

THAT DAVIS LETTER.

An Interesting Statement from Dr. Garnett, of Washington.

It is generally admitted that the article is one of the most interesting contributions to the literature of the war which has been made for many years. In radical republican circles the opinion is expressed by some that the letter can be turned to political advantage because of the strong language used against such a union hero as Sherman...

sincere man and all who ever came in contact with him, friend or foe, must be forced to admit this. He told me before the Southern States seceded that he was opposed to such a step, but would, of course, go with his State. I also had personal knowledge of his attempts to avoid being made president; he was forced into the office by his friends. He is a great and good man and has made only such an argument as might have been expected from him.

An official from the Adjutant-General's Office, where all the military records are on file, seemed loth to make any statement concerning the Davis-Sherman matter until assured that his name would not be published. The assurance being given, he said: 'I have always thought that General Sherman was in the wrong. He, notwithstanding his dislike for newspaper men, loves notoriety. He knew himself that he had made a mistake in delivering his speech before the Blair post, and admitted as much to several army officers. I took occasion myself to look the matter up, and I find nothing whatever on the files of this office to indicate that Davis was anything but an honorable man. There is no letter here that will sustain General Sherman's statement that the ex-president of the Confederate States had threatened to turn the rebel army on any Southern State showing a disinclination to support the Confederate Government. You know the old story concerning the capture of Mr. Davis. Well, that is something like the attempts of Sherman to besmear the old man's character. The report of Colonel Pickens, who effected the capture, shows that Davis was in camp and not attempting to escape in his wife's clothing when apprehended by Union soldiers. I have studied this subject very carefully, and have had the records at my command, and I think that General Sherman was either misinformed or has been guilty of a malicious slander.'

Fourth Auditor Schelly, who has just returned from his home in Alabama, says: 'I have been well acquainted with Mr. Davis during the war and since. I consider him one of the greatest men of the age. He is one of the few men who are great in all things, and therefore do not reach the height attained by specialists. He is a man of irreproachable integrity, and I do not think he would be guilty of a willful falsehood. What he says about his conduct during the war is true. He acted for the best interests of what he considered right and just. I was with him when the news of Lee's surrender reached him at Danville. He received the information with more composure than if it had been a victory. It did not ruffle him a bit. He merely concluded that the fates were against the South, and that the end of the strife was near. I think it is ridiculous for the republicans to talk about using the letter as a campaign document. Mr. Davis is merely permitted to live in the United States, who are granted the rights of citizenship, and is a harmless old man. He is not protected by the government, and I know of no one who has more right to express his views boldly.'

Gov. Porter, assistant secretary of state, says: 'I think Sherman got the worst of the controversy. He is shown up in a very bad light. The letter of Mr. Davis is an able document. He certainly needs no one to champion his cause, wielding the pen as he does.'

One of the highest army officers on duty here, and whose sympathies would naturally be with General Sherman, said he had read the former's statement, and he had read the letter of Mr. Davis printed this morning, and he must say, in his opinion, General Sherman had not a leg left to stand upon.

FISH CULTURE.

A Letter From Mr. E. M. Robinson on the Subject. WYTHEVILLE, Va., Sept. 30, '86. J. A. Donitz, Editor of the Messenger. DEAR SIR:—Since I've been on the U. S. Fish Commission I notice that comparatively few people of our State (North Carolina) have taken advantage of the distribution of fish through out the country, and especially the trout distribution. This station as I understand it, is and was established to supply the demand for trout through Va., W. Va., N. C. and Tenn. Now, why shouldn't our people avail themselves of this privilege? It may be they don't know that such a station is in existence, therefore I've taken the liberty of writing you a few lines on the subject. We have west of Salisbury, N. C., almost an unlimited number of streams that are suitable for trout and if properly stocked year by year, as other States are doing, could be made valuable. A large number of these streams are directly on the W. N. C. R. R., and a number could be reached by a few miles drive from the stations. Of course some trout are distributed through the State without being applied for; still if the people would show more interest and apply for them, I'm sure it would not be a great while before W. N. C. could boast of as fine trout fishing streams as any State. The California trout are largely handled by the Commission, and this fish has proven to be excellent by none and can be transported to most any point. I would like to see our people more interested, as it costs them nothing. The fish in most cases are delivered at their nearest depot. It would, I should think, be a source of pleasure to the inhabitants to have the beautiful clear streams of Western North Carolina thoroughly stocked with this delicious variety of trout. Respectfully yours, E. M. ROBINSON.

