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Under the new regime, while North Carolina is under a military dictatorship, we feel that we are trampled, circumscribed in the discussion of public matters; that the press is not free, and that we cannot, with impunity, give publicity to our views upon questions of State or National policy, as it is our wont to do; therefore, while the present state of things lasts, as a law-abiding citizen, having no power to impede or hinder the execution of the laws which have been imposed for the government of the people of the State, and against the dominant power of the United States, however odious or oppressive such laws may be regarded by some, and believing that acquiescence is the best policy, and that "the least said is the soonest mended"—we shall leave but little to say, beyond keeping our readers posted upon the current events of the day. We shall not be so presumptuous as to essay to advise at a time so fraught with grave responsibilities. We put our trust in the better judgment of the people, and we have no doubt, that their characteristic prudence and caution, their love of peace and order, and their patriotic devotion to the country, will continue to be prominent features in their earnest wish and effort to do the best for the State. The noble spirit of resignation they have exhibited, and the manly and dignified manner in which they have yielded to all the exactions of the dominant party, since the cessation of actual hostilities, are a sufficient guarantee that they have no other objects in view save the future good of the whole country. They have long since given up all hopes of the establishment of a Southern Confederacy, and have returned to their first love of the Union. Since the war they have not had an opportunity to exhibit their real attachment to the government of our fathers. They could not boast with their wonted pleasure that they are American citizens. But the fault is not theirs; for they are ready and willing to bury the past. They seek only the common good, the prosperity, and glory of the United States, and the rights and immunities which it is, not only the interest, but the duty of all good governments to concede to its subjects. Most important among these rights is that of representation. Give them this and all cause for division is at an end.

Salisbury Banner.

"Our ancestors never did draw a line to circumscribe prerogative and liberty." Thus spoke Sir William Coventry, in the House of Commons of Great Britain in the spring of 1673. These words were uttered in behalf of liberty and against the usurpation of King Charles, who claimed the right to suspend the operation of certain laws. It is enough to say that, although former Kings had claimed and exercised such a right which rendered Charles' claim not without precedent or authority, he, even in that early day, before great moral ideas and republican principles, equal rights, &c., &c., were disseminated or understood, was not permitted to exercise the prerogative claimed, but was reluctantly forced to cancel the "Declaration of Indulgence," and solemnly promise that it should never be drawn into precedent. We might with much propriety use Sir William Coventry's words with reference to the founders of the United States Government; but alas! they would fail to rally our wayward countrymen and bring them to a proper sense of justice, as it respects the inherent rights of those whose cardinal principle is that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. This generation may applaud their forefathers for their patriotic devotion and their inflexible adherence to the cause of liberty and free government; but the next will look back with shame, and refer to these times and the party of progress and great moral ideas with curses only. Yes, these destroyers of liberty, these bloodthirsty revolutionists are already condemned, doomed. The innate love of liberty so long crushed and trampled upon will yet assert its supremacy and hurl from place and power its enemies; and we believe the day is not distant when the happy event will be witnessed. Let's not be cast down as those who are without hope.

CARDS SPIRITUALIZED.
 The following curious article is taken from an English newspaper of the year 1774, and is there called: "The perpetual Albanian, or the Soldier's Prayer book by Rich. Lane." A private soldier belonging to the 43rd regiment, was taken before the Mayor of Glasgow for playing cards during divine service.

The sergent commanded the soldier to church and when the parson read his text. Those who had a Bible took it out; but this soldier had neither Bible nor a common prayer book; but pulling out a pack of common cards, he spread them out before him. He sat looking at one card, then at another. The sergent of the company saw him and said: "Richard, put up the cards, this is no place for them." "Never mind that," said Richard. "When the sergent was over the sergent took Richard prisoner and brought him before the Mayor." "Well," said the Mayor, "what have you brought that soldier here for?" "For playing cards in church." "Well, soldier, what have you to say for yourself?" "Much, sir, I hope." "Very good, if not, I will punish you more than man ever was punished." "I have been," said the soldier, "about six weeks on the march; I have neither Bible nor Common Prayer Book; I have nothing but a pack of cards, and I hope to satisfy your worship of the purity of my intentions." "Very good," said the Mayor. Then spreading the cards before the Mayor, he began with the Ace.

