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THE MEETING LAST NIGHT.

The meeting of citizens at the Theatre last night was unexpectedly large and enthusiastic. It was a grand meeting. The report we spread before our readers this morning will be sufficient evidence of this.

We have merely time now to direct particular attention to the resolutions that were adopted. They are of the right stamp. Nobody at all familiar with the people of Wilmington expected they would be other than of the right stamp. They are bold and outspoken, and declare unreservedly for the union. Henceforth Wilmington can justly claim to be a loyal town. Her record is made. She casts off the dust of secession and rebellion, and throws herself on the protection of the old flag.

The remarks of Rev. Mr. Hepburn, too, and the reception they met with, are a strong indication of the determined purpose of the community. Mr. Hepburn's remarks were so replete with logic and loyalty that we should be doing an injustice to our readers and to the community in general did we omit to improve an early opportunity to spread them before the public in extenso.

The meeting, be it remembered, was called without regard to party differences. Every citizen was invited, and all were urged to attend. It was an immense gathering. That it took a turn in the direction it did was owing solely to the impulses of the people of whom it was composed. No intimidation was exercised. The military were carefully and rigidly excluded. The freest expression was invited. There was, however, but one voice, and we trust that such may henceforth continue to be the case until the civil government of the State shall be restored, and peace, commerce and prosperity shall return to us.

MAXIMILIAN AND THE POPE.—From the Pope's published letter of instructions to Maximilian in reference to the government of Mexico it appears, says the New York Herald, that he was enjoined to maintain, to the exclusion of all others, the Catholic Church, to make it the law of all the educational institutions of the country, and to see that the Church estates and claims of property shall be fully protected. But, instead of obeying these instructions, Maximilian, it appears, has declared in favor of freedom of religion in Mexico, and has confirmed the sequestration to the State of the Church property, commenced by Juarez. He has, in short, followed the instructions of Napoleon and disregarded those of the Pope. This means, we suspect, that there is something more to come. The Pope will probably manifest his displeasure touching this disobedience of both Napoleon and Maximilian, and then we may look for that long threatened political reconstruction of the Papal States in which the Holy Father will be entirely relieved of the cares of his temporal sovereignty.

THE REBELS PREPARING TO SURRENDER.—A very significant article appeared in the Richmond Enquirer of last Tuesday, in reply to a correspondent who asks, "what mean those rumors of Senatorial committees approaching the President to submit terms of submission?" The Enquirer responds: "That there is a party of whipped seceders in and about Richmond cannot be denied," and says that a plan for surrender to the national authorities at Washington has been arranged; but it "hopes and believes"—(only "hopes and believes")—that this has failed. It warns the concoctors of the scheme, a part of whose arrangements is to induce Jeff Davis and Alexander Stephens to resign, that in case of their success thus far General Lee would succeed to supreme control of rebel affairs. It says that the rebel Congress has utterly failed to sustain the cause, and advises its members to go home and leave the direction of matters exclusively to Davis and Lee.

A REMARKABLE CHANGE.—The late unmistakable union victories, from Nashville to Fort Fisher, have produced a remarkable change in the debates of the British Parliament and the leading articles

of the London journals on American affairs. English statesmen and editors seem to have forgotten that there is such a man as Jeff Davis, and they have prudently given up their moral "aid and comfort to the enemy." The Monroe doctrine and their apprehensions concerning Canada have superseded the Southern Confederacy in the Lords and Commons. They begin to understand the strength and "manifest destiny" of the American Union.

The End of the Delusion—Rebel Promises and Performance.

[From the New York Herald, March 6.] It is not without immense effort that the rebel leaders in the South got the people in any numbers to follow them. And it was only by promising them ashort war, if any, and an easy conquest of the North, that they worked up their courage to the sticking point. Even then it was thought doubtful whether the masses could be kept up to the work, and it is, therefore, a recorded fact that at a meeting of these leaders at Montgomery, at an early period of secession, it was deemed necessary, for the prosecution of their plans that "blood should be sprinkled in the faces of the people."

