THE SENTINEL.

JOSIAH TURNER, Jr., EDITOR

SATURDAY, APRIL 24 1869

THE CAUSE OF SECRET SOCIETIES.

This country is no longer governed by the Constitution and laws, but by secret oath bound political societies.

At December term of Wilson court, some dozen negroes were indicted and convicted for whipping a colored man. The offence was that he had voted the Democratic ticket.

At night these league men who associated themselves together under a charter and laws sent them by Gov. Holden as Grand President, went to the house of the negro who had voted the Democratic ticket, took him out of bed, tied and gave him 150 lashes.

Judge Thomas, of the League, presided at the trial. The counsel for the prosecution offered to prove that the negro was whipped by order of the League, and Judge Thomas refused to hear the evidence.

If Democrats or Ku Klux had in a secret of public meeting resolved to whip a Republican for voting against them, would the Judge have refused to hear the evidence? We say emphatically, no, and if he did he should be deposed from his judgment seat as one unfit to administer justice.

Notwithstanding this evidence was ruled out, the jury convicted, and the Judge sentenced the convicted to only 60 and 30 days in imprisonment. Such a sentence for such a crime will stand on the docket a lasting reproach to Judge Thomas.

The negroes had been in jail but a few days when the Grand President of the League, signing himself Governor, pardoned all of them, and they went out of jail rejoicing that they could take a free man out of his bed and house and give him 150 lashes for voting against the League, and the President of the League could save them from punishment.

George Johnson is a respectable old man of Franklin county, about 75 years of age. Six armed negroes went to his house to arrest two freedmen, Frank and John, because they had quit attending the League meetings. These six negroes went by order of their League. Mr. Johnson met them at the yard gate. He told the League gentlemen if Frank and John wished to go he had no objection, but they should not be forced to go. One of the armed men presented his gun at Mr. Johnson. Johnson fired on the negro and drove them off. They fled to the woods.

These six Leaguers were moreover in Franklin Court. Judge Watts, a League Judge presiding, in tender compassion for the Leaguers, fined them $5 each.

And this we call Republican liberty, all under a new Constitution. May the Lord save us from all secret political societies.

NORTHERN VISITORS.

It is pleasing to record that gentlemen from the North who visit the South with an eye to investing in lands and manufactures, and interested in other branches of industry, are delighted to find our people civil, kindly disposed, and ready to greet them as citizens. They have been so thoroughly misled by the gross slanders that have been published about the people of the South, that they are utterly astonished and most agreeably disappointed when they find peace, urbanity, and good order so generally prevailing among us. They come prepared to find our people a set of cut throats, with only abuse and insult upon our tongues—but they meet with only courtesy, and many are the recipients of that unostentatious hospitality which the true gentleman so well understands how to extend. Several gentlemen from the North have recently visited our city, and we are glad to learn that the impression made upon them was altogether favorable.

We repeat what we have said more than once in these columns: we cordially invite well disposed citizens of the North to move into our State. They can find profitable investments, and may rest assured that from all good citizens they will receive a welcome at once kind and cordial. No one who is well-disposed and attends to his own business, and not the business of others, is in danger of insult or molestation. A Northern man in Raleigh is far safer from violence and abuse than he would be in any Northern City. Here he will receive from the genteel and clever an interchange of those civilities to which every good citizen is entitled, whether it be in the South or in the North.

THE NEW YORK TIMES ON GRANT

This influential and able Radical paper in common with others of the same party, has become much dissatisfied with the course of General Grant in appointing to office so many incapable men. It says:

"The expectation which was general at the outset of the administration, and was prompted by the President's declarations on the subject, that faithful and efficient officers would not be disturbed, no matter to what party they belonged, but especially if they were Republicans, has been grievously disappointed. Some of the best men in the service, both at home and abroad, whose record is unimpeachable and whose political orthodoxy is unquestioned, have been summarily removed and forced to give place to inferior, but more clamorous applicants. In truth, the old style of making appointments, by accepting the pressure and dictation of politicians as the controlling influence, has been adhered to pretty closely. The sweeping reforms, so loudly promised and so eagerly expected, seem to have been indefinitely postponed."

California has nearly a million and a half dollars lying idle in its treasury.

GENERAL MILES.

