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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

Price of the Paper!

We find it absolutely necessary to ensure ourselves against loss in publishing the paper, to advance the rates of subscription. The price will, therefore, be, from the 7th instant, THREE DOLLARS for Six months. For the present, subscriptions will not be received for a longer time.

December 7, 1863.

PEACE PROPOSITIONS.

Two weeks ago we suggested that it would be well for Congress to appoint Commissioners to propose terms of peace on the basis of separation and the independence of the Confederate States. Although it is well understood by every man who is familiar with the condition of affairs and the history of the present struggle, that our authorities are ready and anxious to make peace on such terms at any time the Lincoln Government may show a disposition to accept them, we suggested that the Commissioners ought to be appointed, and ought to seek an audience with the rulers at Washington, so as to force Lincoln to receive or reject them, and also to satisfy some of our own people who have been deceived on the subject by office hunters and led to believe that our authorities had not done all they could to procure an "honorable peace." So far as we have been informed, our article meets with general approval. The Fayetteville Observer copies and endorses it except in one point, that suggesting the appointment of the Commissioners by Congress.—The Observer says:

"The point upon which we dissent from the Democrat's proposition is, that instead of any member from North or South Carolina or Georgia moving in the matter, we think it would be proper that the President should do so, and that he should appoint the Commissioners, with the concurrence of the Senate, instead of Congress appointing them."

On reflection we are satisfied that we were wrong in this respect, and that the Observer is right—the commissioners should be appointed by the President with the concurrence of the Senate, they being the only treaty making powers recognized by the Constitution.

Peace can be secured only by the action of our National authorities. Movements for that purpose by a State Convention would involve us in deeper trouble and might lead to a civil war among ourselves. For instance, a State Convention could not secure peace for the people of North Carolina alone—it would be disgraceful and traitorous to attempt such a thing, and the man who would propose a wicked scheme of that kind ought to be looked upon and treated as a dangerous enemy to peace here at home. God grant that our people may be saved from intestine feuds and wars. The war with the yankees is distressing enough without turmoil and strife among ourselves.

We are just about as anxious for an "honorable peace" as any man in this world, but we are willing to leave the matter in the hands of our National authorities, where the Constitution has placed it. President Davis and his Cabinet are as anxious for peace as we are. Their lives—their all, as well as that of every other true southern man—are at stake. If our cause fails we all together are doomed to an ignominious fate. This being so, ought we not to work together, encourage the faint-hearted, discourage and frown upon the schemes of bad men to divide us, and give a cordial support to our authorities and the measures adopted to save our country from being overrun by a brutal and merciless enemy? He who now concocts schemes to gratify personal ambition, or spite, or malice, and with those schemes stirs up strife and quarrels among southern peo-

ple, is a dangerous man and an enemy to peace.

The President and the Confederate Senate are the proper sources to originate peace measures, and although the President has heretofore made efforts to bring the enemy to terms, and although those advances have been rejected and spurned by the Lincoln Government, we hope he will make another effort by, appointing commissioners and proclaiming the fact to the world.

Western Democrat.

FERNANDINA UNDER YANKEE RULE.

A correspondent of the Gainesville (Fla.) Cotton States, writes:

I have lately conversed with a person who has recently escaped from Fernandina, and have gathered from him the following facts, which may prove of interest to many refugees from the "Island City."

The town would scarcely be recognized by any of its former citizens. Most of the fences have been used for fuel, the weather-boarding of the unoccupied buildings has shared the same fate, while the shattered windows, and doors, and broken plastering tell a mournful tale of ruin and wanton destruction. The flower gardens are barren wastes while the beautiful grove around the park has been leveled. The Patton House, Major A. H. Cole's residence and a dwelling house near the Presbyterian Church have been destroyed by fire. The Baptist Church has been converted into a theatre, the Presbyterian Church into an Academy of Sciences, where sundry Connecticut "school marm's" are engaged in the laudable occupation of teaching the youthful Ethiopians to sing hosannas in praise of freedom and "Massa Linkum." Sammis, of Jacksonville, and another Yankee of the name of Reed, are the Commissioners for the confiscation and sale of real property. Robinson, of Jacksonville, is the Provost Marshal and Helper, a brother of the author of the famous "Compend," is the general overseer of the contrabands.

Most of the property abandoned by the "secesh," both real and personal, has been disposed of at auction. Judge Livingston's and Mr. Dawson's residences were sold for \$5 each, and are occupied by Yankee teachers. Mr. Yulee's brought \$200 and was purchased by the Col. of the 11th Maine. Mrs. Mendenhall's was bought for \$101, by a negro woman named Rachel, belonging to Mrs. Orlinton, at St. Mary's. Dr. Lesene's was bought for \$60, by a Mrs. Call, a baker, from Jacksonville. Col. Coachman's was purchased at \$200, and is occupied by Commissioner Reed. The brick block containing Savage and Wilson's stores, was purchased by Robinson, of Jacksonville, for the sum of \$400. All the iron, trucks, wheels, tools, and other materials of the Florida Railroad Company, were bid in to Robinson at \$500, and shipped by him to New York. They were seized on their arrival at that city, by the Yankee Government, and sold at \$10,000. The above prices indicate that the present occupants of Fernandina do not regard the tenure of their ill-gotten property as altogether valid and permanent.

