

Western Democrat.

W. J. YATES, Editor and Proprietor.

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

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SUPERIOR COURT.—The Spring Term of this Court for Mecklenburg commenced last week—Judge Gilliam presiding, and W. P. Caldwell, Solicitor.

On Tuesday, Dave Blackwood, freedman, was tried on the charge of burglary and larceny—he having broke into the house of Jerry Bethel, freedman-of color, in December last. Without argument on the part of counsel, the Solicitor consented to take a verdict of larceny. The evidence showed that the negro was guilty of burglary, the penalty for which is death; but Gen. Sickles having seen proper to interfere with our State laws, it was thought best by all hands to compromise on a verdict of larceny.

A negro named Peoples, who was indicted for highway robbery, was convicted of larceny. Sentence in this case, as well as that of Dave Blackwood, has not yet been pronounced by the Judge.

The Court will continue in session the greater part of this week.

If our Judicial authorities were allowed to inflict punishment according to the laws in force in this State for many years past, we should hear of less stealing and have fewer deprivations of all sorts. In these latter days, however, a criminal must either be hanged, or kept in jail, as a punishment, at county expense, while his wife and children are suffering or starving.

Which is the most barbarous practice: whipping a rogue when convicted, and then turn him loose to work for the support of his family, or keeping him confined in jail whilst his family is suffering for food? The law-givers of the present day may answer.

JUDGE GILLIAM, who has been holding Court in this circuit, has gained the esteem of the community generally, by his fair, impartial and correct decisions. We always take pleasure in commending a faithful public officer, and we think it is the general opinion that Judge Gilliam is a good man and an upright Judge. And what we say for Judge Gilliam, we can say for W. P. Caldwell, Esq., the Solicitor, who discharges his duties honestly, impartially and firmly. We hope North Carolina will be permitted to retain the services of such men.

ADVISE GRATIS.—In all directions we hear and read of advice being given to the colored people. Public speeches are being made for the negro's especial benefit—it being understood, of course, that the negro's benefit consists in voting with a particular party or for particular men. Now, we suggest that the negro will be more benefited by large crops of corn, &c., than by all the political harangues from this until doom's day.

The only advice we have to give the colored man, is, to attend to his work and strive to make money and provide something for his wife and children. Money in the pocket or corn in the crib, and plenty of meat in the smoke house, will be found to be better friends to the colored man than all the political speakers in the land.

If the colored man loses a day now and then attending political meetings, he will find himself at the end of the year that much poorer. He cannot afford to lose one day in each week from his labor. He needs every cent he can make, and it is wrong for any one to induce him to neglect his work. The right to vote will never fill the stomach of black man or white man.

It appears that Senator Wilson's efforts to enlighten us heathens "down South" is not relished by some of his Northern Radical friends. A telegraphic dispatch from Washington says:

"Thad. Stevens has written a letter for publication, commenting upon the remarks in Senator Wilson's late speech at Hampton, Virginia, in which he said there would be no impediment to the admission of Southern Representatives in Congress, if Union men were elected, &c. Mr. Stevens, in his letter, says, 'No man should make promises for the party. By what authority does any one say that upon the election of loyal delegates they will be admitted? By what authority does he say that Virginia will elect two loyal Senators, when there is no Virginia?' He concludes as follows: 'Who is authorized to travel over the country and peddle out amnesty? I would say to the most guilty, expect punishment and then quit; but first a mild confiscation to pay those who have been robbed by disloyal men. These are my wishes, and mine only, perhaps.'"

So Mr Stevens cannot relinquish the disposition to get hold of a little more Southern property. Let us all pull together and disappoint the old gentleman. The burning of uncle Thad's Iron Works in Pennsylvania, by some Confederate troops, was rather a bad job.

MAPLE SUGAR.—We saw in Wilson Brothers' store last week about 200 pounds Maple Sugar, which was made in Ashe county and sent here for sale. It is rather a new article of commerce in this section.

MORE CONFEDERATE HISTORIES.—General Joseph E. Johnston, late of the Confederate army, is preparing a history of his campaigns. Jefferson Davis will, of course, be handled vigorously, and the work will embrace, in addition to a record of battles and marches, a philosophical view of contemporary events, sufficient to give the character of a history rather than a narrative.

General Lee is also busy at a review of his campaigns, which a New York publisher is to take in hand, paying him, it is reported, about ten per cent on the sales.—New York Tribune.

