov. Holden, and the gentlemen who accompanied him, had had an interview with the President before we arrived, the 20th day of May. We then had a separate interview with the President on the Monday following, in which was principally discussed the most effectual mode of restoring the civil government to the State as a member of the United States. The President favored, as the most proper, a total ignoring of the State government. In this we differed from him. The next conference at which we were present, was on the following Thursday; and Gov. Holden and his associates were present, both they and ourselves having arrived the evening before to meet at the conference. At this interview the matters debated and considered jointly, were altogether in reference to the amnesty proclamation, and trade of the State, and an appeal which was made to him to allow, if possible, the State, penniless as it was in its finances, to take charge of the State property, and use it for charitable purposes, as supporting the Lunatic asylum, and the helpless poor of the State.

This conference, and for these objects, closed the interview, and neither Mr Eaton nor myself saw the President any more. The opinions of all, in this interview with the President, seemed to harmonize as to their objects, and I doubt not that they were cordial and candid. There was not between any of us, as I believe, a particle of jealousy or ill feeling one towards another.

For myself I say, I went to Washington for the good of the people of my State; as for the like object, I had a short time previously met Chief Justice Chase at Wilmington. It is not true that I have withdrawn my name as a candidate for Governor; I have never given permission that it should be used for that purpose. It is not true that I have "the promise of the State Senatorship, or Supreme Court Judgeship."

I should feel very much humbled if my fellow-citizens should believe that, while professing to aid them in this hour of heavy trouble, I was capable of bartering myself away for office.

I presume, Messrs. Editors, that the reflection upon my integrity had escaped your notice, else you had done me the justice to disabuse the public mind of the charge that I was engaged in a scramble for office.

Very respectfully yours,  
B. F. MOORE.

**BALTIMORE, June 16.**—A number of persons, from Baltimore county and elsewhere, have been summoned here to appear before the military authorities, to give evidence against the Rebel Major Harry Gilmor, looking to his indictment and trial for treason. The city grand jury has found an indictment against his brother, who was with him on the raid in Maryland a year ago. He is now in jail awaiting trial. Many indictments are being found against Marylanders who participated in the above named raid, and other treasonable depredations.

The Sioux Indians are again making hostile demonstrations in Nebraska. Five hundred of them attacked one hundred men of the Eleventh Ohio cavalry, fifteen miles west of Fort Mitchell, and killed four and wounded seven of them. A number of the Indians were killed.

## THE AMNESTY PARDON.

Attorney General Speed has issued the following circular, for the benefit of those classes making application for special pardon, under the President's Amnesty Proclamation:

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, June 7, 1865.

"By direction of the President, all persons belonging to the excepted classes enumerated in the President's Amnesty Proclamation of May 29, 1865, who may make special application to the President for pardon, are hereby notified that, before their respective applications will be considered, it must be shown that they have respectively taken and subscribed the oath or affirmation in the said Proclamation prescribed. Every such person desiring a special pardon should make, personal application in writing therefor, and should transmit with such application the original oath or affirmation as taken and subscribed before an officer authorized, under the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of State, to administer the Amnesty oath prescribed in the said Proclamation of the President.

"JAMES SPEED, Attorney General."

## SENSIBLE TALK.

The New York Times, speaking of Northern sentiment and expectations about the South, says:

"We (the northern people and authorities) are too exacting also in regard to the political action of the Southern people. We expect them, now that the war is over and they are beaten, to become at once, not only loyal citizens, obeying all the laws, and sustaining fully the national authority, but thorough-going abolitionists, and advocates of negro suffrage. Anything short of this we consider half-way loyalty and think they have not been whipped quite enough yet. We denounce them as still Secessionists at heart, and call for their exclusion from the rights of citizenship.

This is unreasonable and unwise. We have really nothing to do with their hearts. We have no right to exact the complete change of sentiment and feeling which we demand. We have a right to insist that they shall obey the law, that they shall acknowledge and respect the national authority, and conduct themselves as peaceful law-abiding citizens. If they do this, we can demand nothing more. They may believe in their hearts what they please; they may feel as they like about the war and the government; they may be at heart rebellious still; but that is really none of our business. We cannot control their opinions or their sentiments; we can and must control their conduct, but that is all. Nor is it reasonable to expect that the mass of the Southern people can or will become suddenly devotees of doctrines and sentiments which they have hitherto abhorred, and against which they have staked their fortunes and their lives. Men do not thus instantly change their whole natures on compulsion. And any ostentatious pretensions of such a change would be hypocritical. The great body of the Southern people were unquestionably honest and sincere in the opinions, the prejudices and the resentments which led them to rebel against the Government; and it would be folly to suppose that those feelings would all be at once eradicated by the simple fact that they have been beaten in the field. A radical change in the sentiment of the Southern people, concerning slavery and the purpose and temper of the national authority, can only be wrought by time, by wise laws wisely administered, and by their experience of the new condition upon which they have entered.

Nor should we desire to break the spirit, or crush the self-respect of the people of the Southern States. Their courage, their resolute and determined spirit, is now among the priceless possessions of the whole country. It has been our enemy, but hereafter it is to be our friend. It has been turned against us, and has vainly sought our destruction; henceforth it fights only on our side, and swells the power and the courage with which we may confront a world in arms. It would be suicidal in us, to crush or destroy it—we should be destroying a part of that which is to give us the proudest place ever held by any nation on the face of the earth. They confess and feel themselves overcome—subdued, subjugated. From no quarter do we hear the faintest hint of any wish even to renew the contest. It is not for us to poison the wound we have inflicted on their pride, nor to stab, with insulting blows, the dead body of their ambition."

Judge Sharkey has been appointed Provisional Governor of Mississippi.