An attempt has been made to cultivate cotton upon the island, which resulted in a signal failure. The negro fellows are organized into a regiment, five hundred strong, and are principally employed on Fort Clinch, which now mounts sixteen guns. A battery, commanded by negroes, has also been erected in front of Gen. Finnegan's dwelling. The white troops are encamped on the bluff, between Col. Dell's and Duncan Bryant's. Swann's and Coachman's stores are occupied by the commissaries. Col. Dell's dwelling is used as a hospital for the white and the Pioneer Hotel as a hospital for the negro troops. Much sickness has prevailed—many have died and at times there have not been

more than ninety men fit for duty. The harbor has again been supplied with buoys.

Frisbee, Moony, Briet, Donley, Appel, Ross, and Andrew Wightman, all former residents of Fernandina, have been very active in giving aid and comfort to the enemy, and in furnishing information.

It will be well to remember the names of these individuals, as a day of retribution will eventually arrive—and then.

Arnett and Farrow are dead.—Phelan, in token of appreciation of his unwearied efforts to supply the Yankees with spiritual consolation, has been decorated with the order of the "ball and chain," and sent off to recruit his health in the salubrious atmosphere of Hilton Head.

The End of the Colonization scheme

—How the Negroes were treated.—

The New York Spirit of the Times has the following facts relative to the manner in which the U. States Government "colonized" the poor negroes stolen from the South:

We are in possession of information direct from the West Indies that the famous scheme gotten up by the President and the optimist of the State Department, for the extradition of the negro element of the U. States to the Isle de Vache, has utterly failed, and that the Colony planted in that place under their auspices is on the very verge of ruin. An agent of the Government, who was sent there by the Secretary of the Interior to inquire into the affairs of the concern, has just returned, and reports that the colony is well nigh starved to death, and that unless the Government send a steamer to return them to the United States very soon, not one of them will be left alive. It appears that the parties upon whom Seward conferred this profitable job have been treating the colonists with the most shocking barbarity, and that nothing is more common with the local agents of these model philanthropists than to administer public flagellations and long confinement in the stocks. While this has been going on, and in face of the fact that the administration of the colony have offered to sell it, with the poor devils left alive upon it, as its "stock," for the sum of \$15,000, they have been constantly bedeviling the Secretary for the sum of \$80,000 as charges for transporting and maintaining them. It was these demands which first induced the Secretary to send out an agent to inspect, and his report is that Mr. Usher will not pay a cent.

The agent, moreover, reports that all the original statements of the company were false. That the Isle, which was represented as an earthly paradise, bearing two crops a year, is a barren sandbank, capable only of growing wild woods and prickly pear. The negroes, sinking under their misfortunes, are dying rapidly, while those which survive are begging to come back to the U. States to enter the armies of the country. Thus ends Seward's African Utopia, and we fear that unless a little wholesome direction be imparted to its finish, it may wind up in a wholesome horror. There is the greater reason to fear this, as the managers of the concern have recently sent letters to Washington, threatening, unless relieved, to sell the whole thing out.

Gentlemen who have been sounding the Committee on Finance say, very knowingly, that we are to be taxed to our hearts' content, and there is talk of making the tax payable in funds at specie valuation. But the end is not yet; for the committee have to decide on a bill, report it to the House, where it will be fully discussed, and then sent to the Senate for further discussion.

The new laws on the subject of the finances need not be looked for under a month from this time.—

Meanwhile, Mr. Memminger's presses are running day and night.—Appropos of this topic, I am told that as much was said about the noise made by the stamping machines on Governor street that Mr. Memminger caused them to be muffled, lest the people should be driven crazy by their eternal click, clack.

The serious question with all thoughtful men is this: Of what avail will be the wisest measures devised by Congress for the cure of the currency, if the head of the Treasury is incapable of applying them, or, as is charged, is under control of a clique of capitalists?

Those who have a right to speak confidently of the matter, say that facts have come to light which show that General Bragg's Kentucky campaign, for which he was so much blamed, was managed entirely by daily orders from Richmond. What disposition is to be made of him and Pemberton we have not heard.—Richmond Correspondence of the Columbus (Georgia) Sun.

