

THE DAILY SENTINEL.

WM. E. PELL, Editor.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1865.

OUR TERMS.

THE SENTINEL is issued every morning (Sunday excepted) at the following rates: From the present to the 1st of January \$4.00 For one month 1.00 For two months 2.00 Our terms are invariably in advance. The scarcity of money however, obliges us to say to our friends, that responsible and prompt persons who desire the Sentinel need not delay sending us their names at once, who can send us the Cash in short time. The money may be sent us by the Railroad Conductors or the Express Company.

OUR FRIENDS TO KNOW the Sentinel has been sent, in town or country, will please inform us at once whether they desire it or not.

WE HAVE PLACED in another column an article from the New York Times, as a text, and to draw public attention to some pregnant facts which demand at the present special consideration. A short space ago, a municipal election was held in the city of Richmond. The ballot-box was supposed to be free, and the people of that city becoming oblivious of the actual state of things, and dreaming that as the war was over and peace had come, there was necessarily a restoration of their wonted franchises, selected for municipal officers the identical class of men which they would have done, while the late Confederacy was in full blast. They had had warning that the government would not allow any man tainted and unwashed of disloyalty, to hold public office—that the restoration must be effected by that class of citizens alone in whom the government confides. Yet disregarding this plain warning, and supposing themselves already to have attained or been restored to the full dignity and privilege of American citizens, ventured to cast their votes for men of their own choice. The military authorities of the city, being satisfied that the chosen officers did not come up to the standard of loyalty required by the government, at once declared the election null, and informed the successful candidates that they would not be allowed to hold the position.

An appeal was made to the President to ratify the election, and the odds gave out that he would do so, but subsequent events have pretty well settled the question in favor of the action of the military authorities. Other occurrences of less significance, perhaps, in other places, go to show that this purpose of the government will be rigidly adhered to.

Now we are anxious to impress the irresistible conviction which these facts produce, forcibly upon the minds of the people of North Carolina. Not that they specially need this conviction, for none are more ready than they to acquiesce in the decisions of the government, but to check the surprise and chagrin which some people who forgetting the past, supposing themselves to be freemen, might feel and manifest at such an occurrence. How natural, for those who have not well pondered the real status of Southern affairs to exclaim, at such occurrences, "Are we a free people?" "Is this a free country?" Does not the answer come spontaneously to the lip of every considerate man, "No, no!"

We were once free. No people on earth enjoyed such freedom. But we jeopardized that freedom when we risked our all upon the die of revolution. Throwing off the safe-guards of civil law and the restraints of constitutional government, we chose to hazard what we had upon the chances of war. We bore ourselves bravely, manfully, until convinced that the uplifted arm of the government, backed by overwhelming force, would crush us—that resistance was no longer wise or reasonable, we yielded to the invincible necessity of surrender and must take its chances. The notes of war is hushed—blood ceases to flow and the sweet song of peace is heard in the land, but we are not free yet. The machinery of civil government is being arranged and fitted, but it is not yet in motion. Civil law is yet held in abeyance by the military power, until such time as the government is assured that its iron hand can be taken off.

Military rule is necessarily stringent and arbitrary. No man is a freeman while subject to it. Here was the blunder of the Richmond people, and we warn the people of North Carolina not to commit a similar blunder. The government demands that those accounted by itself loyal men and none others shall both vote and hold office, and yet in order that our free system may as far as possible be maintained, the test of popular elections is still preserved. Our case is similar to the condition of the French people when Louis Napoleon founded the Empire. Holding that people by the strong arm of military power—able to place himself on the throne at his own will and at the vociferous biddings of his armies, yet preferring to have even a shadowy endorsement of the people's will, he submitted the decision to an election. Fortunately the people yielded to the empty bait, and gave France the ablest monarch and the best government it has ever enjoyed.

One quiet submission however is but momentary. We can well afford to remain in a sly state, verging nearer and nearer every day to the hour of deliverance. The day of freedom, such as we have enjoyed is coming to us. Why delay it—why press it further from you, by ill judged, ill advised suggestions which avail nothing? The South is in the folds of the Anaconda. Let her be quiet, be hopeful, and these folds will relax gradually until she is free.

RAILROAD & GASTON RAILROAD.—At the Directors' meeting held on the 10th inst. Messrs R. W. Lassiter, Jas. H. Bullock, R. P. Taylor, W. D. Jones and Dr. E. A. Crenshaw being present, the following officers were elected: R. W. Lassiter, Esq., of Granville, President, Albert J. Johnson, Superintendent, T. R. Holt, Road Master and Architect, W. W. Vass, Treasurer, and J. M. Pool, Chief Clerk to Treasurer. All of these gentlemen, except Mr. Lassiter, have been connected with the Road almost from the beginning. We have no better man in the country than R. W. Lassiter. In all his intercourse with persons having business with the Road, he will be found polite, ingenious, prompt and scrupulously just. His experience in Rail Roading is small, but he can learn, and what he learns he does not forget. Albert Johnson as a master machinist is incomparable, and his long experience in Rail Roads must fit him well for his new position. W. W. Vass is a model Treasurer, as is Jas. M. Pool in his department. We presume such men as C. B. Allen and his sons, Capt. Harlow, Mr. Lipscomb, Mr. Johnson, and the polite, excellent conductors will all be retained. Such officers are hard to find and can't be bettered.

