

WILMINGTON, MARCH 17.

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REV. MR. HEPBURN'S SPEECH--THE INDICTMENT AGAINST THE REBEL LEADERS.

We trust and believe that none of our readers have omitted to read the forcible and eloquent remarks of Mr. Hepburn, delivered at the citizens' meeting on Tuesday night, and printed in the columns of this journal yesterday.

Mr. Hepburn is a clear thinker and a logical reasoner. His grounds are admirably taken; his positions securely fortified; his attacks wholly unanswerable; and his conclusions indisputable.

We ask this morning, simply, that our readers weigh well these words, and then answer to themselves whether the rebel leaders--the so-called government of the so-called Southern Confederacy--are deserving of public confidence.

What has been the course of the confederate government from its beginning? It was founded upon the doctrine of state rights; and the rights of the states were among the first to be trampled under foot.

Every year added to its severity and injustice; until at last Mr. Davis demanded that all exemptions should be abolished, and the power to detail men for the necessary home duties should be vested in him; he would detail men to practice medicine, preach the gospel, make laws, edit the newspapers, &c., and thus have absolute control over the lives and opinions of all the men in the country.

What a claim was that to be made in this free American country. Then came a most burdensome, complicated and unjust system of taxation, which "wrung the last dollar from the clutched hand of poverty"--and these taxes for some mysterious blunder or fraud have to be doubled it seems.

Had we remained much longer under the power of these men, there are many here who would have had to sell their all to pay their taxes. I need not dwell on other of their follies and wrongs; the secret sessions of congress, the suspension of the habeas corpus act; the legalized robbery called impressment; the admission into congress of corrupt representatives of a fictitious constituency; the want of good faith in the management of the finances, &c. &c. To close the catalogue, we see that at last they are about to finish the destruction of slavery.

Let those who have any lingering affection for the rebellion ponder this catalogue of grievances and answer to themselves whether it be not time to cut adrift from so corrupt a political body.

The arguments of a further disintegration to follow the separation of the United States into two nationalities; the consequent continual wars and strifes; the powerful standing armies that would be required, and the unequal burden such armies would impose upon the south and the north, although not new, is very forcibly and clearly put, and with evidence drawn from the operations of the war, is presented in stronger light than ever before, and will attract attention.

People of North Carolina, why should you hesitate to choose your course, when your own advantages, and the advantages to the whole country, are so clearly shown in the perpetuation of the Union?

REBEL REPORTS OF SHERMAN. The Richmond press are either designingly ignorant or else the publishers, editors

and reporters are silly fools. Take, for instance, the following extract from the Whig of the last...

"Sherman is played out. If our readers do not hear or read of any good news from South Carolina, it is a non sequitur that there is none to communicate."

"In a few days they will hear where Sherman is, and what has befallen him. Let everybody be patient. Sherman's opportunity to establish a military reputation has fled, and we will soon hear of his discomfiture and disgrace."

We do not believe that the people who control the columns of the Richmond Whig are fools. If they are not fools they knew at the time they wrote the above that Sherman was steadily advancing, and encountering no opposition. Of this the daily telegraph reports kept them advised. They knew that Johnston had run away from Sherman at Cheraw, and had gone back to Charlotte to transfer such of his army as remained with him to Goldsboro by rail, there to reinforce Bragg and make another effort to stop the conqueror.

Knowing these things there must have been an object in printing the paragraph quoted. That paragraph is of the same purport as all the war news that daily fill the columns of the Richmond journals, especially in regard to Sherman's movements. It is a designed and willful deception of the people, first to inspire confidence in the waning fortunes of the rebellion, and second to keep Lee's army before Richmond up to the fighting point of courage and determination.

But public deception is of short duration. When the light is let in and the people see how they have been imposed upon, indignation and wrath take the place of confidence, and the deceiver finds a fearful whirlwind as the harvest of his duplicity.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.--Advices from Egypt state that notwithstanding the reaction in the cotton market the prospects of the country continue steadily to improve, owing to the judicious exertions of the Viceroy for the development of its resources by all modern aid. Since Nubar Pasha has been appointed Minister of Public Works and Commerce, he has also had the railway under his control, and goods are now forwarded with rapidity--so much so, indeed, that the merchants complain that too much cotton is accumulating at Alexandria, where the large holders are waiting for better prices to realize. This latter circumstance accounts for the rate of exchange remaining higher than is usual at the present period of the year, the quotation now being 95 to 95 1/2, so that not much gold is imported--a state of affairs expected to continue for some weeks, as the demand for bills will be considerable on account of large imports of all kinds having to be paid for as well as various debts from Egypt to Europe having to be liquidated.