In a very able article on this subject, attributed at the time of its publication (July 31, 1863,) to Mr. Donnell, speaker of the North Carolina House of Commons, is stated that several distinct promises were made by the rebel chiefs to their deluded followers. The first was that secession would be peaceably effected; the next, that if a war took place, it should be a short one—not of more than six months duration at the furthest; the next that all the slave States except Delaware would join the Confederacy. Again, that the new government should be only a confederacy of sovereign and equal States, entirely free from all central despotism, and that it should become the best, freest and wealthiest government on the earth. These glittering generalities were accompanied by various promises in detail, and arguments in small, to give them consistency and finish.—Thus it was declared that the Yankees would not fight, and that one Southerner could whip five Yankees; that France and England would certainly intervene in their behalf, would raise a short blockade that might be attempted of the Southern ports, and that cotton was king, and would bring the world on its knees before it.

Such were the inducements by which the Southern people were led to make war upon the North, to violate their obligations to the constitution and the Union; to shed seas of blood, and with it, incarnadine their souls forever.—And what has been the result? Instead of attempting a peaceful solution of secession, they inaugurated an appeal to the sword, commenced hostilities, and sought the effusion of blood. Instead of a six months war, they have had an exhausting one of four years, to which their resources have proved entirely inadequate; instead of maintaining the area of the confederacy in its original quantity, four of the slave States have refused the alliance and are still in the Union; not a single rebel State preserves itself intact; the whole power and vitality of the rebellion are now, confined to a patch of ground between Charleston and Richmond; nowhere else has the confederacy an iota of political power, and this is very shortly to be crushed out by our victorious arms.

The central despotism of Washington has been replaced by a monstrous tyranny in Richmond, such as the corrupt and cruel dynasties of imperial Rome never equalled, and the wealth and stability they reckoned on as a nation are as baseless as the fabrics of all their other dreams. We must not forget that under the terrible sway of an armed force, the gross delusions of the rebel chiefs could not have been resisted by their unhappy victims; that the people, so down-trodden and betrayed by Jefferson Davis and his followers, have been stupefied by their dangers and their sufferings into silence; but no persons know better than they, that they were grossly wronged and injured by their rulers. The North is full of unhappy refugees, too happy to escape even with life, from their former homes; and the army of Gen. Lee itself is losing regiments by the week, of men who will fight like fools never again.

Beyond all question the South would have abandoned the contest at the time the article alluded to appeared in the North Carolina papers, but for the aid and comfort received from treason in the North, sympathy in Canada and open advocacy in England. The bloodshed of the last two years is to be laid at the door of these three interests. But, nevertheless, the promises originally made by the Southern rebel leaders to their ignorant followers were not founded on fact, not justified by experience, and not within the possibilities of performance.—This, from the first, has been the opinion of the most profound thinkers in Europe and America.

The Contrast.

Charleston is now repossessed by the United States authorities. In 1861, the Charleston Mercury held forth as follows:

[From the Charleston Mercury, 1861.] Great events crowd rapidly one upon another. Three short weeks ago and the greatest event of the century upon the Western Hemisphere was transacted in Charleston. The union of the States of North America was dissolved by the action of the State of South Carolina.

It appears to be a decree of history that upon all great revolutions or changes of the government of a people, the red seal of blood must be so. Yesterday, the 9th day of January, will be a memorable day in history. Powder has been burned over the decree of our State, timber has been crushed, perhaps blood spilled. South Carolina will maintain her liberties and her independence while there is "a single shot on her lockers." Blind infatuation is driving our enemies forward, and stroke by stroke the liberties of the South are being welded and cemented together.

The expulsion of the steamer Star of the

West, from the Charleston harbor, yesterday morning, was the opening of the ball of the evolution. We are proud that our harbor has been so honored. We are more proud that the State of South Carolina, so long, so bitterly, so contemptuously reviled and scoffed at, above all others, should thus proudly have thrown back the scoff of her enemies. Entrenched upon her soil, she has spoken from the mouth of her cannon, and not from the mouths of scurrilous demagogues, fanatics, and scribblers.