"When I see the Ace, it reminds me there is but one God."
 "When I see the Deuce, it reminds me of Father A and Son."
 "When I see the Tray, it reminds me of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost."
 "When I see the Four, it reminds me of the four Evangelists that preached, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John."
 "When I see the Five, it reminds me of the five Virgins that trimmed their lamps. There were ten, but five were fools and were shut out."
 "When I see the Six, it reminds me that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth."
 "When I see the Seven, it reminds me that on the seventh day God rested from the works he had made, and hallowed it."
 "When I see the eight, it reminds me of the eight righteous persons that were saved when God drowned the world, viz: Noah and his wife, and his three sons and their wives."
 "When I see the Nine, it reminds me of the nine lepers that were cleansed by our Saviour. There were ten, but nine never returned thanks."
 "When I see the Ten it reminds me of the Ten Commandments which God handed down to Moses on a tablet of stone."
 "When I see the King, it reminds me of the Great King of Heaven, which is God Almighty."
 "When I see the Queen, it reminds me of the Queen of Sheba, who went to hear the wisdom of Solomon; for she was as wise a woman as he was a man. She brought with her fifty boys and fifty girls, all dressed in boy's apparel, for King Solomon, to tell which were boys and which were girls. King Solomon sent for water for them to wash their selves; the girls washed to the elbows, and the boys only to the wrists—so King Solomon told by this."
 "Well," said the Mayor, you have given a description of all the cards in the pack except one."
 "Which is that?" said the soldier.

GOV. VANCE IN A PIOUS ROLE.— HE IS A PRESBYTERIAN.
 We clip the following from the North Carolina Presbyterian.

The announcement that Governor Zebulon B. Vance has been pardoned for his excellency the president of the United States, is a source of gratification to the people of North Carolina, and that feeling is heightened when we see that it was recommended by the members of all parties; by many of the most influential members of congress. His hold upon the affections of the people are second to none. His commanding talents, his pleasant address, his inimitable wit, all combine to make him one of the most popular speakers of the day. We like Governor Vance for many reasons, and hope we may be pardoned for saying that among the many reasons we have, one is that he is a good Presbyterian. While he was canvassing the state for re-election as governor in 1867, after addressing a very large crowd of his fellow-citizens in one of our north-western counties, a friend invited him to call at his house and take a lunch with him. "That several ladies of the place would be there, who wanted to see him, and with them the Presbyterian clergyman." He accepted the invitation. It so happened that the company were all Episcopalians except the clergyman, but the governor thought they all belonged to his church. In the course of the conversation the minister inquired: Governor, how is it, that in your speeches you can draw so many of your arguments and illustrations from the Bible? One of the ladies remarked, that it was because the governor's wife was such a good Presbyterian she made him read his bible. "Ah!" said the governor "my Presbyterianism is well illustrated by a little bit of my history. I was educated by an aunt of mine for a Presbyterian preacher—the old lady's heart was set on that—and she spared neither pains nor money for its accomplishment. After I had finished my education, finding that my feelings did not lead me to join the church, and not wishing to deceive my aunt, and above all, not wishing to act the hypocrite, by taking upon myself the responsibility of preaching to others, that which I did not feel myself, I went to my aunt to beg her to let me off. I told her that I did not feel that I was called to the ministry; and as it was time for me to choose my profession, I came to thank her for her kindness in what she had done for me, and beg her to let me off. The old lady was very much disappointed, and commenced crying, begging me not to give it up. I renounced, and assured her it would not do—it would be wrong in me—for I was not good enough for a preacher.—Oh! yes you are, you go and study divinity, and by the time you get through you will be good enough. I still objected, telling her I was not good enough. At last the good old lady, thinking she had hit upon the right argument, the tears still streaming down her cheeks, exclaimed: "Well, if you ain't good enough for a Presbyterian preacher, can't you be an Episcopalian preacher until you do get good enough?"

