

JOSIAH TURNER, Jr., Editor. JOHN SPRANAN, Associate & Local Editor. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1871.

DESPOUISM

In America we are apt to associate despotism only with monarchy. Our people do not understand how, in a government of their own, the government can become despotic. Nor do they understand how a people can be safe in their person or property when the great writ of right, known as the habeas corpus, is suspended or restricted. Until the late war little use was made of the writ of habeas corpus, either in the north or the south.

Despots and crowned heads fought with great desperation against the establishment of the writ of habeas corpus. It cost our English ancestors much blood, suffering and money to secure it. It came to us by inheritance. It cost us no blood or money. We have almost lost this great bulwark of personal security and freedom, a child, in England, the "second Magna Carta of British liberty."

The spirit and letter of the habeas corpus act is this and nothing more: when any man is arrested, forthwith, without a moment's delay, he shall be brought before a judge and his arrest or imprisonment be inquired into, and bail taken if the offense be bailable. It is the breach of liberty—a barrier, not against freedom, but domestic foot like Grant and Holden.

It is a blow at the personal liberty of every man, in time of profound peace, to suspend operation of the habeas corpus act. It leaves every man at the mercy of the tyrant who is placed at the head of the government. When Holden and Grant suspended the writ in Carroll and Alamance, it was little better than throwing the people of those two counties into a fiery furnace. How were they, ironed and imprisoned as they were, treated instead of human beings? Holden could, and did, arrest any man who dared to resist or expose his villainy and despotism, if it suited his pleasure. Grant, having approved of Holden's suspension of the writ, now enjoys, in South Carolina, the pleasure which arbitrary power gives to despots and tyrants.

The shock which Holden and Pearson gave to liberty in North Carolina was productive of public good. It awakened the people from that lethargy into which they had sunk after an unprovoked war. It brought Holden, Pearson, Kirk and Bergen back to their senses. May we not hope that Grant's exercise of despotic power in South Carolina may be productive of public good as was Holden's in North Carolina. "Give us liberty or give us death."

THE FAIR

Yesterday was the fourth and last day of the most successful Fair ever held in the state. Every department was well represented. The completion of the Chatham road to Fayetteville added largely to the number in attendance. Hitherto the capital of the state has only known Fayetteville through a dirt road of sixty miles in length.

The show of horses was very good. We saw ones equal to those exhibited by DeHolt, of Lexington, in the better days of the republic, when no man or party dared suspend the habeas corpus.

The show of poultry was better than ever seen, if Old Arrington did fail to exhibit. Floral Hall was all that industrious and fair hands could make it.

The address of Mr. Norwood was remarked upon before; it could not have been better.

We hope the Society may be so fortunate in their selection of an orator for the next Fair.

We did not attend the ball. The beauty who did tell us it surpassed the ball at Brussels, "where Belgium's capital had gathered her beauty and her chivalry where lamps whose o'er fair women and brave men, and where soft eyes looked love to eyes which spoke again, and all went merry as a marriage bell."

MARTIAL LAW

Washington advices inform us, says the Grandeur Patriot, that Grant has decided to declare martial law in South Carolina. It would not surprise us to see it declared in Texas also, at an instant's notice, that state has gone republican, and denied to Grant the authority to suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

What the immediate cause is for the declaration of martial law in South Carolina, we are not informed, but suppose it is based on the reported mutiny among some of the members of that state. This is but a pretense to what may be expected throughout the entire south between now and the next presidential election. Should the south go republican, the changes of military command will be accordingly made, and they have determined to suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

Under the foregoing and other provisions of the habeas corpus act, it is provided that in case of rebellion or insurrection, or in case of imminent danger of rebellion or insurrection, the President may suspend the writ of habeas corpus.

From the heavy willow with which Grant has been afflicted, it is probable that he will call into requisition all the military forces which he has at his disposal.

How easy it will be if a leading conservative gives the millions of Grant too much trouble by the expense of their millions in office, and the design of the military part upon the liberties of the people, to get some worthless man to make all manner of accusations against him, swear to them, have him arrested, put through a mock trial, and convicted of being a knave, or anything else they choose.

Great is distress, soldiers martial law when it suits his pleasure, his party appoints while others protest, but strenuously for their heads and necks. Grant is master—the people his slaves.

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PRAIRIE AND FOREST FIRES

The Michigan Free—The trip of the Foundation—Interesting Particulars—Fifty Dead Indians Brought into Port Jackson.

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TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTY-NINE MILLIONS REQUIRED TO PAY SIXTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF THE PUBLIC DEBT

Mr. Boutwell, in his speech at Cincinnati, on the 18th of September last, stated that the public debt on the 1st day of March, 1867, amounted to \$2,530,763,300. This included the Pacific railway bonds, for which the government is responsible.

The public debt statement of July 1, 1871, shows that the total debt, including the Pacific railway bonds, was, on the 30th of June last, \$2,464,805,405.51, so that the debt, on the 30th of June last, was just \$65,957,857.79 less than it was on the 1st of March, 1867.

Accompanying the monthly debt statement July 1, 1871, Mr. Boutwell issued a statement of bonds purchased by the treasury in the quarter which have been called and destroyed, which reports to give the entire amount and date of purchase, with the cost in lawful money.

Secretary Boutwell had continued the reduction of the debt at the rate he says the Johnson Administration reduced it, and he would have been able to extinguish the entire debt, instead of, however, paying at the rate of a thousand millions in two years and nine months.

How Red-hot Iron may be Handled—Mons. I. Fontelle, President of the Societe des Sciences Physiques et Chimiques, Paris, etc., has left the following account.

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