We don't believe Gen. Johnston will belittle himself by assailing a broken-down, feeble, helpless prisoner. Such work as that might be left for narrow-hearted, one-sided writers like Pollard & Co. It is to be hoped that Gen. Lee will write a history of the war and kill off the partial trash that is being published.

A TIMELY SUGGESTION.—Gen. Ord, who commands Arkansas and Mississippi, in a recent order speaks the following sensible words to the colored people of those States. We call the attention of the colored men of this section to the matter:

"The most important duty devolving upon freedmen in their new condition is that of providing by their own labor for the support of themselves and families. They now have a common interest in the general prosperity. This prosperity does not depend so much on how men vote as upon how well each member of society labors and keeps his contracts. Freedmen are therefore urged not to neglect their business to engage in political discussions, but continue to comply with their contracts and provide for themselves and families; for, unless they do so, a famine may come, and they will have no food. When the time comes for them to have their names entered in the books of voters, which will be before next September, the General commanding will send them word through proper United States or county officers, and send the books to places near by their homes, so that every voter can have his name registered, and can afterward vote without going far from his home. Only those residing in towns will be registered or vote there."

At Lincoln Superior Court last week, the case of John Owens, for killing Benj. F. Withers, was postponed till next term.

Senator Wilson spoke in Wilmington on Wednesday last, and Capt. Benj. Robinson, Editor of the Wilmington Dispatch, replied to him.

We cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that it is unfortunate, and detrimental to peace and good feeling, that Northern men should feel it a duty to come South to teach us our duty. The great mass of the people of North Carolina are ready and willing to submit to reconstruction on the Congressional plan, but they don't like outside interference. If office-seekers and politicians would let the people (white and black) alone, everything would work right, and there would be no contention and strife. We repeat, that we are for leaving the work of reconstruction to be perfected by those that Congress considers loyal, but we protest against outside interference because we think that it can only result in harm.

CONNECTICUT.—The Legislature of Connecticut assembled on the 1st inst., and the new democratic Governor, English, delivered his first Message. The telegraph gives the following short sketch of the Governor's views:

"He urges that, as citizens of a common country, we should strive to extinguish vindictive resentments engendered by the late civil war, which was waged to maintain the supremacy of the Federal Constitution and the integrity of national honor. He states that the great object is not yet attained; the Union is not restored; the States are denied participation in the national Government by the action of Congress. Such measures, if persisted in, will transform the Republic into a despotism. He deems the course of legislation passed by Congress as wholly unwarrantable, and as fatal to the Union as the doctrine of secession. The legislation of the Thirty-ninth Congress, to a large extent, was a series of usurpations and infractions of the Constitution. He argues that Congress has no more power, under the Constitution, to establish military government in the Southern States, than to institute an order of nobility in England. He claims that Congress has assumed that power only for the purpose of more thoroughly accomplishing the subversion of the State authority. If Congress can legislate for those States, it is not difficult to foresee a like interference in other States, and the right of States to regulate internal affairs in their own way will henceforth be denied."

MR DAVIS' TRIAL.—Washington, May 3.—Judge Underwood, yesterday, issued a writ of habeas corpus, directing the commanding officer of Fortress Monroe to bring Mr Davis before him on the 13th instant. The writ was obtained by Geo. Shea. It is understood that the writ will be obeyed, and that Mr Davis will not be remanded to military custody.

It is reiterated that Chief Justice Chase refuses to preside at Mr Davis' trial within a territory ruled by the military.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The Rev. Mr. Bagley called on the President yesterday to inquire whether the Executive would pardon Jefferson Davis should the latter petition for such clemency. The President replied that he had issued a proclamation two years ago, which set forth certain conditions and rules for pardon; that any one desirous of obtaining pardon must place himself within the terms and provisions of that proclamation. The President added that he declined to say to Mr Bagley, who had heretofore declined to say to others, what course he would pursue with regard to Jefferson Davis; that he (Mr Johnson) would endeavor to perform his duty conscientiously, as he understood his obligation, at the proper time. Such was the substance of the conversation, as I get it from an authoritative source.

A correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune says: "It is asserted on the very highest authority that the government has offered to release Mr Davis on his own parole, but that he has positively declined to accept his freedom unless the same is given unconditionally."