FROM WASHINGTON.
 [Special Dispatch to the Baltimore Sun.]
Difficulties of Reconstruction.—North Carolina Disobedient in the South.—General Sheridan and his Appointments.—Gen. Rousseau, &c.
 WASHINGTON, April 16.—The administration is in daily receipt of correspondence from leading men of the South, giving assurance that the great body of the Southern people are determined to organize under the reconstruction laws recently passed, and the only disturbing elements in the South are the imported politicians from the North, who are making every effort to bring about discord between the white and colored people.
 A letter just received from a prominent citizen of the North, now making a tour of the South, is particularly instructive in this regard. The writer says that the only turbulent spirits are Northern men, who appear to be in the interests of the Radicals of the East. He declares that the removal of civil officers by Gen. Sheridan is considered unfortunate; that Judge Abell has ever been an uncompromising Union man; that Heck, his predecessor, was one of "Butler's spies"; and in fine, "that none of General Sheridan's appointments can command the least respect." The writer, in conclusion, says: "Gen. Sheridan is daily becoming more unpopular; but the people will submit to his rule."
 The administration is subjected to a great deal of annoyance from applicants for letters of credit and introduction into respectable diplomatic society in Europe. Since the tide of travel has turned towards the Paris Exposition, the State Department and the Executive Mansion have been besieged by these intended visitors, who want a letter of introduction to General, Dix, Mr. Adams, &c. To save unnecessary trips to this city, and to protect the government officers from such unpleasant and sometimes impudent applications, I would simply call attention to the rules of the

State Department on this subject, published last May, in which it is expressly established that no such letters of introduction can be granted.
 Gen. Rousseau's commission as Brigadier General in the regular army was delivered to him by the President in person on Saturday last. The commission is dated March 28th. General Rousseau has taken the necessary oath, and is now in the service and awaiting orders assigning him to a command.—It is understood he will have a command in Texas.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Foreign News.
 Paris, April 18.—Imprisonment for debt has been abolished in Paris.
 Berlin, April 18.—It is reported here that Napoleon is strengthening his forces and the military posts on the frontier,—placing his artillery on a war footing, and purchasing ambulances; and that the French reserves for '68 will be called out the first of May.
 Prussia is also represented to be making active military preparations.
 Senator Johnson has prepared a resolution touching various points in Mexican affairs, and concludes with an expression, in the way of an appeal to the Federal government, in behalf of Mexican and her army, should they fall into the hands of the troops of that republic.
From New Orleans.
 New Orleans, April 16.—The Opelousas railroad has been overruled by the break in the levee of Bayou Lafourche and travel suspended.
 The steamship Miramon sailed this morning for Brazil with three hundred emigrants.
From Washington.
 Washington, April 16.—Ex-Governor Bradford, of Maryland, was yesterday confirmed as surveyor of the port of Baltimore.
General Sheridan's Order.
 General Sheridan, commandant of Louisiana, has issued his order in relation to the registration of voters to that State. The requirements shall go to make up a "legal voter" are: Twenty-one years of age, without regard to race or color, shall have been a resident of the State of Louisiana for one year, and parish of Orleans for three months previous to the date at which he presents himself for registration, and who has not been disfranchised by act of Congress or for felony at common law, shall, after having taken and subscribed the oath prescribed in the first section of the act herein referred to.
New York News.
 New York, April 18.—Dispatches have been received here, which stated that negotiations between France and Prussia are broken off.—Owing to the Easter holidays there will be no markets till Monday.
South Carolina Affairs.
 Columbia, April 18.—The Governor estimates that one hundred thousand of the people of South Carolina have not taken part in thirty days. Disfranchisement is great, and several deaths from starvation are reported.
 The registration of voters will be commenced as soon as a sufficient number of persons report themselves who are qualified to act as registers. But few have done so yet.
 Northern divers received here indicate a considerable emigration of farmers from New England, New York and Pennsylvania.
 The statement that the South Carolinian had been sold to Beverly Nash, as a negro organ, is false. It is still edited and owned by F. G. De Fontaine.
Gov. Brown.
 Savannah, April 18.—A mass meeting of the citizens, to-day, was addressed by Ex-Gov. Jos. E. Brown, who was the only speaker. He spoke an hour and a half—advising submission to the military rule, as the best alternative left for the people of the South.
Washington News.
 Washington, April 18.—Several days ago Senator Johnson offered a resolution, in Executive Session, having in view the interposition of the United States between the belligerents in Mexico, and looking to an honorable adjustment of their difficulties. To-day, he withdrew the resolution.
 The Senate, immediately after reading the journal, went into Executive session. Subsequently a resolution was adopted to extend the session to Saturday next.
 Gen. Calkins, to-day, was confirmed as collector for the port of Philadelphia.
 Two companies of the 6th U. S. Cavalry, which have been stationed here, are ordered to report to Gen. Pope, commanding the Third Military District.
 The counsel of Saratt moved to-day, in Court, that a day be fixed for the trial of the prisoner.
 The prosecuting Attorney announced that he was not ready for trial. It will probably occur in June.
The Humboldt Convention.—Consolidation Adopted.
 Richmond, April 18.—The Convention met at 10 o'clock. The prevailing feeling, shown in the speeches of the colored members, was for consolidation. One or two, who opposed it, were saluted by cries of "copperheads." An announcement by Freedman, of Petersburg, that if Congress did not give the negroes lands, they should be taken by violence, was received with applause.