This has been the best conducted Road we know of in the South, and we believe one principal reason is, it has always retained its officers and employees when they were found to be the right men. The change in the Presidency and Superintendency of the Road was not desired by the Stockholders. The authorities required the change and they yielded to their wishes. As an act of simple justice to Dr. Hawkins and Mr. Dunn, it is due them to say, that the objection urged against them had no reference to their qualifications for their positions. As a Rail Road President, Dr. Hawkins is not excelled by any man in the South, and the same may be said of Mr. Dunn as a Superintendent. The objections were purely political. We are glad to learn that they leave the Road in a better condition than any Railroad in the State. We learn that these gentlemen acquiescing in the opposition of the Governor, were not candidates for re-election.

IN FORMER TIMES it was considered heterodox to admit the superiority of the North over the South in any respect. But the day has passed. None but the blind could fail to see how utterly inferior in the production of everything which tended to lighten labor, to promote the industrial arts and to contribute to the comfort of the people, the South was to the North. In agriculture, we can scarcely be said to approach the North. Its well cultivated fields, its implements of husbandry, its superior system of labor, its scientific knowledge of the wants of the soil, all, throw South Carolina agriculture in the shade. In mechanism the South has scarcely a beginning. And how can it be otherwise when the disposition has been so universal to make nothing and purchase everything?

We hope the experience of the past has taught us a lesson. To meet our present wants, we need thousands of experienced, thrifty farmers to open the road to wealth. The demand in this department is very great. Mechanics, miners, manufacturers are equally needed, though not in such numbers. It is only by the introduction of suitable mechanics and laborers that the resources of the State can be developed. The demand for them is pressing. If it were met as it should be, how vastly different the condition of the South would be, in a brief space.

MONEY, ENTERPRISE AND HARD WORK are what we need in the South, in order to our rapid recovery from the fatal effects of the war. Our people we are glad to find are becoming more hopeful every day. There is a disposition to do something—to work, perhaps, more so than at any period of our history. Every open door of employment is readily entered, yet the aims and plans of our people are constantly being defeated for the want of money. If the proper stimulus to enterprise and hard work were in the land, we believe thousands of our people would spring to action. What is to be done to supply this lack?

Our people must help each other. Those who have marketable commodities on hand which will readily bring the cash, should sell them at once. Every vocation by which money can be drawn into the country should be filled. Sufferers alike in the common ruin which has befallen the country, we should care specially for each other. By this means we might become a mutual help.

EVERY DAY THE EVIDENCE is strengthened that our government will not much longer remain indifferent to the affairs of Mexico. The concentration of a large U. S. force upon the Rio Grande, when no hostile soldiers remain in Texas, and the quiet manner in which this movement has been conducted, indicates that the question of the occupancy of Mexico by a crowned head will soon be settled. The enforcement of the strictest neutrality to be observed by our troops towards the Imperial and Liberal forces in Mexico, affords no evidence that the government will not at an early day enforce the Monroe doctrine. Mr. Seward is said to be fully committed to it. It is possible that Maximilian seeing the hopelessness of his cause will voluntarily abandon the country. Such a step would relieve our government from the necessity or duty of compelling his exit. While it is now probable that Maximilian's surrender of his throne will be precipitated by the movements of our troops, yet it by no means makes a difficulty with the U. S. and France, necessary and certain.

Subscribers.—We are much obliged to our excellent friend, D. Worth, Esq., at Company Shops, for the fine list of subscribers sent us. We trust many will imitate the example at an early day.

Gen. Lee During the Petersburg Battle.