If You Wish a Good Article OF PLUG TOBACCO, Ask Your Dealer For THE "OLD RIF." Real Estate Mortgages and Deeds for sale at the MESSENGER office.

THE STRANGLERS OF PARIS At the Opera House Next Tuesday Night.

One of the most wonderful of stage productions of the past two seasons will be put upon the boards of the MESSENGER Opera House on Tuesday, the 12th inst. It is Belasco's dramatization of Belot's novel, "The Strangers of Paris." The play when produced in New York and throughout the country, crowded the theatres with enthusiastic audiences. The scenic effects are wonderful, and present some of the grandest pictures ever seen on any stage. All the original scenery from the Park Theatre, New York, is to be used. Among the most picturesque may be named the following: "The House on the Boulevard," "The Prison Yard," "The Bridge over the Seine," "The Convict Ship," "The Escape in Mid-Ocean," and "The Death of the Strangler." Frank A. Tannehill, a well known actor of the old school, plays Jagon, the stranger. Among others may be mentioned Miss Edna Courtney. "The Strangers of Paris" will be a thrilling story, excellently told by a strong company of artists. The Detroit Post and Tribune says of it: "The Strangers of Paris" is one of the strongest sensational stage pieces that has yet appeared, and as it was performed at Whitney's last night gave entire satisfaction to those auditors who delight in this class of dramatic representation. Viewed simply as a spectacle it ranks among the best. The company playing the piece is composed of actors thoroughly capable of presenting the drama in all its force, and consequently the good sized audience last night had only one expression to make regarding it, and that was that it was a great success. "The story wrought out in the drama has already been given in these columns. It is replete with long situations giving the wildest scope to the whole gamut of the human passions—vice and virtue, love, hatred, devotion and treachery. Only the peculiar instincts of the French author could so completely strip humanity of all the grades that lie between the beginning and the end of passion, and show on one hand only the grossest and most revolting depths of vice, and on the other only the most frenzied and tumultuous bounds of virtue. Of this nature is the play, and in order to work it out in detail, stage effect of a like prodigious and startling character is necessary. In this respect the spectacle last night was most successful. The scene of the bridge over the Seine, where Sophie Blanchard, with suicidal intentions, leaps into the water and is rescued by the husband, was very fine. The scene in the convict ship, also, was of a like excellent character, while that of Jagon and Blanchard adrift on mid-ocean was the finest and most realistic of all. The stage setting throughout was admirable, no hitch or jar occurring during the whole evening. Of the actors, Frank A. Tannehill represented Jagon the Strangler, with a force that will last in the memory for a long time. Miss Edna Courtney as Mathilde, although her part is comparatively brief, produced a good impression, and Sophie Blanchard was equally well impersonated by Eva Munford. Elmer Grandin as Blanchard did the part full justice, and indeed it may be said that there was no weakness sufficiently decided to sensibly mar the performance."

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Mrs. M. A. Croom of our town, who was child by the illness of her daughter, Mrs. Dr. Temple to South Carolina some time ago, arrived in our town last week, accompanied by Mrs. Temple, whose health is somewhat improved. Mrs. Temple will probably remain until she is fully recovered. Miss Bettie Kinsey has accepted a position as organist at the Baptist church. An admirable selection. Mrs. Eason, an aged lady, residing in our town, and a member of the Primitive Baptist church, died on the 30th ult. Let peace be her memorial. We learn that Col. Davis will commence the publication of a paper at an early period. Mr. K. E. Satton accepts a position in the establishment of Messrs. Wooten & Wooten. The variety of lamps at the drug-store of Mr. H. M. McDonald are the most elegant ever brought to our town. For some hearts these three things are well. Look to the future and be hopeful, look on the present and be grateful, look on the past and be forgetful.

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W. F. KORNEGAY, ESQ. Democratic Candidate for the Senate.

Elsewhere we give space to a timely communication intended to put our Democratic friends on their guard against the danger to Democratic success, threatened by side issues and unreasonable prejudices. The writer takes occasion to mention the name of W. F. Kornegay, Esq., the Democratic candidate for the Senate from Wayne, and endeavors to point out the folly of opposition to him because he was or may now be a prohibitionist. His reasoning is timely and sound, and every Democrat to read and ponder. In this connection it is not out of place here to say a few words in behalf