MILITARY. Since the 15th day of last December our captures of artillery from the rebellion, field and siege pieces, brass, iron and steel, smooth bores and rifles, American and English manufactures, of all sorts and sizes, from the little howitzer of a flying cavalry squadron to the ponderous, mahogany-mounted Armstrong guns of Forts Fisher and Caswell, have been about as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Quantity. Includes 'Guns Captured' and 'Total'.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

HEADQUARTERS DIST. OF WILMINGTON, N. C., March 16th, 1865. SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 13.

IV. Mr. Thomas H. Howey, at the old stand of Hedrick & Ryan, Market Street, Wilmington, is authorized to open an Intelligence Office.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

ARRIVED: Steamer Matagorda. Departed: Steamer A. P. Hoy.

COMMERCIAL.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity, Price. Includes Gold, Cotton, Sugar, etc.

TO-DAY'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

THEATRE.

Stage Manager, Mr. JOHN DAVIS. Benefit and last night but one of the engagement of MISS ELOISE BRIDGES, when she will appear in her great character of Lucretia Borgia.

WILLIAM A. COOK, Attorney and Counsellor at Law, 112 BROADWAY, New York.

PRACTICES in all the Courts of the State and of the United States. Will give personal and prompt attention to the settlement of claims; adjustment of accounts, and other professional business.

AT WHITAKER'S BOOK STORE. SIGN OF THE BIBLE. Books, Stationery, and Fancy Articles.

STRAYED. FROM MY LOT, on Fifth Street, last night, one red and white COW, with no horns; also a HORSE.

NOTICE. I HAVE OPENED A STORE on Princess, between Water and Front Streets, for repairing Watches, Clocks, Jewellery, and all kinds of Glass, China, Gold and Silver Ware.

WANTED. A SEWING MACHINE, Wheel and Treadle. Also old Gold and Silver, at my Store on Princess Street.

WANTED. A GOOD COOK, white or colored, for a small family. Apply to No. 11 Market Street, or at my house.

LOST. A GOLD PEN, set in a black rubber case; with pencil attached. The finder will be rewarded by leaving it at this office.

SCOTT & BALDWIN'S Ladies, Misses and Children's OUTFITTING ROOMS. St. Nicholas Block, 505 Broadway.

MRS. E. WINTLE. Formerly of "Gonn's Bazaar." UNDER whose Superintendence the above Departments are conducted, is pleased to announce to her former patrons and the Ladies of New York generally, that in connection with the numerous ARTISTS under her direction, she is prepared to furnish, promptly,

Ladies, Misses and Children's Outfitting to Order. LADIES' UNDER LINEN. Of fine Quality, kept in Stock, ready for immediate use.

Particular attention given to BRIDAL TRousseaux. O. S. BALDWIN, Formerly of Wilmington, 38 Market Street.

STORE FOR RENT. A SMALL STORE OR RENT, on Princess between Front and Water Street, until 1st October next. Apply to J. J. SINTAS, At the New York Saloon.

Office of the Express Co. Wilmington, March 17, 65. PACKAGES of Freight for the U.S. Army Corps have been received at this office. The proper officers will please send orders to the Express Office.

PERSONS DESIROUS OF BOARD CAN obtain by applying to Mrs. Susan Smith, at her residence on Front Street, between Orange and Ann Streets. MRS. SUSAN SMITH.

OFFICIAL.

HEAD Q'S DIST. OF 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 a 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 merchandise, are referred for instructions, to the Temporary Rules published by H. 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. Randall, Assistant Provost Marshal.

HEADQUARTERS 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 SCHOMBERG: J. A. CAMPBELL, Lieut. Col. & A. A. General.

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

In obedience to orders received from Maj. Gen. Schofield, Commanding the Department, thereby assuming 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.

Head-quarters are established in Wilmington. Gen. E. Lewis Moore, will serve as Assistant Adjutant General.

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

HEAD QUARTERS DEPT. OF WILMINGTON, N. C., March 7, 1865. General Orders, No. 2. Brevet Brigadier Gen'l 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 the description, locality, quantity and the claimants, or 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 his command are strictly enjoined to afford him aid and protection whenever needed, and without further instructions, they will prevent all destruction of property, and all pillaging, marauding and unlawful raids. All the captured, abandoned and confiscable property, is to be disposed of under clearly established rules that are well defined, not only for the benefit of the Government, but as well for the protection of peaceable and loyal citizens.

The office of Brevet Brig. Gen. Hayes is in Wilmington, on Market Street, next door to the District Headquarters. By order of Brig. Gen. Hawley: E. LEWIS MOORE, Capt. & A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS DEPT. OF WILMINGTON, N. C., March 7th, 1865. General Orders, No. 3. All persons in this District are hereby enjoined to bring in and deliver to Capt. Ackerman, at the office of Brevet Brigadier General Hayes, next door to District Headquarters, all rifles and muskets and their appendages, 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 of various descriptions were left in the District, and that a portion thereof was taken by unauthorized persons about the time the town was occupied by the loyal authorities. All such arms are promptly turned in, or the party holding them will be severely punished, with the loss of all their property.

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