Centenred, the sanctity of her waters violated with the hostile purpose of reinforcing enemies in our harbor, she has not hesitated to strike the first blow, full in the face of her insulter. Let the United States bear or return at their good will the blow still tingling about her ears, the fruit of her own bandit temerity. We would not exchange or recall that blow for millions. It has wiped out a half century of scorn and outrage. Again South Carolina may be proud of her historic fame and ancestry, without a blush upon her cheek for her present honor.

The haughty echo of her cannon has ere this reverberated from Maine to Texas, through every hamlet of the North, and down along the great waters of the Southwest. The decree has gone forth. Upon every acre of the peaceful soil of the South armed men will spring up as the sound breaks upon their ears, and it will be found that every word of our insolent foes has indeed been dragon's teeth sown for their destruction.

And though greasy and treacherous ruffians may cry on the dogs of war, and traitorous politicians may lend their aid in deceptions, South Carolina will stand under her own palmetto tree, watered by the sweating groins of the wily machinations of the other. And if that red sea of blood be still lacking to the parchment of our liberties, and blood they want, blood they shall have, and blood enough to stamp it all in red. For, by the God of our Fathers, the soil of South Carolina shall be red!

UNION.—Because we ventured last week (says an exchange paper) to introduce a few Latin words into a paragraph, just to make a little show of our knowledge, a cotemporary quotes Latin at us in a most ferocious manner. He says,—

"Who is Nihil? Whom did he fight, and what did he fight for?"

COMMERCIAL.

The quotations for government securities and railway and miscellaneous at the New York Stock Exchange, at the close of each of the four weeks ending March 3rd, were as follows:—

Table with columns for Stocks, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25, Mar. 3. Rows include American Coal, Cleveland & Pitsburg, Cleveland & Toledo, Chicago & Rock Island, Chicago & Northwest, Chicago & North West, Chicago & Burlington, Cumberland Coal, Canton Company, Central Coal, Chicago & Alton Railroad, Chicago & Alton preferred, Delaware & Hudson, Erie Railroad, Erie preferred, Hudson River, Illinois Central, Michigan Central, Michigan Southern, Missouri Mining, Milwaukee & Prairie du Chien, New York Central, Ohio & Mississippi, Pittsburg & Ft. Wayne, Pacific Mail, Quicksilver Mining, Reading Railroad, Government Securities, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25, Mar. 3. Rows include Registered 6's of 1881, Coupon 6's of 1881, Five-twenty coupons, Five-twenty registered, 10-40 coupons, 10-40 registered, Coupon five's of 1874, Sixes of 1865, 7-3-10 Treasury notes, One year certificate.

The extreme gold quotations for the week were:—

Table with columns for Highest, Lowest. Rows include Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday.

There was no session of the Breven Exchange on Saturday, but gold sold at the rate of 109 3/4. Foreign exchange rather heavy under a very tight demand. Towards the close of the week, however, bills were more firmly held than at its commencement. Bankers' sterling at sixty days was offered at 108 1/2, and at three days at 109; but these rates were not fully sustained.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

PORT OF WILMINGTON, March 14th, 1865. ARRIVALS. Steamer Russia. " North Carolina. " Mary Bonton. " Escort. " James Christopher. " Eliza Hancock. " Edward Everett. Schooner James Henry. DEPARTURES. Steamer Parthenia. " Russia. " James Christopher. Schooner L. A. Bayles.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 1. AN EMERGENT MEETING, at 7 o'clock this evening. A. PAUL REPITON, Sec'y. March 15, 1865. 15 1t

OFFICIAL.

HEAD'QS DIST. OF WILMINGTON, WILMINGTON, N. C., March 13, 1864. GENERAL ORDERS, No. 4.

As a military necessity, permission has been given to a number of residents of Wilmington, to open their stores and shops, for the purpose of selling, in reasonable quantities, to supply the immediate personal necessities of the inhabitants within the military lines, the supplies of dry goods and groceries, that they had on hand when the place was taken by the national troops.

These sales may be made without the certificate of the Local Special Agent of the Treasury Department.