The white members did not seem to relish the consolidation idea, and tried to throw cold water on it.
 The committee reported an address to the people of the State, and a series of resolutions. The address first recites the wrongs done by the rebels; but says those who fought unwillingly ought to be forgiven. They declare allegiance to the Republican party, and the following platform:
 Honor and rewards to labor.
 Homes for the homeless, who are willing to work. Property and not polls to bear the burden of taxation.
 The property of the State must educate the children of the State.
 Free schools and universal education. It threatens the land monopolists of the State with confiscation if they oppress the laborers, attempt to control their votes or molest the school teachers and friends of the freedmen.
 The resolutions thank the thirty-ninth Congress for its legislation; pledge the Convention to aid in carrying it out,—as the only means of early admission to the Union; adopt the principles and platform of the National Republican party; advocate equal rights to all, including the right to hold office; and refuse to support for office any man who does not openly identify himself with the Republican party.
 Both the address and resolutions were adopted unanimously.
 A resolution favoring confiscation was, after a sharp debate, referred.
 A resolution, endorsing President Johnson was hoisted down.
 A mass meeting is now being held on the Capitol Square.
 Both Houses of the Legislature, to-day, passed the bill consolidating the Norfolk and Petersburgh, the Southside and the Virginia and Tennessee Railroads into one road. To be called the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad.

From Charleston.

Charleston, April 18.—A public examination of the Saxon colored school, under charge of the Freedmen's Bureau, was held this afternoon. The audience was overwhelmingly large, mostly colored. Among the whites present were Judge McGraith, Generals Sickles and Scott, and Subbs, Collector Mackey, District Attorney Custin, several Ministers of the different churches and the representatives of the press.
 The trial of the parties indicted for murder on account of alleged criminal carelessness, resulting in the burning of the Kingstreet jail, with twenty-two prisoners, some months ago, has been concluded in Kingstree by the acquittal of the accused.
Conservative Meeting in Petersburg.
 Petersburg, April 18.—The Conservative meeting, to-night, passed resolutions fully affirming the equal rights of white and black, and accepting the terms of Congress. The meeting was very large and enthusiastic. About one half were negroes. John Lyon was the only speaker.
Meeting of Colored People.
 Mobile, April 19.—A large meeting of negroes was held here last night. There were three thousand present. Inflammatory radical speeches were made by both black and white speakers. Resolutions were adopted, affirming the right to sit on juries, hold office and ride in the cars.
 They adjourned at a late hour. Most of the colored persons were armed. A great number of shots were fired in the air, after the adjournment.
 "There is a tide in the affairs of men, Which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life Is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea we no way avoid, And we must take the current when it serves, Or lose our ventures."
 Thus spoke the immortal bard of Avon. The quotation affords much food for reflection to the Southern people. Are we not "adrift" on such a sea? Can we stem the tide? We think not. How much better, then, for us to "take the current when it serves" than to "lose our ventures." We do not ask the people to accept the terms that is a foregone conclusion. But we do think they should not reject them by obstinately staying away from the polls. Such, a course, in our opinion, could do no good, and might do much harm. We all have some influence, and, by a prudent exercise of it, we may be able to induce public sentiment to flow into the proper channel.—Concord Press.