A correspondent of the World writes as follows:— Soon after sunrise on the 3d of April, the Federal columns, in heavy mass, advanced from the outer line of works, which they had carried at day-break, to attack General Lee in his inner intrenchments near Petersburg. When the present writer reached the vicinity of army headquarters, on the Cox road, west of the city, a Federal column was rapidly advancing to charge a battery posted in the open field to the right of the house, and at that time firing rapidly. General Lee was in the lawn in front of his headquarters, looking through his glass at the column as it moved at a double quick across the field, and knowing the terrible significance of the advantage which the Federal troops had gained, I looked at the General to ascertain, if possible, what he thought of it. He never appeared more calm; and if the affair had been a review, he could not have exhibited less emotion of any description. In full uniform, with his gold-braided sword, and perfectly quiet look, he appeared to be witnessing with simple curiosity some military parade. The movement of the Federal columns became more rapid, and the battery was soon charged; but it succeeded in galloping off under a heavy fire of musketry. The column then pressed on, and the Federal artillery opened a heavy fire on the hill, before which the Southern guns—there was no infantry—withdraw. General Lee retired slowly with his artillery, riding his well-known iron gray, and one person, at least, in the company forgot the shell and sharp-shooters looking at the superb old cavalier, as an arrow, and as calm as a May morning. When he said to an officer near, "This is a bad business, Colonel," there was no excitement in his voice, or, indeed, any change whatsoever in its grave and courteous tones. "A slight flush came to his face, however, a moment afterwards. A shell from the Federal batteries, fired at the group, burst almost upon him, killing a horse near by, and causing probably death or he did in Culpeper when the disaster of Rappahannock bridge occurred—when he maintained General Stewart told me, "I should now like to go into a charge." The demeanor of public men on great occasions is legitimate matter for history. General Lee's personal bearing upon this critical occasion, when he saw himself about to be subjected to the greatest humiliation to the pride of a soldier—capture—was admirably quiet and serene. It was impossible not to be struck with the grandeur of his appearance—no other phrase describes it, or to refrain from admiring the princely air with which the old cavalry officer sat on his horse. With his calm and thoughtful eye, and perfect repose of manner visible in spite of the resistive movements of his horse, frightened by the firing, it was hard to believe that he saw there was no hope, and for himself, would have cared little if one of the bullets singing around had found its mark in his breast.

Of General Lee's soldiery, the writer, who is acquainted as one of General Lee's staff, goes on to say:—

If General Lee continued, of his own choice, to occupy a position at Petersburg from which, as events soon showed, he could not extricate his army, it will go far to rob him of that renown which he had previously won. Upon the obvious view of the situation, General Lee, in February, issued orders for the removal of all the stores of the army to Danville. Government cotton and tobacco was hauled away from Petersburg—hundreds of the inhabitants left the place; all the surplus artillery was sent to Amelia Court-house, and even the reserve ordnance train of the army was ordered to the same point. Then suddenly, in the midst of all the movement stopped. The authorities at Richmond had said, "Hold your position." Lee countermanded his orders and awaited his fate.

Lee's attitude his fate, because I am perfectly well convinced that from that moment, he regarded the event as a mere question of time. Yet he determined to stand at bay, and fight to the last. The expected attack came. General Grant rapidly concentrated his army (amounting, General Meade stated at Appomattox Court-House, to about one hundred and forty thousand men) on Lee's right, near Burgess Mill; his most efficient corps of infantry and cavalry were thrown forward; and a desperate attack was made upon the Confederate works on White Oak road. A bloody repulse awaited the first assault, but the second was successful. At the same time the lines near Petersburg were broken by a great force, and the affair was decided. The Confederate army was cut in two; the enemy held the Southside railroad, intercepting the line of retreat; and what Lee's clear military judgment had foreseen, had come to pass. Between his forty thousand men, or less, and Danville, were the one hundred and forty thousand men of Grant.

General Meade, it is said, expressed extreme astonishment to General Lee when informed of his small numbers, declaring that if General Grant had suspected this weakness, he would have long before broken through the Confederate lines, and this would have doubtless been done sooner, but that up to this time his adversary, by rapid movements of his small force—from point to point, and obstinate fighting, had invariably foiled him.

After describing the difficulties of swollen streams and broken-down transportation which aided the energetic movements of General Grant in producing the final surrender, the writer speaks of another scene in the retreat in which General Lee appeared conspicuously.

In front of all was the still line of battle just placed by Lee, thrown in at the critical moment and most unexpectedly, and waiting calmly. General Lee had rushed his infantry over just at sunset, leading it in person, his face animated, and his eye brilliant with the soldier's spirit of "fight"—but his bearing undisturbed as before. An artist desiring to paint his picture, ought to have seen the old cavalier at this moment, sweeping on upon his large iron gray, whose mane and tail floated in the wind, carrying his field-glass high raised in his right hand, with head erect, gestures animated, and in the whole face and form the expression of the hunter close upon his game. The line once interposed, he rode in the twilight among the disordered groups above mentioned, and the sight of him aroused a tumult. Fierce cries resounded on all sides, and with hands clenched violently and raised aloft, the men called on him to lead them against the enemy. "It's General Lee!" "Uncle Robert!" "Where's the man who won't follow Uncle Robert!" I heard on all sides—the swarthy faces, full of dirt and courage, lit up every instant by the glare of the Federal signals near. Altogether the scene was indescribable.

The end came at last. The great soldier had fought as long as he could, and done all in his power to extricate his army from a position in which it had been placed by no fault of his. Now he did not hesitate in his course. At first he had recoiled from the idea of surrender when it was suggested to him by, I think, General Pendleton. This officer had informed him that his corps commanders were unanimously of opinion that surrender was inevitable; but he had exclaimed, greatly shocked, "Surrender! I have too many good fighting men for that!" Now the current had set too strongly against him, and he was forced to yield, and the army, with less than eight thousand muskets, a very short supply of ammunition, and almost nothing to eat, was surrendered.

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