Many men crave notoriety and some obtain it. Some are like Milton's monster: as creation; or at least, they are for reigning on earth, although they should serve at least in the dark world below. They have no genuine pity for those who are smitten, and delight in "a little brief authority," as if earth were the pavement of Heaven, or the puppit of the semblance of power were, indeed, the ruler of a universe. We never saw General Miles but once. We know not, personally, the man. We know him only by the reputation he achieved as the unerring sabre of the Great Captain at Fortress Monroe.

We do not propose to write his history or to portray his character. We mean only to let a Northern pen draw the lineaments of his character, and leave the rest with God and history. Wrongly said, that Gen. Miles *will* live, in history, but he will be as the man who persecuted and fretted the noble spirit of a man who was a prisoner and, there are, entitled to his commiseration rather than his petty persecutions.

Reader, take the following. It is not the offspring of Southern hatred, but it is the fervid utterance of a Northern writer who could discern character and hate wrong. He is writing of the late Gen. Henry S. Burton. It appeared in the New York *World*:

"General Burton's character as a distinguished artillery officer, educated with all the accomplishments of his profession, and his services during both the Mexican war and our own said strife, are well known and universally conceded. But he has other claims on his countrymen, especially on those North and South who think that somewhere in the gentle virtues of our nature seem more beautiful than when they bright on the field and wasted surface over which such's wicked passions are in conflict. It is the green leaf amid the cinders and scoria of Aetna. Such traits did the lamented soldier show when, at the close of the war, he became, by no choice of his, but by the fortune of war, a prisoner in the commander of the military prison at Fortress Monroe and the custodian of the fallen President of the Confederate States. Mr Davis was General Burton's personal charge for nearly two years, and while during that time no discipline was relaxed, no vigilance slacked, the fine soldier thought it his duty to treat the prisoner like a gentleman and a christian. In this there was marked contrast with what had been done before. The man Miles, Sept. 1865, we believe, was the major-prophet polit. was one of that species of brutes whom evil war constantly generates, who, fresh from long and I leave it to me at the last convulsion of the war, when on the 7th April 1865 at High Bridge, Mahone's rebels in numbers, took a spiteful pleasure in tormenting a Confederate victim—he thoroughly enjoyed the execution of the Black Dan Stanton and to massacre Mr Davis. To him was the duty assigned of to march the prisoner about between two armed soldiers, and to post sentinels where they should most thoroughly disturb his rest. It was the Massachusetts Puritan tormenting the Pequod captive chief. No single act of kindness or generous consideration broke the dead level of his petty and contemptuous tyranny. Not so the gallant West Point man, the true and loyal soldier. General Burton executed his orders faithfully, strictly, sternly. He gave no irregular privilege or indulgence; but when it attempted to be inflicted to him severely, it was promptly and he did it gracefully. Memories of the past protected the captive chieftain. He could not fail to recall the time when Jefferson Davis was the honored minister of the Secretary Department of the government. He remembered, for he was there himself, the gallant Mississippi charge at Buena Vista: he recalled the day when Mr. Davis's bitterest persecutors of that day—he Meigses, and Riches, and Emorys, and Popes, and Halleck's—could not sufficiently crook the very supple hinges of their knees in order that some kind of Washington thief or patronage or job should follow their fawning. We do not doubt that to no one beyond the reach of immediate relations and friends will the news of General Burton's death give more sorrow than to him who once a prisoner of war is now an exile.

TAX MATTERS.

We learn that some of our readers are alarmed at such trades as those of blacksmiths, carpenters, &c., are specially taxed by the State. Such persons only pay on their *net income*, which is arrived at in the following way:

1st. No receipts are counted, where they are derived from property taxed in some other way, i. e., a farmer does not pay income tax on the receipts from his farm, because his lands, horses, &c., are taxed on their value.

2nd. The tax payer must list his gross receipts from any other source than property taxed. From this amount are deducted, 1st, $500; 2nd, the expenses incurred in making the income, including in their expenses "*family expenses*" to the amount of $1,000.

This is our understanding of the law. We have them at least $1,500 deducted, and therefore we imagine Mr. Jenkins' Treasury will not get much replenishment from this source. The poor lawyers, making four or five thousand dollars a year, and a few salaried men will suffer some—hardly anybody else from this source.