TOO MANY NEGRO MEETINGS.—In conversation with a number of gentlemen from Eastern Carolina, we find that great dissatisfaction exists among the farmers, tradesmen, fishermen, lumbermen and others engaged in the various occupations of life, on account of the frequent calls for political meetings and other gatherings among the blacks, which are continually drawing them away from their work, and contributing to the formation of idle and vicious habits, while the crops are neglected, and the proper carrying on of all kinds of business, which depend upon their help, retarded and hindered. The negroes are excitable, and easily led away by novelties; and politicians take advantage of their newly enfranchised condition to pour into their ears the rant and fustian of the demagogue and the insidious counsel of selfish ambition, to the injury of their material interests, and the utter demoralization of their minds.—Norfolk Day Book.

THE CONSCIENCE FUND.—A remarkable instance of "conscience" was developed at the United States Treasury, a few days since. Two envelopes were received from Cincinnati, in the same mail, addressed to General Spinner, United States Treasurer, unofficially—one containing \$2,500, and the other \$1,000 in greenbacks. Not a word of explanation accompanied either of them, and there is no trace discovered of the sender or senders. The total receipts of the "conscience" fund amounts, with these sums, to \$45,000.

Suppose this had happened at the South!

VIEW OF HON. D. M. BARRINGER.

Extract from a Letter of the Hon. D. M. Barringer, to a friend in Mecklenburg county, N. C.:

RALEIGH, April 27th, 1867.

MY DEAR SIR:—You ask my opinion about the present aspect of public affairs, and what we ought to do in our sad political condition. Great domestic bereavements and severe trials of various kinds, have precluded any active participation, on my part, in political affairs for a long time; and since the war I have withdrawn more than ever. But I have not been an unconcerned spectator of the great events which have transpired and are still being enacted in the progress of this mighty revolution, both in our government and country. I was in Washington recently when the "Supplemental" Act was discussed and passed in Congress to carry into effect the measures which had been previously adopted for the "reconstruction" of the Southern States.—From a former acquaintance with leading members of that body, I had facilities of intercourse and conversation with influential men, in and out of Congress, of every shade of political opinion from all sections. My judgment then was, and now is, that it is best and wisest for our people to conform promptly, fully and faithfully with the terms of the acts of Congress for reconstruction and re-admission to Congressional representation. It is useless, practically, not to inquire why this and that delay in the Congressional plan, or why a different policy was not pursued—a policy of prompt and cordial reconciliation, which enforced with firmness and a spirit of magnanimity, would have consolidated long ago, as we think, the hearts and hands of every section of the South in support of the Constitution of the United States, which the mass of our people were never enemies. The North, however, took a different view and course. The results of the war made them the "masters of the situation" and the arbiters of our fortunes for the time being. There is no self-humiliation in quiet, dignified and manly submission to our fate.—We are not now called upon, as in the matter of the "Howard Constitutional Amendment," submitted to us as recognized States of the Union, for adoption or rejection, voluntarily, to degrade our best and most representative men; but, on the contrary, a military organization is directed to enforce, in effect, these acts of Congress, and State organizations are recognized only as provisional and permissive. The only choice which even the enfranchised have brought to their names and vote on certain propositions for conditional reconstruction, that will certainly be adopted in some shape or other, by the many or the few, whether the great mass of the people participate in the work or not.

My advice, then, is for all to register who can, and vote to carry into effect the plan of Congress, however harsh and unjust it may seem to us now. Let there be no hesitation, no sullessness. Opposition is and may lead to much mischief, and perhaps anarchy and further disaster. The acts declare, in substance, that they are to be a finality. Let the South act in good faith, and let not its breach, if broken it be, rest on our shoulders. The North will be responsible to the civilized world, to impartial history and to the unmistakable judgment of a scrutinizing and unprejudiced posterity for the manner in which they shall meet the demands of the future. We want a settled civil government in the States, and representation in Congress. We can never be as we were. The government itself is being rapidly changed. But we may save something of liberty and Constitutional rights. We may, at least, have peace and competence, and hope for prosperity and happiness in the future. There is no dishonor on our escutcheon. Misfortunes and even mistakes have brought us to this point. Trials have ennobled us. We have submitted in good faith, with becoming manhood. The honorable and good among our recent foes in the field would not have us act otherwise. We would not be good citizens of the United States to be otherwise. Let us continue to prove ourselves true to our pledges of honor and sacred obligations. We may and, I think, will be reconstructed and re-admitted to the Union. We want a settled civil government in the States, and representation in Congress. We can never be as we were. The government itself is being rapidly changed. But we may save something of liberty and Constitutional rights. We may, at least, have peace and competence, and hope for prosperity and happiness in the future. There is no dishonor on our escutcheon. Misfortunes and even mistakes have brought us to this point. Trials have ennobled us. 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