No sales can be made to persons living without the lines, unless they show a military permit to come in; and a permit from the Treasury Agent to buy specified quantity.

No intoxicating liquor shall be sold, without the written permission of the Commandant of the Post, Brevet Brig. Gen. Abbott.

Should any of the parties referred to desire to replenish their stocks of goods they, as well as all who desire to sell goods, wares and merchandize, are referred for instructions, to the Temporary Rules published by D. Heaton, Treasury Agent.

By order of Brig. Gen. HAWLEY: E. LEWIS MOORE, Capt. & A. A. Gen'l. The permits referred to in the foregoing, will be delivered to the applicants by Lieut. Col. Handlett, Assistant Provost Marshal.

HEAD'QS DEPARTMENT OF N. C., (ARMY OF THE OHIO,) Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 27, 1865. SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 16.

VII. The Chief Commissary of Subsistence will seize all surplus subsistence supplies to be found in Wilmington and vicinity, causing memorandum receipts to be given therefor, and will turn the same over to a Committee to be composed of the following named gentlemen, citizens of Wilmington, to wit: Messrs. S. D. WALLACE, President.

E. A. KEITH, JAMES H. SHACKELFORD, WILLIAM R. UTLEY, GEORGE CHADBOURN, JAMES ALDERMAN.

Who will receive and issue the supplies to the poor.

The Quartermaster Department will furnish the necessary transportation. By command of Major General SCHOFIELD: J. A. CAMPBELL, Lieut. Col. & A. A. General.

HEAD'QS DIST. OF WILMINGTON, WILMINGTON, N. C., March 2, 1865. GENERAL ORDERS, No. 1.

In obedience to orders received from Maj. Gen. Schofield, Commanding the Department, I hereby assume command of the Dist. of Wilmington. The District will comprise all the territory under military control in rear of the armies operating from Cape Fear River as a base. I am also charged with the duties of Provost Marshal General, within the limits described.

My head-quarters are established in Wilmington. Capt. E. Lewis Moore, will serve as Assistant Adjutant General.

Lieut. Col. James F. Randlett, 3d New York Light, is appointed Provost Marshal of Wilmington. Further staff appointments will be made soon. JOS. E. HAWLEY, Brig. Gen. U. S. Vol.

HEAD QUARTERS DEPT. OF WILMINGTON, WILMINGTON, N. C., March 7, 1865. General Orders, No. 2.—Brevet Brigadier General E. L. Hayes, is assigned to the charge of all captured, abandoned and confiscable property in the District, more especially such as will be eventually turned over to the Treasury Agents.

He will take immediate measures to ascertain their description, locality, quantity and the claimants, of alleged owners, absent or present, and generally gather such information as will tend to the permanent distribution of the property.

All persons are hereby instructed to give him immediately, all such information within their reach. All military forces under this command are strictly enjoined to afford him aid and protection whenever needed, and without further instructions, they shall prevent all destruction of property, and all pilfering, marauding and unlawful trade. All this captured, abandoned and confiscable property, is to be disposed of under strictly established rules, that will be devised, not only for the benefit of the Government, but also for the protection of peaceful and loyal citizens.

The office of Brevet Brig. Gen. Hayes is in Wilmington, on Market Street, next door to the District Head Quarters.

By order of Brig. Gen. HAWLEY: E. LEWIS MOORE, Capt. & A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS DEPT. OF WILMINGTON, WILMINGTON, N. C., March 7th, 1865. General Orders, No. 3.—All persons in this District are hereby enjoined to bring in and deliver to the office of Brevet Brigadier General Hayes, next door to District Headquarters, all rifles and muskets and their appurtenances, swords, pistols, and military weapons and equipments, that were formerly held by the so-called Confederate authorities.

It is known that a large quantity of small arms, various descriptions were left in the District, at that a portion thereof was taken by unauthorized persons about the time the town was occupied by the lawful authorities. All such must be promptly turned in, or the parties holding them will be summarily dealt with.

By order of Brig. Gen. J. E. HAWLEY: E. LEWIS MOORE, Capt. & A. A. G.