THE *Charlotte Times* is at fault, in regard to the North Carolina Personal and Real Estate Agency of this city. The gentlemen connected with it are *all* native-born, and are doing, as we verily believe, a straight forward legitimate business. It is a joint stock concern—with $130,000 worth of stock taken by responsible persons—and we consider its success as a fixed fact. For their second drawing next Fall, they have choice of a large amount of Real Estate, in different sections of the State.

Among the many visitors to our country, for the purpose of buying real estate, we are pleased to notice Col. Hall, of Wilmington. We hope he will determine to remain as he is known to be a gentleman of most excellent character, both personally and politically.—*Living Present.*

DISSATISFACTION IN HAYTI.—The New York *Herald's* Port au Prince correspondence states that great dissatisfaction exists in the Hayties capital at the idea of a colored representative of the United States being sent there. They think they should have a white man.

The Senate, in executive session yesterday, postponed the further consideration of the San Juan treaty until December next.

Correspondence of the Sentinel.

LETTER FROM NORFOLK HARBOR.

OCEAN HOME, PORTSMOUTH, VA., April 21, 1869.

Editor of the Sentinel: There is very little matter of out of which to manufacture an interesting letter-writer from this point just now, and you must be content if I confine myself to a few facts relative to the commerce of the ports and progress of this great harbor.

Through the unceasing and well-directed efforts of a portion of the more enterprising energy and perseverance known in Norfolk is growing day by day more distinguished for great wealth and a well devised system of internal improvements and new lines of inland transportation. The vast lines of inland communication renders Norfolk able to compete with her powerful rivals, Baltimore, New York and Philadelphia. Then we are not to take into account South and West. Norfolk is connected to those sections of railway, on of which cannot be said to be identified with the interest to any extent worth considering. In addition to these there are the two canals opening into the waters of Eastern Carolina, the Dismal Swamp and Albemarle and Chesapeake, neither of which is of sufficient importance to build up a city, or feed the commerce of an empire. These facts are appreciated here but the want of capital prevents the application of a remedy, and the desired improvement must be long and I fear, indefinitely delayed. But Norfolk's pluck and energy permits no relaxation of effort, and while Baltimore and New York are enjoying unprecedented and easily acquired prosperity, Norfolk merchants are hard at work observing the operations of rivals, and duly meeting all they portray.

The reader must not infer that the trade of Norfolk is falling off from what it has been at any previous time, for such is not the case. On the contrary the business of the last season was remarkably good, far in excess of that of any former period in her history. We find the trade growing every season, and new houses constantly springing up. Norfolk now has a very respectable wholesale trade, her facilities far exceeding of the general opinion of those at a distance. As a grocery market it is not to be to Baltimore while other lines are well represented, such as Dry Goods, Ready Made Clothing, Boots, Shoes and Hats, Hardware, Cutlery, Crockery Ware, &c. In addition to these a large Notion House, the Yancey Brothers and the extensive Richmond men, have been established during the past season. There are other industries fully developing themselves in the domestic commerce of Norfolk, that are highly pleasing and encouraging to her friends and supporters, among which were correspondent jobbers herself.

I am compelled to declare that, in my opinion, the Commission business is better conducted as it might be, for the advantage of the general business of the community. I think there is a want of system here, which other cities of like and even smaller proportions, have found it impossible to do with it. I refer to Commission Brokerage. In Wilmington we find the business transacted through the Brokers and the results are in the country, where business is better conducted, or more to the general satisfaction of the producing customer. The excellent system by which the Wilmington merchants have always regulated their commerce, and their superior business qualifications, have had much to do with their success, notwithstanding the want of natural advantages possessed by other commercial cities of the country, also there is good reason to hope that our own city will not always be the least important of our Southern sisters. I think that in many respects, the one referred to in particular, Norfolk would do well to imitate Wilmington.

The business season is over and trade is quite dull. Ample time is now afforded the merchants to perfect their systems and organize for the coming Fall trade, which with present planting prospects, promises to be quite heavy, and as a last friend of Norfolk, am I the earnest advocate of everything to anywise pertaining to her prosperity, I have alluded to this subject in the hope that the suggestions, if retained above, will be received in the kind spirit in which they are offered, and that such course of action will obtain as will best serve the end.

The hotel accommodations of Norfolk and Portsmouth are unsurpassed, and constitute a leading feature in the attractions of the two places, which I regard in a commercial point of view as one, and closely united, that one must share the prosperity of the other.