Another Robbery.—We learn that week before last, two men went to the house of W. D. Byram, in Union county, and robbed him of \$1200 in Confederate money and \$70 in gold. They went to Mr. Byram's house after night and called to him to open the door; on being admitted they demanded his money, and in order to get it, smashed a trunk to pieces and took the amount mentioned above, which was all Mr. Byram had.

The persons who committed this robbery, and others of a similar character recently, are supposed to be either deserters or skulkers who are evading military service. If enrolling officers and militia officers were a little more vigilant, they might get a large number of recruits for the army and rid certain neighborhoods of a lazy, worthless and dangerous class of men. Every man within the conscript age, either in town or country, should be made to show the reason why he is not in the army. No good citizen ought to object to producing his exemption papers, or giving satisfactory evidence that he is exempted.

Western Democrat.

STRAGGLING CAVALRY.

The Hendersonville Times says:

Western Carolina, is full of straggling cavalry. You can scarcely look in any direction without seeing cavalry straggling along from almost every command in Wheeler's corps. There is enough cavalry in Western Carolina to make a respectable brigade. They have already commenced committing depredations on the citizens, by stealing horses, robbing tanneries, &c. Now the people of Western Carolina have already done a noble part in carrying on the war. They have given freely and, bled freely, they are still willing to give of their substance to support the army, but it is too unbearable to be thus ruthlessly robbed of their property by a band of stragglers who seldom do any fighting. These stragglers ought to be caught up—every one of them, and placed in a camp of direction, or what would be vastly better, they should be put to duty with the "Home Guards" until it is convenient to send them under guard to their respective commands. A great many of them, we have reason to believe, have forged passes, orders, furloughs, &c., which they use successfully to evade the guards. The interests of the service and the interests of the community requires that this matter should receive the immediate attention of the proper authorities. Citizens can be of vast use in giving information of, if not actually engaging in the arrest of stragglers of which they justly complain.

The fact, that Dr. A. Y. P. Garnett's house in Washington City, rents for \$2,800, while under the confiscation law it sold for only \$3,500, shows that the Yankees do not consider the investment in confiscated property as being a permanent one.

Presentation of Spurs.—Last evening, quite an agreeable episode occurred at the Balland House. The occasion was the presentation to General Morgan of a massive and elegant pair of solid silver spurs, the gift of the citizens of Danville. The presentation was made through the Mayor of that city, in the reception room of the General, and was the occasion of some happy remarks, both upon the part of the recipient and the representative of the donors.

The spurs are the handiwork of Mr. F. LaBarre, of this city, and reflect on his skill.—Richmond Examiner.

The True Soldier by Birth.—My observation has often led me to remark amongst men, that those whose birth might reasonably have made them fastidious under hardship and toil, have generally borne their miseries without a murmur; whilst those whose previous life, one would have thought, might have better prepared them for the toils of war, have been the first to cry out and complain of their hard fate.

Cheering.—The people of Texas are represented to be wide awake, and flocking by thousands to the standards of Gen. Magruder and Bee. Unbounded confidence is reposed in these officers, and a correspondent says "there will be music" within ninety days.

RETAIATION.—The Sentinel, of Monday, says:

We learn from a gentleman just arrived from North Carolina, that the 62nd Georgia regiment captured two negroes and a white lieutenant of a negro regiment, who were identified as belonging to the party who hung Lieut. Griffith. It was determined to take the three to the spot where poor Griffith was murdered, and hang them in retaliation. The captures were made in Perquimans Co., N. C.

Reconstruction.—The State of Georgia.—The Legislature of Georgia has passed a resolution that that State will never consent to re-union or affiliation, on any terms, with the Yankees. That is the spirit which should animate all southern men.—It gives courage to the despondents, strengthens the weak and nerves anew the gallant men in the field.

We regret to learn, that Mr. Jas. Stevens, who resided a few miles West of this place, had his dwelling and all his furniture destroyed by fire, on new year's day. The premises took fire during the high wind that prevailed on that day.

Iredell Express.

A likely negro man, the property of a lady residing in the County, was run over by the train near the depot at this place and instantly killed one day last week. The negro was standing upon the track while the train was backing and, although warned to remove, did not heed.—He was one of a gang to work upon the fortifications, and being unwilling to go, it is thought that he sought death in this manner.

Iredell Express.

FROM SOUTHWESTERN VA.

RUSSELLVILLE, Jan. 9.—A heavy snow fell here on the night of the 7th. The telegraph lines were down eastward yesterday.

Gen. Wm. E. Jones attacked a force of the enemy three hundred strong at Jonesville on the 3d, killing, wounding, or captured the entire party, together with three pieces of artillery and twenty wagons and teams.

SALE OF STOCKS AND BONDS.

RICHMOND, Jan'y 9.—At an auction sale here yesterday Confederate eight, long dates, brought 112 to 117; Sevens, par; fifteen million loan coupons 183; cotton loan bonds 166. All bonds and stocks sold at full prices.