PROVERBS OF JOSHI BILLINGS.

"Human nature is the same all over the world, cept in New England, and that it is according to circumstances."
 "Rum is good in its place, and hell is the place for it."
 "If I had a boy who didn't live quite well enough to suit me, I would set him to tending a retail dry goods store."
 "When a feller gets a gain down hill it doos seem as tho' everything had been greased for the oaksun."
 "He who can wear a shirt a hole week and keep it clean, ain't fit for anything else."
 "There is multitudes of folks who mean well enuff, but how like the devil they act."
 "Give the devil his due, reads well enuff in a proverb, but mi friends what will become of me and you if this arrangement is carried out?"
 Jack Hamilton has gone to Texas as register of bankruptcy, and but for the profit that is in the loyalty of such a strong stomach as his, Jack Hamilton would have been the first man in Texas he would have to register.—World.

An Esquisite Story by Lamartine.
 In the tribe of Neugdeh there was a horse whose fame was spread far and near, and a Bedouin of another tribe, by name Daher, desired extremely to possess it. Having offered in vain for it his camels and his whole wealth, he hit at length upon the following device, by which he hoped to gain the object of his desire: He resolved to stain his face with the juice of an herb, to clothe himself in rags, to tie his legs and neck together, so as to appear like a lame beggar. Thus equipped, he went to wait for Naber, the owner of the horse, who he knew was to pass that way. When he saw Naber approaching with his beautiful steed, he cried out in a weak voice, "I am a poor stranger for three days I have been unable to move from this spot to seek for food. I am dying—help me, and Heaven will reward you." The Bedouin kindly offered to take him up on his horse and carry him home; but the rogue replied, "I cannot rise; I have no strength left." Naber, touched with pity, dismounted, led his horse to the spot, and, with great difficulty, set the seeming beggar on its back. But no sooner did Daher feel himself in the saddle, than he set spurs to the horse, and galloped off, calling out as he did so, "It is I, Daher. I have got the horse and am off with it." Naber called after to stop and listen. Certain of not being pursued, he turned and halted at a short distance from Naber, who was armed with a spear. "You have taken my horse," said the latter. "Since Heaven has willed it, I wish you joy of it; but I do conjure you never to tell any one how you obtained it." "And why not?" said Daher. "Because," said the noble Arab, "another man might be really ill, and men would fear to help him. You would be the cause of many refusing to perform an act of charity, for fear of being duped as I have been." Struck with shame at these words, Daher was silent for a moment, then springing from the horse, returned it to its owner embracing him. Naber made him accompany him to his tent, where they spent a few days together, and became fast friends for life.

LUSUS NATURÆ.

A gentleman from Western N. C., has given us some information concerning one of the rarest freaks that probably nature was ever guilty of. The facts are strange and worthy of publicity. In Mitchell Co., N. C., there is a man who looks very much like a rattlesnake, and has some of the habits of one. His hands and feet are shaped naturally, but once a year regular scales are formed and shed. His eyes are small and serpent-like, whilst his whole appearance is wondrously strange. He has a forked tongue, which he shoots out with the rapidity of a snake, making at times a peculiar hissing noise. In winter he lies most of his time in bed, and in summer will for two days at a time lie stretched out on the ground enjoying the sunshine. He will wind himself up like a hoop, and by his actions continually remind you of the reptile he so much resembles. His body is not only shaped like a snake to a considerable extent, but is pided all over. He seems to have no mind, relishes wild game above all things else, when a rabbit is brought him, will manifest his delight in the wildest excitement. His name is Wm. Wiese, is of respectable parentage, and is twenty-one years of age. His mother, some eight months before his birth, had the misfortune to tread upon a rattlesnake. Large sums have been offered for the privilege of exhibiting him; but his relatives have steadfastly refused. Gen. Sherman visited him when in Western Carolina. Our informant is a Baptist minister, and perfectly reliable.
 In Haywood county, there is another curiosity equally as great. There is a man made in the shape of a dog. His name is Messer.—Warrenton Vindicator.

General Howard estimates the number of deaths among negroes, within four years, at a million.