Mr. B. F. Briggs, of Wilson, has opened the "Ocean House," and is making a first class Hotel of it. The "Ocean," in former days, joyed an enviable reputation, which will speedily be restored under the management of Mr. Briggs. A pleasant home is here offered to North Carolinians visiting either of the cities, and Portsmouth has done well in securing a gentleman of such standing and deserved popularity as that with which Mr. Briggs com s among them.

At present there is no much wholesale business done in Portsmouth, but such an eligible site for a city of commercial greatness cannot long remain unappreciated, and the time may come when Portsmouth will be the leading city of the two. Standing on elevated ground, a fine bark country to sustain it and ample water I suit of any required depth, it is indeed a most eligible site for improvement, and having wells laid off streets, it is one of the prettiest cities in the South. The price of property is, I understand, low, and fine inducements for investments are offered. It is only necessary to direct the attention of capitalists to this fact and the many other inducements presented, to give Portsmouth the impetus of capital.

The press of the two cities consists of the *Journal*, *Virginian* and *Dry Dock* of Norfolk, and *Transcript*, of Portsmouth, to all of whom I am indebted for special acts of kindness, and professional courtesies. No southern press is more liberally sustained than this, which is the best evidence of the sagacity, energy and enterprise of the people.

That proverbial gallantry which has characterized the writer throughout the entire period of his connection with the press, will not permit him to close this letter without remarking, the female beauty of the cities by the sea, notwithstanding a lately developed "preference," and the wish of incurring imperial displeasure,

No two cities of like population, can boast of an equal share of female grace and loveliness with Norfolk and Portsmouth, and if this information can invest them with an additional charm, of add to the interest of the two places, it is given with more pleasure than is generally derived from telling the simple truth. If you have arrived at that time of life when "beauty no pleasure brings" you may perhaps find it in your heart to excuse the undignified rapture of one still on the shady side of thirty himself, good looking, though solitary, unappreciated and forlorn.

SPERRY.

RICHMOND, April 22.—Gen. Canby issued an order to day requiring all persons holding office in Virginia who were elected to the same, and who have not taken the test oath, to take it now. This will vacate a number of offices.

GENERAL SHERMAN AND MR LINCOLN—*Disposition of the Latter Towards the Rebels at the Time of the surrender.*

In a late number of the N. Y. *Tribune* there appeared a notice of Mr. Healy's picture representing the interview between Mr. Lincoln, Gen. Grant, Admiral Porter and Gen. Sherman, which repeats substantially the account published some time ago in Wilkie's Scrap of the Times, explanatory of that interview, and attributing to Mr. Lincoln himself the paternity of the terms to Gen. Johnston's army at Durham on April 18th. This terrible indictment upon Mr. Lincoln—which is denied in all its essential points by Mr. Lincoln's private secretaries—is based upon Mr. Lincoln's alleged remarks in relation to Jefferson Davis. What he thinks Admiral Porter's account of the interview upon which the statement in the Wilkie's paper was founded, may have proved the worst enemy to the interviewed, inasmuch as the Admiral made a note of the conversation and submitted it for revision to the impressible old gentleman, who was at the time of the interview, March 18th, suffering from an attack of Gen. Lee's progress has caused to retreat Johnston's, and made an attack on him in the open country. He added:

"Mr. Lincoln, in one of the speeches of his final journey to Washington, I think, thought would fall on our New Orleans doctrine of reconstruction, that is, that the rebellion having practically been put down, and the rebel armies disbanded, the civil law should be restored, and the people of the States allowed to resume their functions as States. He was not in favor of punishing the leaders, but thought that the war ended, and without any more. We spoke of what was to be done with Davis, Slidell, Benjamin, and the leaders of the rebel army and navy. I do not remember that Mr. Lincoln ever expressed himself as to what he would do with them, further than saying that he would not be severe. He thought that the people of the South had suffered enough, and would have to suffer more, and that the best way to get rid of the leaders was to get them out of the country. He said that he was tired of the whole matter, and wished it was all settled, and he could get back to Illinois. He said that he had been elected by the people, and that he was willing to abide by their decision. He thought that Davis and his associates had been sufficiently punished by the loss of power, and the destruction of their cause, and that they would be willing to leave the country and go to some other, and that he would be willing to let them do so. He said that he would not be willing to see Davis hung, and that he would not be willing to see him treated with severity